



# **Examiners' Report**

## **June 2024**

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

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## Introduction

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Option 1B – Christianity

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall GCSE award. It is the most popular paper in the specification (frequently paired with 2C Islam: Religion, Peace and Conflict).

The paper includes four questions. Each covers a section within the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions, and 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. Examination questions are set using the specification.

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

Some questions include marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar — SPaG.

This year there was a new mark scheme for (d) questions. Teachers who are not familiar with it should access the training materials on the Edexcel website.

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs.

Bullet point 1.5 – The nature and significance of salvation.

The question asked was:

Outline **three** Christian teaching about salvation.

The candidates needed to provide teachings: these did not need to be biblical teachings, any Christian teaching was acceptable. Thus, there was a wide range of possible answers.

This question was accessible: it allowed candidates to show their understanding of salvation and what it means for Christians. Most candidates were able to refer to the concept of being saved and/or entering heaven. Weaker candidates did not know what salvation was.

This candidate is given 0 marks.

They do not include any Christian teachings about salvation.

**Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.**

### **Question 1: Christian Beliefs**

**1 (a)** Outline **three** Christian teachings about salvation.

(3)

One christian teaching about salvation is that it spreads the Gospel.

Another christian teaching about salvation is it invites others to the religion

Finally, another christian teaching about salvation is that it is one of the ten commandments to spread the words of the gospel.



There is one mark for each accurate teaching identified and written in a sentence

This candidate does not know what salvation is.

Total: 0 marks



Candidates should be familiar with the meaning of all the specialist language used in the specification.

The candidate writes three sentences outlining Christian teachings about salvation.

They receive one mark for each outline.

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

**Question 1: Christian Beliefs**

1 (a) Outline **three** Christian teachings about salvation.

(3)

One Christian teaching about salvation is that Jesus died to save humanity from the consequences of sin.

Another Christian teaching about salvation is it allowed the relationship between Christians and God to be restored.

A third Christian teaching about salvation is it allows Christians to have eternal life.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three brief sentences outlining three teachings.

- Jesus died to save humanity from the consequences of sin (1)
- It allowed the relationship between Christians and God to be restored (1)
- It allows Christians to have eternal life (1)

Total: 3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should make sure they have three distinct sentences.

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.8 – Christian solutions to the problem of evil and suffering

The question asked was:

Explain two possible Christian solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two solutions 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 quotes or examples. The development must be of the solutions given and to the question asked.

This question elicited good answers about free will and the vale of soul-making.

Most candidates knew what was meant by solutions to the problem of evil and suffering although some described the problem and gained no marks.

Those candidates that recognised that the question asked for solutions were able to respond correctly to this question and gain higher marks.

(b) Explain **two** possible Christian solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.

(4)

Christians may believe that evil and suffering happens for a reason. God's testing them to see how strong they are, and to see how well they cope with this suffering.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed solution.

- Evil and suffering happens for a reason (1)
- Developed by: God's testing them (1)

The extra material linked to this cannot be credited because it is not a new solution.

Total: 2 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Teachers should refer to the specification for possible questions

This response shows that candidates do not need to write excessively to give a developed solution.

If the candidate crosses out a correct answer and does not offer a replacement and if the crossed answer is legible, marks will be given. If a replacement is written the crossed out answer will be ignored.

(b) Explain **two** possible Christian solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.

(4)

One possible Christian solution is free will. This means it is not God that is evil it is our choices that create the problem of evil and suffering.

Another possible Christian solution is that evil and suffering promotes prayer. Therefore people will look to God more praying for forgiveness and asking for help.



The candidate gives two developed solutions.

- One possible Christian solution is free will (1)
- Developed by: it is our choices that create the problem of evil and suffering (1)
- Evil and suffering promotes prayer (1)
- Developed by: People will look to God more...asking for help (1)

Total: 4 marks

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.3 – The Incarnation.

The question asked was:

Explain two reasons why the Incarnation is significant to Christians today.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons were required, and both were needed to be developed for 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 relate both to the reason given and to the question asked.

If the development is not about the question even if it relates to the reason given it will gain no marks. Frequently candidates write 'and this is in the Bible and the Bible is the word of God', this (usually) does not answer the question and therefore receives no 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 it is used as development, it does not gain a second mark as the source.

This response shows how a source should not be used.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Incarnation is significant to Christians today.

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

(5)

One reason the Incarnation is significant to Christians is that he is the son of God who came to Earth to show humans teachings from God. A source of authority to support this is 'He is my son for whom I am pleased.' This is important as it gives Christians an ideal life to follow in God's image.

Another reason the Incarnation is significant is that he died for Christians to be forgiven of their sins. This is important as without it humans would be unable to join God in Heaven for eternal life when they die.



The candidate gives one developed reason.

- He is the son of God who came to Earth (1)
- Developed by: To show humans teachings from God (1)

The source is not linked to the Incarnation so cannot be credited.

