



# **Examiners' Report**

## **June 2023**

**GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 1A**

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## Introduction

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions, there is no element of choice on the paper. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is set from the specification.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Catholic Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about Marriage and the Family and Matters of Life and Death. This unit engages the interest of young people, as it addresses many Catholic Christian beliefs and teachings in addition to some issues affecting young people today.

Candidates must be prepared for the whole breadth and depth of the specification in order to achieve higher grades.

They should be familiar with the words used in the specification.

Candidates should understand what is meant by 'Appraisal' for (d) questions.

Appraisal shows:

- The value of the evidence provided
- The strength of the answer
- The validity of the chains in the answer
- A consideration of what is written in order to answer the questions (rather than simply which side they agree with)
- A measurement of which side is more logical
- An assessment of which is the more compelling argument
- An understanding of which argument is more convincing or rational

Note: In some questions marks are awarded for correct use of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation – SPaG

## **Question 1 (a)**

This question worked well: it showed that candidates understood how the Trinity is used as part of worship.

The majority of candidates gained all 3 marks. Less-able candidates simply wrote about the Trinity without linking it to worship – this gained 0 marks.

The candidates needed to provide ways, not reasons, and the ways needed to refer to how the Trinity is used in worship.

In this question, the candidate is required to identify the ways the Trinity is used as part of Catholic worship, thus it needs to explain a specific way.

1 (a) Outline **three** ways the Trinity is shown in Catholic worship.

(3)

One way is through sign of the cross<sup>, includes Trinity</sup>. Another way is stating nicene creed, which affirms belief in trinity. Another way is baptism, being baptised in the name of father son and spirit.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate describes 3 ways the Trinity is used and thus receives full marks.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Read the whole question carefully - the part about use in worship was important.

The candidate writes three sentences. However they have only outlined one specific way the Trinity is used – The Sign of the Cross.

1 (a) Outline **three** ways the Trinity is shown in Catholic worship.

(3)

One way the Trinity is shown is in the sign of the cross.  
A second way its shown <sup>is</sup> in the ~~in~~ baptism.  
A third way its shown is in the Eucharist.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate needed to be specific about the ways Trinity is used. There is nothing other than Trinity in the Sign of the Cross but in Baptism there are many things so the mark was awarded for the first sentence.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Have three distinct sentences.

## **Question 1 (b)**

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two ways are required, and both need to be developed, to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

Teachers should refer to the specification to determine probable questions.

The majority of candidates knew what was meant by stewardship and were able to respond correctly to this question and gain marks.

The candidate gives two reasons, both are developed.

(b) Explain **two** ways events in the life of Jesus may affect Catholic life today.

(4)

One way is Jesus' death it affected Catholic life, as he died for our sins so we could have salvation, now Catholics can repent to be forgiven of sins due to Jesus' death as when Jesus died for our sins it restored humanity's relationship with God, Catholics today are encouraged to have a relationship with God and to grow it. Another event which impacted Catholic life is Last Supper, as Jesus gave his body and blood for the disciples, Catholics do this at Mass taking Eucharist to remember him and what he has done for us.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- Way One – It restored humanity's relationship with God (1)  
Development One – encouraged to have a relationship with God and grow it (1)
- Way Two – Catholics do this [Eucharist] at Mass (1)  
Development Two – to remember him and what he has done for us [Last Supper] (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

If a candidate writes a response and crosses it out, then replaces it with another answer – it will not be marked. If it is not replaced it will be marked.

The candidate gives one way, it is phrased in a confusing way and is not developed.  
It gains 1 mark.

(b) Explain **two** ways events in the life of Jesus may affect Catholic life today.

(4)

It may affect them by if it didn't happen back then that means ~~as~~ catholics wouldn't have certain religious holidays or certain prayers that they have today like christmas for example



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- Way One – Catholics wouldn't have certain religious holidays..like Christmas (1)

One mark

If the beginning had pointed to the birth /Incarnation then Christmas could have been credited .