The second paragraph does not refer to the Incarnation (it refers to the crucifixion). This is required by the question so it cannot be credited.

Total: 2 marks



Candidates must learn sources of wisdom and be able to use them accurately and in context.

(c) items can be awarded 5 marks: 2 for a reason, 2 for the development of each reason and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the reason given.

The source must support the reason/teaching/belief/way given.

If the source is attributed to the wrong person/source/numerical reference it cannot be credited eg a Pauline quote attributed to Jesus cannot be credited.

Numerical references on their own are not credited: the candidate must use it correctly eg not just write John 10:10

The source of wisdom can be given as a recognisable paraphrase.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Incarnation is significant to Christians today.

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

(5)

One reason why the incarnation is important to Christians is because Jesus is "the word become flesh", he is the direct word and teachings of God, and therefore is significant to Christians today as it helps them keep faith in God.

Another reason the incarnation is important to Christians is because it helps them build a stronger connection with God through Jesus and help close the gap between God and mankind, as Jesus knows what it's like to be human, which helps strengthen that connection between God and man.



The candidate gives two developed reasons using a source.

It begins with a source:

- Jesus is 'the word became flesh (1)
- Developed by: He is the direct word and teaching of God (1)
- Developed by: Helps them keep faith in God (1)

Another reason:

- build a stronger connection with God (1)
- Developed by: Close the gap between God and mankind (1)

The remainder of the information is not required.

Total: 5 marks

## Question 1 (d)

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

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.2 – The creation of the universe and of humanity.

The question asked was:

“The Bible does not explain exactly how the universe was created.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against .

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question are candidates required to give a non-religious response. Candidates who gave a non-religious view had this part of the answer ignored.

Better candidates recognised that this was a statement that should have led to a discussion of a literal and metaphorical understanding of the creation of the universe.

Those candidates who focussed on the six days of creation or the creation of humanity found it difficult to gain marks.

This year there was a new mark scheme for (d) questions. Teachers who are not familiar with it should access the training materials on the Edexcel website.

SPaG marks were available on this question.

(d) items are **levels** marked: they are **not** point marked.

In (d) questions the statement asks candidates to consider 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.

\* (d) "The Bible does not explain exactly how the universe was created."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

one reason why some Christians would agree is it's just said that God made the world but not how he did it. for example the book of genesis says that God made the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh. This means that God made the world but it doesn't tell who it is only says he did it. However some Christians would disagree as God's power is not something humans could imagine. for example the bible teaches that God is all powerful. This means that he is able to make the world in a way humans couldn't imagine.

another reason why some Christians would agree is that the creation story can be seen as a metaphor for God's power and not what actually happened. for example some Christians believe that God caused the big bang. This means that the bible doesn't tell us as it is only a metaphor which makes

It is easier to understand for people and not what actually happened. However, however some Christians would disagree as they believe that the bible tells us exactly how God made the world. For example the book of Genesis says ~~so~~ God said "let there be light." This means that ~~so~~ it tells us how ~~god~~ God made light.

In conclusion I agree with the statement as the creation story is just a metaphor showing the power of ~~god~~ God.



The candidate reaches Level Two, 5 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 2 because:

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the middle of the range of marks because most but not all the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The answer gives:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.

It needed more simple judgements that had some links to the analysis to achieve a higher Level 2.

SPaG is given 1 mark, because it meets threshold descriptors:

- Candidates spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy.
- Candidates use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall.

Question: 5 marks

SPaG: 1 mark

Total: 6 marks

The candidate reaches Level Two, 6 marks, which is the highest mark in Level 2 because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met and some of Level 3. It does not enter Level 3.

\*d) "The Bible does not explain exactly how the universe was created."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

While some Christians would disagree with this statement as while they do acknowledge the story of creation in Genesis as God's word, they believe that it is more metaphorical than true and is perhaps a summary of a much longer factual creation. These Christians may believe in more scientific theories such as the big bang which is supported by evidence humans can look at and acknowledge as true.

While some other Christians may not necessarily agree that the big bang was the catalyst for the ~~earth's~~ universe's creation, they may also not believe the Genesis story as literal either and may choose to believe in other more fact based theories.

On the other hand however a few Christians may disagree with this statement. These Christians believe that in ~~Genesis~~ Genesis, the first book of

the bible, it clearly states that the universe was created in seven days (or six not including the sabbath) ~~by god~~ from nothing by God. Christians who believe this ~~hold~~ and take it literally disagree with scientific fact and prefer faith ~~to~~ over evidence. In the bible it ~~also~~ says 'in the beginning there was nothing and then ~~g~~ God created light' and as some Christians choose to take the bible at face value they would believe that the following story of creation is a clear answer to how the universe was created.

However ~~as these~~ ~~original~~ other Christians question how much of the bible is fact and ~~metaphor~~ how much is a metaphor or exaggeration as it can be disproved by science or is too drastic to be seen as the true intention of a message. ~~the~~

Despite the contrasting viewpoints I believe that while the amount of the bible that is fact can be questioned, in the end it is the amount of faith you have in God over science and research based evidence and, as there is lots of evidence to support theories such as the big bang, I do not think that \* (Pg.9)

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



The candidate reaches Level 2 and was given 6 marks and 1 mark for SPaG.

The candidate reaches Level Two because it provides:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.

This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.

SPaG is given 1 mark, in this example, because:

Reasonable accuracy means that the spelling and punctuation does not influence the flow of reading.

Rules of Grammar used with some control means that the response may be a one paragraph response.

Question: 6 marks

SPaG: 1 mark

Total: 7 marks



Candidates should ensure they take opportunities to assess and analyse the validity of the evidence used in their arguments.

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.3 – Christian teachings about the purpose and importance of the family.

The question asked was:

Outline three Catholic teachings about the purpose of the family.

The Christian teachings needed to be about the purpose of the family – not the purpose of marriage. Answers referring to the procreative aspect of marriage were not credited.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

Candidates should record each sentence separately. This helps them know that they have written three outlines.

### Question 2: Marriage and the Family

2 (a) Outline **three** reasons why the family is important to Christians.

(3)

It is important because, it is the correct social and moral context to raise children  
~~family~~ children, which are a gift from God.

Another reason why it is important is because, it allows you to raise have  
a morally correct sexual relationship with a partner.

One final reason is,



This candidate receives a mark for an accurate teaching:

- Correct social and moral context to raise children (1)

The next line is about the purpose of marriage not the purpose of the family.

The last reason is incomplete.

It does not make any difference whether a candidate uses bullet points or not.

However, they must answer in full sentences for the response to be an outline.

Total: 1 mark

The candidate writes three sentences, each outlining one teaching.

2 (a) Outline three reasons why the family is important to Christians.

(3)

One reason is because it teaches children about the faith

Another reason is because it teaches children right from wrong

A final reason is because ~~God~~ it was Gods plan for people to have children



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate has outlined 3 accurate teachings

- It teaches children about the faith (1)
- It teaches children right from wrong (1)
- It was God's plan (1)

Total: 3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

An outline must be more than one word, or item of knowledge.

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.5 – Christian teachings about family planning and regulation of births.

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian teachings about family planning.

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.

In this question, most candidates were able to show knowledge of Christian teachings about family planning recognising that it was about contraception and the regulation of births. However, some candidates did not recognise the vocabulary used and, as such, gained fewer marks.

Candidates should be familiar with the terminology used in the specification because these words will be used in examination questions.

(b) items provide marks for four points, 2 for teachings and 2 for the development of each teaching.

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about family planning.

(4)

One Christian teaching about family planning is about using artificial methods. For example, if you know you can't afford or are unable to raise/create a family it is the most loving thing to do by using artificial barriers such as the pill or a condom.

Another Christian teaching is that you should always support each other's ideas. For example, if your partner wants to start a family, support them through it as it is the most loving thing to do.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed teaching.

The beginning is a definition of family planning: it does not answer the question.

- If you can't afford...it is the most loving thing to do (1)
- Developed by: using artificial contraception (1)

The second paragraph does not answer the question.

Total: 2 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Write answers that divide into 2 paragraphs, each containing a teaching and a development.

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about family planning. - Contraception (4)

One teaching is that ~~the~~ artificial contraception is wrong because it contradicts the command to "go forth and multiply".

A second teaching is that ~~the~~ artificial contraception is acceptable because it allows partners to strengthen their relationship without having a baby.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed teachings.

1st teaching

- Artificial contraception is wrong (1)
- Developed by: It contradicts the command to 'go forth and multiply' (1)

2nd teaching

- Artificial contraception is acceptable (1)
- Developed by: Allows partners to strengthen their relationship without having a baby (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

A source can be accepted as a development of a reason.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.1 – The importance and purpose of marriage for Christians.

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian responses to non-religious attitudes towards marriage.

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

In this question, most candidates were able to show Christian responses to non-religious attitudes – they realised that this required Christian ideas about marriage as responses. No marks were given for a description of the non-religious attitudes because these were not required.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two responses are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks. They must also use a source of wisdom correctly in their answer, which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the response given in the answer. This is the 5th mark.

(c) items are point marked.

(c) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious attitudes towards marriage.

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

(5)

One Christian response to non-religious attitudes towards marriage is that we should get married as it is one of the 7 sacraments in which Christians are taught to follow. Not following these commandments ~~would~~ could show a weak bond with God.

Another Christian response towards marriage is that it is a



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one Christian response to non-religious attitudes towards marriage. They do not develop this response accurately.

- You should get married as it is one of the 7 sacraments (1)

The information that follows is not a response about marriage.

Total: 1 mark



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

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

This candidate receives 4 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious attitudes towards marriage.

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

(5)

One is that marriage is sacred. This is as it was established by God. Another is that it is a life-long relationship. This provides a stable financial and emotional backing. "Two will become one flesh".