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should aim to be precise in their answers.

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings were required, and both were needed to be developed for 4 marks and a source used for 5 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development and source must relate to the teaching given and to the question asked.

GENERIC advice as to what constitutes a source of wisdom:

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.

If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.

If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.

If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

This candidate failed to accurately answer the question as they did not understand what Incarnation meant.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about the Incarnation.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Catholic teachings about incarnation is when Jesus rose from the dead and when he resurrected. This means that Jesus was the chosen one. In the bible it mentions about how Jesus resurrected back from the dead. Another catholic teaching about incarnation is that catholics should celebrate incarnation because it's mentioned in the bible. ~~That~~ This means if it's mentioned in the bible it's gods words.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer discusses the resurrection not the Incarnation.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be aware of all the specialist terms used in the specification.

This candidate failed to accurately answer the question as they did not understand what Incarnation meant.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about the Incarnation.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

one catholic teaching is that jesus  
resurrected from the dead then  
Incarnated unto heaven  
another catholic teaching is that  
jesus had the last supper with  
the bread and wine and with the  
disciples then went to heaven.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer discusses the resurrection and then the Last Supper not the Incarnation.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should not waste time answering questions they know they do not have the ability to answer.

## Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items.

The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but did not evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

The candidate is awarded 0 marks because it discussed the Creation of the world in Genesis. It does not give any accurate information about how the Genesis accounts show the nature of humanity.

\* (d) "The Creation account in the Bible shows the nature of humanity."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Catholics believe that this statement is true and also that God created the earth and in 7 days. In Catholic teachings it talks about how God made nature and humans on the 6 days this talks about the statement when saying it says 'nature of humanity'.

But other Catholics believe that this statement is not true as they don't ~~the~~ cause the bible use science and they believe that God didn't make the earth in seven days.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Candidates should read the stimulus carefully and plan how their answer will address the issues raised by it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be familiar with terms used in the specification.

This answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the bottom of the range of marks.

To be awarded Level Three the candidate would need to demonstrate a wider understanding using more logical chains of reasoning, and include more judgements and appraisal.

Level 2 – 4 marks

SPaG – 3 marks

Total: 7 Marks

omnibenevolent

In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

Against  
~~For~~

\*(d) "The Creation account in the Bible shows the nature of humanity."

For  
'made in the  
image of  
God'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

stewards

(15)

Some Catholics would agree with this statement because it is the creation account in the bible. It says God made humans in the image of God: 'made in the image of God' and through this they can imply that because we are made in the image of God we also have his values in us. God's values are ~~omnibenevolent~~ omnibenevolent, all fair and caring ~~and~~ and more. Through this they can assume the nature of humanity is like God's values of being omnibenevolent, ~~all~~ just, caring and more.

Another reason some Catholics agree with this statement is because in the bible it says God made humans stewards of the earth. 'God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to care for them'. This shows that the nature of humanity is to care for the planet and do what is right.

Some Catholics may disagree that the creation story in the bible shows the nature of humanity because they believe Jesus' life shows the nature of humanity as Jesus taught us many things. He taught us it is important to forgive, love each other, listen to God and more so he showed us the nature of humanity.

In conclusion the stronger side is the agree side because the nature of humanity must also have been created when humans were created (creation story) so the creation account in the bible must contain and show the nature of humanity.



The candidate has been awarded Level 2 – 4 marks because:

- The first paragraph provides an argument using examples and linking to made in the image of God and develops it making superficial connections to omnibenevolence. There are no judgements made.
- The second paragraph explains another argument – humans are stewards of the earth, linking to why people may need to look after the earth forming a connection in reasoning.
- The next paragraphs do not add any further reasoning or valid judgements.

The SPaG mark is 3 as it shows high performance.



In an d) question ensure judgements are made throughout.

## **Question 2 (a)**

The beliefs needed to follow up to date Catholic teaching – not general Christian beliefs.

In this question candidates were expected to differentiate between same-sex relationships and same-sex sexual relationships and explain Catholic teachings about them.

Marks were given for any correct Catholic teaching about same-sex relationships.

2 (a) Outline **three** Catholic teachings about same-sex relationships.

(3)

Catholics do not allow same sex relations as God made man and woman. In the genesis it says to be fruitful and multiply. Same sex relations are forbidden and God is not happy with them.



The candidate writes two sentences, outlining two teachings.

- Catholics do not allow same sex relations (1)
- In Genesis it says be fruitful and multiply. same sex relations are forbidden. (1)

The candidate provides two accurate sentences.

Total: 2 Marks



Candidates should write each sentence separately.

This helps them know that they have written three outlines.

It helps examiners know when each outline has finished.

This question is based on Catholic teachings about same-sex relationships not the non-religious responses to them.

2 (a) Outline **three** Catholic teachings about same-sex relationships.

(3)

One catholic teaching about the same sex is you cant get married in a church  
a seconded catholic teaching is they dont support it because they wont be able to have kids.  
another catholic teaching is you still have to treat them kindly and welcome them into the church.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences, outlining three teachings.

- You can't get married in a church (1)
- They won't be able to have kids (1)
- You still treat them kindly (1)

Total: 3 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Three outlines means 3 full sentences should be written.

## **Question 2 (b)**

In this question, candidates were able to show knowledge about Catholic attitudes to remarriage. Descriptions of non-religious attitudes were acceptable if used as development but they did not provide a Catholic response on their own.

The candidate gives one developed reason.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic responses to non-religious attitudes to remarriage.

(4)

one catholic responses to non-religious attitudes to remarriage is you cant get remarried because you will always be married to the person you were with before under the eyes of god  
another catholic response is they dont believe you can get remarried if you have been married before.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- Response One - You can't get remarried (1) Development One - you will always be married to the person you were with before (1)  
The second paragraph is repetition of the same information, thus cannot be credited.

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Ensure the responses/reasons /ways given are very different to each other.

The candidate gives two developed reasons.

The answer gains 4 marks

(b) Explain **two** Catholic responses to non-religious attitudes to remarriage.

(4)

let what God put not be separate adultery

One Catholic response is if marriage is a adultery, which is against 10 commandments in Bible committing adultery is seen as very wrong. Another response is if your ~~part~~ previous partner is dead then it is morally allowed to remarry ~~the~~ as your partner is no longer present it isn't a sin.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- Response One – Remarriage is adultery (1) Development One – against the 10 commandments (1)
- Response Two – If your partner is dead it is allowed (1) Development One – as your partner is no longer present it isn't a sin (1)

This gains the full marks.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Separate each response into its own mini paragraph to highlight the two different responses.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed. Candidates must also correctly use a source of wisdom in their answer which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the teaching given in the answer..

In this question, candidates were able to show understanding of the roles of men and women in the family. Frequently, they ignored 'in the family' and thus gained fewer marks. Most candidates gained 3 marks.

This question was about the roles that men and women have in the family. Marks were not awarded for answers about their status / equality, roles in society or within the Church.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about the roles of men and women in the family.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

one catholic teachings is they believe that men and women have ~~the~~ different roles in the family but they should be treated the same.

another catholic teaching is <sup>the</sup> men <sup>women</sup> should be more subordinate to the men. because of the story of Adam and eve and how eve forced adam to eat from the tree.

A source to support this is the story of Adam and eve.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed teaching. There is no accurate source of wisdom used.

- Teaching One – Men and women have different roles in the family  
(1) Development One – but they should be treated the same (1)

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

The source of wisdom used must be part of the reasoning in the answer. If it is added on at the end as in this response it will not be credited.

The question required candidates to give accurate Catholic teachings about the roles of men and women in the family. These roles could be modern or traditional.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about the roles of men and women in the family.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Catholic teaching may be that ~~the~~ men and women are equal in a family but have very different roles.