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two different responses: these are developed. The source of wisdom given is tagged on at the end but it is not used.

- Marriage is sacred (1)
- Developed by: It was established by God (1)
- It is a life-long relationship (1)
- Developed by: Provides stable financial and emotional backing (1)

The source that follows does not form part of the reasoning so cannot be credited.

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

The source must be relevant and used as part of the candidate's reasoning.

## Question 2 (d)

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.

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be 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 restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

(d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme and marks are given using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.6 – Christian teachings and attitudes about divorce and remarriage.

The question asked was:

“All Christians should accept divorce and remarriage.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

Please note that candidates were required to give different Christian points of view. Without different views, the maximum an answer could be given was Level 2, 6 marks.

Candidates who did well recognised that this was about the different Christian attitudes to divorce and remarriage: they were able to expand answers with analysis using the teachings of different denominations.

If teachers are unaware of the changes to the (d) levels mark scheme, they should look at the resources available on the Edexcel website.

(d) "All Christians should accept divorce and remarriage."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

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(12)

Some Christians believe that divorce and re-marriage should be accepted. They think this because if they are not able to work out their problems they should be allowed to separate.

Other Christians don't accept divorce and re-marriage because they believe that marriage is meant to be for life as it says in the bible 'man and woman for life'. Another reason why some Christians won't accept divorce is that marriage is a ceremony where God is involved; this means that God is watching over you. And if you get a divorce it could be seen as you disrespecting God. And they only accept re-marriage if the other one dies.

In conclusion i disagree with this statement because marriage is meant to be for life.



The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 2 at the middle of the range of marks because most, but not all, of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The answer gives:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.

It needs more simple judgements that have some links to the analysis to reach a higher mark in Level 2.

Level 2

Total: 5 marks



There are many different ways to answer (d) items and gain marks: a template will not assure good marks (as seen in this example).

(d) "All Christians should accept divorce and remarriage."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

(12)

Some ~~Many~~ Christians would support this statement. This could be because if a couple's relationship breaks down so much that it is irreparable then it would be best for society ~~to~~ and the couple to allow them to divorce. This is a strong argument as Christians should want a stable and happy society as well as looking for the most loving outcome as Jesus taught <sup>(John - 'love one another')</sup>. Another argument for accepting divorce and remarriage is that there are circumstances where a member of a marriage could have been forced into it or otherwise was not capable of agreeing to <sup>(e.g. they were underage)</sup> the marriage. This is a somewhat convincing argument as although it does promote the most loving outcome, it is only applicable in a minority of cases and the Catholic Church will already declare a marriage to be 'null' in some of these cases. ~~Finally, all Christians should support divorce and remarriage on the grounds that some the most loving ~~and~~ option. Christians~~

However, there are also myriad reasons why Christians should not accept divorce and remarriage. One reason for this is that the Bible explicitly rejects remarriage as adultery in the book of Matthew. This is a strong argument as Christians must believe in and follow the instructions of the Bible. Moreover, in the book of Mark ~~it~~ it says 'what God has joined together, let no one

separate' which is openly against divorce. Again, this is a powerful argument as Christians should support the Bible. Catholic doctrine further supports this as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says 'a ratified and consummated marriage may not be dissolved by any human power'. This is <sup>convincing</sup> ~~totally~~ because marriage is believed to be sacred and ordained by God.

Attaining divorce and remarriage would undermine the holiness of marriage<sup>which Christians absolutely do not want</sup>. Moreover, ~~the~~ a married couple and their children (the nuclear family) are meant to be the basis of a stable society and allowing divorce would undermine this. These are very powerful arguments as Christians should not accept things that weaken the sacrosanctity of marriage or the stability of society.

In conclusion, the arguments against accepting divorce and remarriage are far more convincing than those arguing for. This is because of the many Bible verses against divorce and the fact that no Christians should want to undermine the holiness of marriage. In some cases divorce may be the most loving outcome but these can largely be solved by an annulment which does not undermine the holiness of marriage.

\* Next, Christians should accept divorce as otherwise people could be stuck in abusive relationships. This would be to the extreme detriment of ~~the~~ the abused party's mental and physical health. Christians should want to take actions which benefit and support other people ~~so~~ should accept divorces on these grounds.



This response reaches Level Four because it gives:

A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements

To receive higher marks it needs to support judgements by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

Total: 10 marks



Analysis of the reasons looks at their strengths and weakness and gives reasons for them.

### **Question 3 (a)**

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.8 – The role and importance of the Church in the worldwide community.

The question asked was:

Outline three features of the work of Christian Aid.

This question worked well: it highlighted whether or not candidates knew what Christian Aid was, the reasons for its work and what it does. Most candidates were able to respond and give accurate answers.

However, some candidates simply wrote about what Christians do to give aid and these gained lower marks.

(a) items are point marked – there are 3 marks available.