Another Catholic teaching may be that one upbrings the child and one provides money for the family. This means that although the roles are different they are both equally as important.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two teachings, one is developed. There is not an accurate source of wisdom used.

- Teaching One – They have very different roles (1) this is not developed
- Teaching Two – One upbrings the child (1) Development Two – one provides money for the family (1)

Total – 3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Using examples is a good way to develop teachings.

## Question 2 (d)

Please note that candidates were required to give an alternative Christian perspective , if they did not they could not get above level 2.

The focus of the marking is AO2 on the (d) items. As explained in the specification this means:

Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark on the paper.

There are many different ways to answer (d) items and gain mark: a template will not ensure good marks.

Candidates who achieved high marks recognised that this question concerned whether a Christian needed to marry or not, and were able to expand answers with examples of alternative vocations.

The candidate has been awarded Level 2 – 6 marks as it fully met the descriptors for this level.

(d) "It is important to get married."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Marriage  
+ Procreate  
Parish  
community  
relationship  
with God  
- Commitment

(12)

Some Catholics believe that it's important to get married as you can then procreate as to be expected. Catholics believe this is important as it brings you closer to God. This is a weak argument as your faith in God alone should be why you have a close relationship with God not because you need to rely on others.

However some Christians believe <sup>marriage</sup> ~~procreation~~ is important because then you can build a family and bring them up in the church so that they can continue the cycle and build a stronger community. This is a strong argument because it will increase the size of people in the church bringing people together.

Another teaching referring to the Catholics is ~~that~~ on marriage is that it is a declaration of your faith and it'll bring

people in the parish closer. Some Christians fear having children so don't get married but that's a weak argument because the parish can support that by having family masses and the ~~pope~~ <sup>priest</sup> can give advice on taking care of the children. ~~This is a strong argument~~

In conclusion, getting married is important because overall it brings people together and makes the community bigger. This also brings and improves people's relationships with God and in the bible <sup>it</sup> they teach to be fruitful and multiply.

Some Christians may believe that marriage isn't important because they can't have children and one of the main reasons for ~~the~~ marriage is to procreate. This is a <sup>weak</sup> ~~strong~~ argument as it's not always about procreating but to dedicate your life to that person.



- The first paragraph provides an argument using the reason of procreation linking it to the simple reason of bringing closer to God. There is a simple unsupported judgement made.
- The second paragraph explains another reason for marriage as a way to build the Church linking to connection in reasoning to a judgement.
- The next paragraph provides another argument which is not an expected one – fear of children. It does not have much in the way of supporting reasoning.
- The candidate then gives a conclusion that shows judgements of a limited range of elements they have discussed previously.
- The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 in the top of the range of marks and the chains of reasoning are coherent.

Level 2

Total: 6 Marks



To be awarded Level Three candidates need to demonstrate wider understanding using more logical chains of reasoning, and include more judgements and appraisal.

The candidate has been awarded Level 1 – 3 marks.

(d) "It is important to get married."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Its better to get married ~~because~~ because it stops you from doing some forbidden stuff like sex before marriage. Some people say thats long and they cant wait but if your connection with God was that strong you will be able to wait through anything. I think its also important to get married because then you have someone by your side everyday for the rest of your life. A catholic teaching is ~~is~~ that you cant have kids unless your married. So if you want your own family your ~~your~~ going to have to get married. If you have kids and your not married your just getting yourself more sins. Also getting married stops you from getting stuff like sexual transmitted diseases because if you know you and your partner are clean you have nothing else to worry about. My conclusion ~~is~~ is just get married its the safest option and your pleasing God at the same time



The candidate was awarded Level 1 because:

- The first paragraph provides an argument it stops sex before marriage. This is then developed for a whole paragraph developed using several supporting ideas.
- The candidate provides a conclusion within the answer, at the end of the paragraph.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, at the top of the range of marks, because it contains elements of understanding of religion and belief.

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to make more superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal.

Level 1

Total: 3 Marks



Candidates should write d) answers in a formal style using paragraphs for each idea argued.

### Question 3 (a)

This question worked well: it highlighted whether or not candidates knew what sacraments were and there were a wide variety of possible correct responses.

Each mark is given for a specific Catholic teaching about sacraments given in a sentence – not a simple identification for example, Baptism.

**3 (a) Outline three Catholic teachings about the sacraments.**

**(3)**

Catholics believe that through the Sacraments they can achieve salvation

Catholics believe that through Sacraments they receive grace and blessings from God.

A sacrament is an outward sign of an inward spiritual grace.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate writes three accurate sentences, each outlining a teaching about sacraments.

- Through the sacraments they can achieve salvation (1)
- Through the sacraments they receive grace (1)
- A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace (1)

These are three sentences and all that is needed for an outline.

Total: 3 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Keep outline sentences short and precise – there is no need to develop these outlines.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.  
The candidate writes two accurate outlines.

3 (a) Outline **three** Catholic teachings about the sacraments.

(3)

- there are 7 sacraments
- marriage is one of ~~the~~ the most important sacraments



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- There are 7 sacraments (1)
- Marriage is one of the most important sacraments (1)

The candidate does not attempt a third outline.

Total: 2 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Each teaching needed to be in its own standalone sentence, otherwise it is not an outline.

### Question 3 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must link to the reason given and to the question asked.

In this question, candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding of pilgrimage.

There are a number of reasons why Catholics may choose to go on pilgrimage so there were many correct reasons credited.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Catholics choose to go on pilgrimage.

(4)

Some Catholics may choose to go on a pilgrimage so that they can show their dedication towards their faith. This is important as they want to visit places that are important to their faith.

Another reason why Catholics choose to go on pilgrimage is because they want to strengthen their relationship with God. This is important because it can allow the Catholic to be one on one with God.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed reasons.

- Reason One – they can show their dedication towards their faith (1)  
Development One – they visit places important to their faith (1)
- Reason Two – they want to strengthen their relationship with God (1)  
Development Two – it can allow the Catholic to be one on one with God (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Two clear paragraphs make work easy to understand.

This is an example of what a candidate does when they do not understand the specialist terms in the paper.

Places of pilgrimage did not need to be identified.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Catholics choose to go on pilgrimage. *closer*

(4)

One reason why some Catholics choose to go on a pilgrimage is because they believe by being at a place that has had religious events they are also ~~becoming~~ places God's presence has been so they are closer to God.



The candidate gives one developed reason.

- Reason One – being in places that have religious events they are also places God's presence has been (1) Development One – they are closer to God (1)
- Total: 2 Marks

This answer could have used quotes from the passion or Last supper as a source.



Candidates should try to be concise in their answers.

### **Question 3 (c)**

Candidates were asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two ways are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. The reasons then should be supported with a reference to a 'source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if the source is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source at the same time.

In this question, candidates needed to show knowledge and understanding about popular piety. Candidates who did not know what popular piety was gained fewer marks.

The term Popular piety was not always recognised as it is not a phrase in common use.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the use of popular piety is important to some Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

~~Firstly the use of popular piety is important~~  
Praying to the Rosary is a form of popular piety and this is important to some Catholics as the Rosary reminds them of Jesus suffering and his journey leading towards his crucifixion. Secondly another form of popular piety is Eucharistic adoration this is important to some Catholics as it reminds them of God's sacrifice of his son to save humanity from original sin.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Reason One - [Rosary] reminds them of Jesus suffering (1)

Development One - and his journey leading towards his crucifixion (1)

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the use of popular piety is important to some Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why the use of popular piety is important to some Catholics is because it shows them what to do and what can get them into trouble.

Another reason why the use of this is important to Catholics is because they want to be like Jesus however it can not be the same as he did everything for us to live.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate has written general information in the hope they might get marks – it rarely works.

The candidate has wasted time that they could be using on other questions.

This answer gained 0 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates must be familiar with all the specialist key words used in the specification.