Each reason needs to be given to be its own standalone sentence, otherwise it is not an outline. Sentences do not need to be more than one line.

### Question 3: Living the Christian Life

3 (a) Outline **three** features of the work of Christian Aid.

(3)

one feature is providing for charity.  
Another feature is it is a welcoming place for support.  
A final feature is that it brings people together.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate is given 0 marks.

The candidate attempts to provide 3 outlines, but none is an accurate feature of the work of Christian Aid. It seems they are writing about what a local church does.

### Question 3: Living the Christian Life

3 (a) Outline **three** features of the work of Christian Aid.

(3)

One feature is providing short-term aid such as food.  
Another is providing long-term aid such as education.  
Another is raising awareness of the problems faced within society, for example through debate.



The candidate writes three accurate sentences outlining three features of the work of Christian Aid.

- One feature is providing short-term aid (1)
- Another is providing long-term aid (1)
- Another is raising awareness of the problems faced within society (1)

These are three sentences — three outlines.

Total: 3 marks



Three separate sentences, each one on a new line, is a good idea!

### **Question 3 (b)**

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.1 – Christian worship

The question asked was:

Explain two reasons why some Christians choose to worship without structure.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both must 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 asked to show knowledge and understanding of forms of worship – specifically those with less structure.

(b) items are point marked – two reasons are required.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians choose to worship without structure.

(4)

One reason Christians choose to worship without structure is to ask ~~over~~ God for something in particular, for example, forgiveness of their sins or to help a sick relative.

Another reason is Christians don't like the formality of liturgical worship because there are set scripts, colours and services for different seasons of the year.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two accurately-developed reasons

- To ask God for something in particular (1)
- Developed by: For example, forgiveness of sins (1)
- Christians don't like the formality of liturgical worship (1)
- Developed by: Because there are set scripts (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Examples linked to the reason given are a good form of development.

Examiners must mark what the candidates writes rather than what they might mean.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians choose to worship without structure.

(4)

Some Christians may choose to worship without structure as they may feel more connected to God, since they aren't following a set prayer.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives one developed reason.

- They may feel more connected to God (1)
- Developed by: Since they are not following a set prayer (1)

There is no further information.

Total: 2 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Writing reasons in separate paragraphs, one for each reason, is a good idea.

### Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.5 – Christian religious celebrations

The question asked was:

Explain two reasons why Advent is important to most Christians.

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

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons 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 were able to show knowledge and understanding about why Advent is important. Candidates who described Christmas gained lower/no marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Advent is important for most Christians.

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

(5)

Firstly, advent is important to Christians as it's a lead up to the birth of Christ. This means that it remembers the incarnation where God came to Earth in human form. This is seen in the Bible when it teaches the incarnation restored our relationship with God.

Secondly, advent is important as it remembers Jesus and his sacrifice. This means that it reminds Christians of the love Jesus feels for us and the salvation he bought.



The candidate is given 2 marks.

They give one accurately developed reason.

- Firstly, advent is important to Christians as it is a lead up to the birth of Christ (1)
- Developed by: This means it remembers the incarnation (1)

The second paragraph is not clearly about Advent – it cannot be credited.

Total: 2 marks



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

(c) items provide marks for five points: 2 for reasons, 2 for the development of each reason and one for an accurate source that relates to the reason given

The candidate is given 5 marks.

This answer shows that candidates do not need to write very much to gain 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Advent is important for most Christians.

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

(5)

Advent is important for Christians because it gives them hope that Jesus is coming - this is because Advent is the lead up to Christmas when Jesus was born. Advent is also important to Christians because it reminds them how 'God sent his only son' down to earth, to dwell amongst us and act as a guiding light and figure.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed reasons and uses a source as part of their reasoning.

- It gives them hope that Jesus is coming (1)
- Developed by: Advent is the lead up to Christmas (1)
- It reminds them that God sent his only son (1) - this could be a source or reason

There is then another source - so the previous line is credited as a reason:

- Down to earth 'to dwell amongst us' (1)
- Developed by: As a guiding light (1)

Total: 5 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Sources can be paraphrased; however, they must be recognisable.

### Question 3 (d)

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall marks on this paper.

The question ask candidates to '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 restrict the flow of the arguments thus restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

(d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme and receive marks using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.2 – The role of the sacraments in Christian life and their practice in two denominations.

The question asked was:

“Christians should celebrate seven sacraments.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

Please note that, neither in the bullet point nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. They are asked to consider different Christian points of view. If they did not do this, they could not reach more than Level 2, 6 marks.

Candidates who did well knew about the different views of Christian denominations and the number of sacraments. They were able to expand answers with examples. Candidates who did less well did not know about different Christian points of view.

Some candidates referred to the inability to participate in all seven sacraments or described the value of each sacrament and gained much lower marks.

SPaG marks were available on this question.

(d) items are **levels-** marked: they are **not** points marked.

Candidates may write on the exam paper and cross out the elements required. This may help them plan and ensure they meet all the requirements of the question.

This answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 2 at the top of the range of marks.

Most of the demands of the level descriptor are met and some of those from Level 3. As best-fit, it does not enter Level 3.

\* (d) "Christians should celebrate seven sacraments."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

(15)

In my essay, the argument will be ~~weighing~~ considering whether Christians should celebrate the seven sacraments or not.

Catholics would ultimately agree to the statement as they believe sacraments ~~such~~ as ~~baptism~~ is the way they receive grace from God, which strengthens their faith in Christianity. Furthermore, they believe it is important because sacraments such as baptism allows a person to be removed from their original sin and so they can be purified in order to have a chance to go to heaven. Additionally, it ~~ensures~~ ensures Christians become closer to God, strengthening their faith as sacraments such as Eucharist, ~~allows them~~ ~~to~~ allows the bread and wine to change into Jesus' body and ~~the~~ blood by a special prayer so it is ~~to~~ makes them believe Jesus is joining them in communion.

However, ~~the~~ Methodist Churches believe that Holy Communion is important than others as it makes them remember God, ~~things makes~~ creating a sense of unity. Furthermore, ~~the~~ Baptist Churches believe baptism is important than other sacrament as it makes you a member of the Church and makes you a christian. Since, these sacraments are more important, there is no need for other sacraments.

To conclude, the most convincing argument is ~~that~~ the pointview of Catholics as - the seven sacraments is the way to become a better and stronger christian so you can go to heaven.



The candidate reaches Level Two, 6 marks because it gives :

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.

This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.

SPaG is given 3 marks, in this example, because:

They spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy.

They use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.

They use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate

Question: 6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks



Write a plan.

The candidate reaches Level Four — 10 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 4 because the answer does not meet all the demands of the level descriptor.

\* (d) "Christians should celebrate seven sacraments."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

10:16

In your response you must:

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

NO NA

(15)

Catholic Christians would be very likely to agree with this statement. This is because Catholics believe in all of the seven sacraments. The Catholic council of Trent in the sixteenth century agreed this and it has been a key part of Catholic dogma since then. Celebrating seven sacraments could be seen as important since each of them is an opportunity for Christians to worship and celebrate God. This is a moderate argument as it is weakened by the fact that there are many other opportunities for Christians to worship and pray although these may be emphasised less. Another reason why Christians should celebrate seven sacraments is that each one is an opportunity for Christians to gather and celebrate together. This is a convincing argument as Christians should want to gather together and build stronger bonds as a community. However there are many other ways for Christians to connect. Finally, Christians should celebrate seven sacraments because each offers clear objectives for Christians to meet which will help them go to heaven. This is a weaker argument as it does not say anywhere in the Bible that if you do not observe the seven sacraments you cannot go to heaven and objectives such as living a good life or being kind to people are obvious enough.

to most Christians.

many Christians would disagree with this statement. <sup>Protestants</sup> ~~Pro~~ generally only recognise two sacraments (baptism and the Eucharist) and this stems from Article XXV of the 39 Articles of Religion, which some denominations such as Salvation Army celebrate no sacraments. ~~Furthermore~~ This is because sacraments must be recognised as practices instituted by Jesus and many Christians do not recognise all seven as meeting this criteria. This is a powerful argument as it challenges the ~~very~~ validity of all seven sacraments and ~~is not~~ <sup>is not</sup> solely focused on the benefits of celebrating sacraments. Moreover, seven sacraments could be viewed as unnecessary as it is not possible to achieve all seven. Catholics cannot be a priest (taking holy orders) and be married (unless they converted from a different denomination). If it is not possible to achieve all seven, then perhaps not all seven should be celebrated. This is a weak argument as these sacraments are still important and they emphasise to different groups of people different ways of developing as a Christian - it is not necessary for all seven to be attainable by the same person.

In conclusion, it is not necessary for Christians to celebrate all seven sacraments. ~~Conclusion~~ This is because many Christians disagree that all seven were instituted by Jesus. Moreover, there are many other ways for Christians to worship God and to become a better community. <sup>together and for celebrata</sup> e.g. marriages or <sup>other Christian festivals</sup> (Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)



This response gives:

A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements

To receive higher marks it needs to support judgements by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

SPaG is given 3 marks, in this example, because:

They spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy.

They use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.

They use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate

Question: 10 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 13 marks



Candidates can extend their chain of reasoning by using development such as examples, sources and explanations.

## Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of life and Death

Bullet point 4.2 – Christian teachings about the sanctity of life

The question asked was:

Outline three ways the Bible shows human life is special.

The candidates needed to provide biblical teachings about why human life is special, which is bullet 4.2. This elicited a wide range of correct responses. Candidates did not need to use quotations although this was acceptable. Candidates who gave answers that were not biblical or about animal life did not gain marks because they did not answer the question.

Some candidates answered using a list, which is not an outline, and thus will only receive 1 mark according to the mark scheme.