### **Question 3 (d)**

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question are candidates required to give a non-religious response.

Candidates who did well knew that 'evangelism' is spreading the Christian faith and were able to expand answers with evaluation .

This answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the bottom of the range of marks.

To be awarded Level Three the candidate would need to demonstrate a wider understanding using more logical chains of reasoning, and include more judgements and appraisal.

Level 2 – 4 marks

SPaG – 3 marks

Total: 7 Marks

\*(d) "All Catholics must take part in evangelism."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Catholics might agree with this statement as Jesus taught the disciples before his ascension to spread the good news. This means that as disciples ourselves it's crucial that we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, so God's word never dies. This is called the Great Commission. This is a strong argument as we reflect God's characteristics and Jesus is the incarnation, so it's what God obeys us and we must follow him as ~~the~~ disciples. ~~the~~.

Some Catholics might disagree with the statement as there are other ways to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. For example charity work, as it's the most loving thing to do, as Jesus loved us and

the church unconditionally, so we must love society the same way. This is a strong argument as this is a form of stewardship, as God commanded us to take care of creation.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement as evangelism is spreading the literal word of God, which we must spread as part of Jesus' ~~final~~ final command before his ascension back up to heaven.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate has been awarded Level 2 – 4 marks because:

- The first paragraph provides an argument using the example of Jesus and his disciples and linking it to the great commission. There is then a superficial judgement.
- The second paragraph explains an alternative argument – do charity work like Jesus, there are some brief reasons followed by a superficial judgement.
- The conclusion is not entirely accurate and is really another reason.

The SPaG mark is 3 as it shows high performance.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

A brief plan before attempting a d) question will ensure a organised essay.

This kind of general answer is becoming popular – it gains 0 marks.

**\*(d) "All Catholics must take part in evangelism."**

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Someone might agree with this statement because it might be important to some Catholics. This is a strong argument because



The candidate has given no information about evangelism, they have given general information which cannot be credited.



A zero mark answer for religious content will also get 0 for SPaG.

There is no point writing a sentence to try and gain SPaG marks.

## **Question 4 (a)**

The candidates needed to provide teachings about the origins of human life, those answers which referred to the creation of the world did not gain marks.

This question asked for Catholic responses to non-religious explanations – answers which described the non religious explanations did not gain marks.

4 (a) Outline **three** Catholic responses to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life.

(3)

Science helps explain how we exist, ~~or~~ however God caused it to happen.

The creation story is factual and God created us and put us here.

Finally they believe that evolution happened but everything else was done by God.



The candidate writes three sentences, outlining three responses.

- Science explains how we exist however God caused it to happen (1)
- The creation story is factual and God created us (1)
- Evolution happened but everything else was done by God (1)

The candidate provides accurate three sentences.

Total: 3 Marks



Write 3 outlines, each on a separate line.

This question asks for Catholic responses to non-religious explanations – so it wants Catholic beliefs not non-religious ones.

4 (a) Outline **three** Catholic responses to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life.

(3)

One response is that the big bang is the creation story.  
Another response is evolution could have happened during creation  
lastly



The candidate writes two sentences, only one is accurate.

The first sentence is about the Big Bang – creation of the world – not about origins of human life.

- Evolution could have happened during creation (1)

The candidate provides one accurate sentence.

Total: 1 Mark



Read the questions carefully – underline key words to help focus.

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development can be: a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must link to the teaching given and to the question asked.

In this question, candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about abortion.

Any Catholic teachings about abortion would be credited – answers which were not Catholic did not get rewarded marks.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about abortion.

(4)

one catholic teaching on abortion is that is completely wrong as life is sacred and belongs to God so only he has the power to give or take it (they also believe life begins at conception)

Another catholic teaching is that abortion is taking a life which is forbidden in the ten commandments: 'thou shalt not kill'



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed teachings:

- Teaching One – It is completely wrong (1) Development One – as life is sacred (1) The extra information in this paragraph is not needed and cannot gain marks
- Way Two – Abortion is taking a life which is forbidden (1) Development Two – in the ten commandments 'thou shalt not kill' (1)

Total: 4 Marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Avoid adding extra information – it will not gain any marks.

This question asked for Catholic teachings about abortion so there were a number of possible correct responses.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about abortion.

(4)

One Catholic teaching about abortion is that it is ~~under 24 weeks~~ not yet developed into a fetus then it is not murder.

Another Catholic teaching on abortion is that it goes against the belief of the sanctity of life because you're stopping procreation from taking place.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one accurate Catholic teaching.

The first paragraph indicating that early abortion is acceptable is not Catholic teaching, so could not be credited.

- Teaching One - It goes against the belief in the Sanctity of life (1) - the rest of this is inaccurate (because procreation has already occurred).

Total: 1 Mark



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

On the Catholic paper make sure responses given are Catholic.

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs are required, and both need to be developed. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote/paraphrase) or an example. The development must link to the belief given and to the question asked.

The beliefs should be supported with a reference to a 'source of wisdom', this must support the belief given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development, it does not gain a second mark for the source.

This question uses the wording of the specification and yet some candidates were unable to provide accurate answers. It is worth using the specification as a guide as to what candidates need to know.

This is an example of a full mark response.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about humanity's role as stewards.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Catholic belief is that humans were given responsibility to look after the world ~~and~~ for future generations. God made humans stewards to care for his world that he made. Evidence for this is God saw all he made and it was good. This means they should take care of the world as it's a gift from God.

A second Catholic belief is that God making humans stewards gave human life a purpose. As it gives humans a responsibility all Catholics should do it as it a teaching from God to follow. All Catholics should follow his teaching to get to heaven as on judgment day you are judged on how well you followed his teachings.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs and there is an accurate source of wisdom used as part of the reasoning.

- Belief One – Humans were given responsibility to look after the world (1) Development One – God made humans stewards to look after the world he made (1) Source – he saw all he made and it was good (1)

Note: A reference is not required but if it is included it must be correct.

- Belief Two – God making humans stewards give human life a purpose (1) Development Two – as it gives humans a responsibility (1)

Total: 5 Marks



Candidates should try not to add extra information to their answers.

This answer shows a misunderstanding of the term stewards.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about humanity's role as stewards.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Catholic belief is that we should all be stewards of God and spread the good news.

Another belief is that we should all act as ~~the~~ disciples of Jesus and use our free-will for good things only.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gains 0 marks.

They confuse stewardship with discipleship.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Learn key words – be familiar with the specification.

## Question 4 (d)

Please note that as required in the bullet point in the question, candidates were required to give a non-religious argument. – they could not get more than level 2 unless they referred to a non-religious argument .

(d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS.

This question gave candidates the opportunity to focus on the strength of the evidence for accepting there is life after death.

- (d) "Everyone should accept the evidence for life after death." - Not enough evidence - too many not true
- Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.
- In your response you should:
- ✓ refer to Catholic teachings
  - ✓ refer to non-religious points of view
  - ✓ reach a justified conclusion.
- Jesus told us <sup>parable sheep + goat</sup>
- Paranormal, re-incarnation, ghosts, near-death, copying
- 1001 mark Social experiment

(12)

Some Catholics might agree with this statement as Jesus taught us about life after death. Evidence for this is the parable of the sheep and the goats. This means as Jesus is the incarnation his teachings are the word of God. This means we should accept the evidence for life after death as God himself showed us what it will be like. However some non-religious people think this is a weak argument because there are too many ~~the~~ differing religious accounts, so they cannot all be true. This means that Jesus' teachings don't matter because they are inconsistent with different <sup>religious</sup> ~~religious~~ teachings of life after death. Atheists also don't believe in God so they don't think Jesus was just a man so how would he know if there was a life after death.