### Question 4: Matters of Life and Death

4 (a) Outline **three** ways the Bible shows human life is special.

(3)

Jesus forgave the sins of mankind by being crucified.



The candidate is given 1 mark: they give one way outlined in a sentence.

- Jesus forgave the sins of mankind by being crucified (1)

Total: 1 mark

#### Question 4: Matters of Life and Death

4 (a) Outline **three** ways the Bible shows human life is special.

(3)

One way the bible shows that human life is special is that we were made in the image of god. Another way is that God made us and gave us life and stewardship, which shows human life is special. Another way is because the holy spirit comes inside of us, as if we were a temple showing that humans are special.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives one mark for each way shown in the Bible, outlined in a sentence.

- We were made in the image of God (1)
- God made us (1) The extra information is not needed
- The Holy Spirit comes inside of us, as if we were a temple (1)

Total: 3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should provide three full sentences to answer an (a) item.

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death

Bullet point 4.1 – Christian teachings about the origin and value of the universe

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian responses to the view that the universe can be used a commodity.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two responses 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 response given and to the question asked.

In this question, candidates were able to show Christian knowledge and understanding about the use of the universe. Some candidates did not know what the word 'commodity' meant, even though it is in the specification. These candidates gained no marks .

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to the view that the universe can be used as a commodity.

(4)

One christian response to the view that the universe can be used as a commodity is that only unbelievers will trash a world created by God as God so loved the world.

Another response would be to take care of the earth given to humans as using and abusing Gods creation is disrespectful (seen as a sin).



This candidate gives one accurate developed response.

The first paragraph is not accurate and cannot be credited.

- Take care of the Earth given to humans (1)
- Developed by: As using and abusing God's creation is disrespectful (1)

Total: 2 marks



Candidates should ensure they read the secondary command word in each question. In this case it is 'responses'.

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to the view that the universe can be used as a commodity.

- Stewardship

(4)

One Christian response is that the universe was a gift from God so should be who gave humans freewill to do with it as they please.

Another Christian teaching is that the belief of stewardship and that everything God made was sacred and should be looked after. Therefore we should be careful what we do and be caring with ever thankful to God and remember the sacrifices he made.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed beliefs each is in its own paragraph.

- The universe was a gift from God (1)
- Developed by: Who gave humans freewill to do with it what they pleased (1)
- The belief of stewardship (1)
- Developed by: Everything God made was sacred and should be looked after (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should try to vary their answers as much as possible, to avoid overlapping material.

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death

Bullet point 4.5 – Christian teachings and beliefs about life after death

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian beliefs that support the existence of a life after death.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quotes/paraphrase) or an example. The development must link to the belief given and to the question asked.

The beliefs then 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 as the source.

Most candidates were able to identify Christian beliefs that support the existence of life after death. A few candidates discussed near-death experiences but did not link these to a Christian idea such as heaven or God: these responses were not credited.

(c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for beliefs, 2 for the development of each belief and one for an accurate source that relates to the belief given

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs that support the existence of a life after death.

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

(5)

One belief that supports life after death is the resurrection. In the Book of Luke, it states that after being crucified, Jesus arose from the dead. This shows that life after death must exist as Jesus was able to come back to life. A second belief which supports it is the ascension. The Book of Luke states Jesus rose up to heaven to be with God. This means heaven must exist as Jesus was able to rise up to heaven so there is proof that life after death exists.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs and makes use of a source. They gain maximum marks.

1st belief

- One belief that supports life after death is the resurrection (1)
- Use of source: Jesus arose from the dead (1) (they did not need to say in the book of Luke)
- Developed by: Jesus was able to come back to life (1)

2nd belief

- A second belief that supports it is the ascension (1)
- Developed by: Jesus rose up to heaven to be with God (1) (they did not need to say in the book of Luke)

Total: 5 marks



Candidates do not have to reference where a quote comes from. In fact, if they get it wrong then they cannot receive marks for the quote.

This response shows that an answer that is divided into two paragraphs: it is easier to read and give marks to!

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs that support the existence of a life after death.

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

(5)

One Christian belief that supports the existence of a life after death is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For example, the disciples told Jesus' ~~the~~ women followers, "He is not here; he has risen." This shows there must be a life after death because Jesus was taken back to heaven giving Christians hope of an eternal life, and also the disciples wouldn't dedicate their lives to something that wasn't true.

Another Christian belief that supports the existence of a life after death is that, eschatology gives life a purpose. This shows that Christians will try their hardest to live ~~good~~ good Christian lives so they can enter heaven.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs and makes use of a source. They gain maximum marks.

1st belief

- One Christian belief that supports the existence of life after death is the resurrection of Jesus (1)
- Use of source: He is not here he has risen (1)
- Developed by: Jesus was taken back to heaven (1)

There is extra written information that cannot be credited (wasting the candidate's time).

2nd belief

- Another Christian belief that supports the existence of life after death is that eschatology gives life a purpose (1)
- Developed by: Christians will try to ...live good Christian lives so they can enter heaven (1)

Total: 5 marks



Candidates should not write 'a source of wisdom for this is' or worse, SOWA — this means the source is not being used as part of the reasoning in the question.

## Question 4 (d)

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall marks on this paper.

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 restricting the candidates's progression to the higher levels.

(d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme and given marks using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death

Bullet point 4.4 – Implications of the value and sanctity of life for the issue of abortion.

The question asked:

"No one should be allowed to have an abortion."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that as required in the bullet point in the question candidates were required to refer to ethical arguments. If they did not, the maximum mark they could be awarded was Level 2, 6 marks.

Non-religious arguments were ignored because they were not asked for in the question.

Candidates who did well were able to expand answers with evaluation. (d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in Religious Studies.

This year there was a new mark scheme for (d) questions. Teachers who are not familiar with it should access the training materials on the Edexcel website.

(d) items are **levels** marked: they are **not** points marked.

(d) "No-one should be allowed to have an abortion."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

"No one should be allowed to have an abortion" as God says 'thou shall not kill' this means that you should not kill another human being even if they haven't been born yet - Some Christians believe life begins as soon as conception happens. However, people should be allowed to have an abortion as women can choose whether they want to keep the child or not and it should be their decision only that matters.

Also "no one should be allowed to have an abortion" as it ~~is against~~ <sup>is what</sup> God <sup>wants</sup> as he said 'be fruitful and multiply' this means that God wants you to have as many kids as possible. And also it is one of the 10 commandments 'thou shall not kill' which means you can't kill another human ~~being~~ being. However, people should be allowed to have an abortion as it might be hurting you physically and mentally and it is best if you get an abortion even though it goes against God.

In conclusion "No one should be allowed to have an abortion" as it goes against God to kill another human being without them ever getting a say in what happens to them.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The response reaches Level Two, 5 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 2 because:

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the middle of the range of marks because most but not all the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The answer gives:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.

It needs more simple judgements, which have some links to the analysis to reach a higher mark in Level 2.

Total: 5 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be familiar with the requirements in the levels mark scheme.

The candidate reaches Level Four, 11 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 4 because the answer met most of the demands of the level descriptor but not all of them.

(d) "No-one should be allowed to have an abortion."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

for - conception 'you must not murder'  
~~slippery slope to doctors~~  
abortion

against - rape  
~~the doctrine of double effect~~  
situation ethics  
disease  
(12)

On the one hand, no-one should be allowed an abortion. One reason for this is because it can be seen as murder. Particularly for Catholics, there is a belief that life begins at conception so once the baby is formed, any action taking to stop it is deemed as murder. Therefore, abortion goes against the ten commandments as it states 'you must not murder'. The Catechism also claims that 'abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes'. If this is the case then no-one should have an abortion as it is sinful and a crime. Additionally, many feel that it is a much better option to give the baby up for adoption. This is because it is supported by the utilitarian belief of the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. This is because it prevents the mother from feeling guilt for her actions so she will not be affected by her decision. It will also bring lots of happiness to families who are previously unable to have children. A limitation of this point is that it is supported mainly by Catholic beliefs which, while important to Catholics, are not a strong authority for most Christians. Additionally, there is no strong support from the Bible because many don't believe life begins at conception, therefore it is not murder.

On the other hand, ~~there~~ by applying situation ethics, abortion can sometimes be the best option. One example of this is that if the mother is a victim of rape or other forms of sexual abuse, it can be extremely difficult to carry the baby and then possible raise it. This means that in order to prevent the suffering of the living mother and the foetus who is not yet alive it can sometimes be more loving to ~~have~~ allow an abortion. Additionally, following modern technology, parents can now find out if children are carrying diseases ~~which~~ that will limit their life span or give them a poor quality of life. This means that sometimes it ~~is not~~ should be allowed for women to have an abortion in order to prevent giving birth to a child who would undergo a lot of suffering in its life. It will also prevent financial strain for parents in countries that do not have free healthcare and would have to support a child with a disease. A limitation of this point is that it is not supported by my Bible teachings so does not have ~~any~~ much authority for Christians. Additionally, it is quite vague as it does not provide a set rule for cases of abortion.

In conclusion, some people should be allowed abortions ~~because~~ because there are some cases where it would be more beneficial to the mother and cause less suffering if the abortion happened and Christians want to prevent suffering as that is what Jesus taught.



The candidate has reached Level Four, 11 marks, because it gives:

A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements

To obtain higher marks it needed to support judgements by giving more appraisal of arguments.

Total: 11 marks



Candidates should be encouraged to learn the whole of the specification, so there are no gaps in their knowledge.

## Paper Summary

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

- 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/quotation 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) items have a new mark scheme this year: candidates should be familiar with it
- (d) item responses must show AO2 skills
- (d) items must show an appraisal of the argument — not simply rely on a set format
- Levels descriptors must 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>