On the other hand, some atheists might agree with the statement because they have had a near-death experience. This means when they have

been close to death they have seen or heard things that lead them to believe ~~that~~ there is an after life. Some ~~the~~ These people then believe they have ~~seen~~ seen the afterlife so they know what is going to happen when they die. However, some Catholics don't agree with this as these experiences could be made up as there is no way to check if the person is telling the truth and not everyone's accounts are consistent. Therefore, many people don't accept them as life after death. Some atheists don't ~~ag~~ think this is a strong argument as there is evidence to show maybe it is the body's way of coping with imminent death. It creates nice thoughts so you die in peace. Some <sup>atheists</sup> ~~people~~ are very sceptical of evidence for life after death and think it is a form of social ~~control~~ control. Karl Marx thinks the after-life is just a way for the government to control people and make them do good things.

In conclusion, although there is a lot of ~~conflicting~~ evidence for life after death I think not everyone should have to accept it. ~~A~~ But due to a lot of the evidence being conflicting and everyone having their own opinion it is difficult to form your own. I think people should not have to accept the evidence and should be allowed to make their own decision.



- The first paragraph provides an argument using biblical evidence of the parable of the sheep and the goats – then linking to an alternative non-religious argument, that there are many different teachings in the Bible. There is no judgement made.
- The second paragraph gives a non-religious supporting argument – near – death experiences and expands this, this is linked to Catholic reasoning against them. The end of this paragraph gives non-religious arguments against life after death and includes the concept of it being a way to control behaviour.
- The candidate then gives a conclusion that shows judgements of a limited range of elements they have discussed previously.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 in the top of the range of marks and the chains of reasoning are coherent.

Level 2

Total: 6 Marks



Candidates should try to appraise all the the arguments they use.

The candidate was awarded level 1 – 3 marks.

(d) "Everyone should accept the evidence for life after death."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Jesus said eternal life  
big bang

(12)

Some Catholics believe that there is no way that life after death doesn't exist. Because Jesus died and resurrected and that in itself is evidence for why life after death should be evident to everyone. This is a strong argument as such a thing would only be possible if there was a creator that was omnipotent and transcendent, as God is.

However non-religious people may believe ~~it~~ ~~from~~ the world was created from the big bang and <sup>would disagree</sup> that it was just a scientific explosion so there doesn't need to be a life after death. It just is what it is. This is a strong argument as it's backed up by scientists and that provides enough evidence to believe there is nothing after death.

But, Catholics disagree as Jesus said at the Last Supper that whoever lived their life in belief in God would forever have eternal

life and go to heaven. This is a weak argument as these words came from a bible that had been reworded and changed many times. Therefore can't be as reliable as they think.

In conclusion both sides have their equal points to why H may or may not be true. But overall, there is more supported ideas on how it'd make sense that there was a life after death as there are written testimonies and anecdotes used across the years.



The candidate was awarded Level 1 because:

- The first paragraph provides an argument based on the resurrection of Jesus. This is not developed it is followed by a phrase this is a strong argument with a reason at a tangent to question about life after death.
- The second paragraph provides a non-religious argument about creation – this does not answer the question which is about life after death.
- The following paragraph provides another Catholic argument linked to a teaching of Jesus this is not linked to any reasoning – it is followed by a phrase this is a weak argument with a reason at a tangent to question about life after death.
- The candidate provides a conclusion which attempts to summarise the arguments given.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, at the top of the range of marks, because it contains elements of understanding of religion and belief.

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to make more superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal.

Level 1

Total: 3 Marks



Candidates should ensure that everything they write links back to the question asked.

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates must be familiar with the specialist terms used in the specification
- Answer a) items in outlines – this means they should write in full sentences
- Provide 3 sentences for a) items, each should be on a separate line
- b) items should have 2 developed reasons (not more than 2)
- development may be 1) examples 2) quotes 3) extra relevant material
- development must link to the reason given and the question set
- c) items are similar to b) items but use a source as a fifth element
- a source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- the source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- d) item responses must show AO2 skills to get high marks
- Level descriptors will be used to mark d) items

## **Grade boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

