

Examiners' Report

June 2025

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 1B

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Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies 2025

Religious Studies B - Beliefs in Action

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, and 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 many of the issues affecting young people today.

Question 1(a)

The question is:

Outline **three** events during the crucifixion of Jesus.

The candidates needed to provide events that occurred during the crucifixion. There were several possible answers.

In this question any event from Jesus being condemned by Pilate (Luke 23:26 or the equivalent in other gospels) until when He is taken down from the cross (Luke 23:49 or the equivalent in other gospels) will be accepted.

Weaker candidates referred to events in the life of Jesus/resurrection or ascension and gained no/lower marks. It is important that candidates are familiar with the specification, so they understand the questions asked.

This candidate receives no marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** events during the crucifixion of Jesus.

The three events during the crucifixion⁽³⁾
~~are~~ of Jesus is that the last supper,
Another event is that is ~~christmas~~ ^{easter}



One mark is given for each accurate event identified and written in a sentence.

This candidate guesses answers incorrectly and refers to general information.

They do not know what the events during the crucifixion are.



Teachers should refer to the specification for probable questions.

This candidate writes three accurate sentences outlining events during the crucifixion.

1 (a) Outline **three events during the crucifixion of Jesus.**

(3)

One event is that Jesus had to carry the cross himself to his place of crucifixion.
Another belief is that Jesus wore a crown of thorns on his head.
Finally, Jesus was crucified next to two other men.



Three outlines:

- One event is that Jesus had to carry the cross himself (1)
- Jesus wore a crown of thorns on his head (1)
- Jesus was crucified next to two other men (1)



Candidates should read the questions carefully: this will ensure they give the information the mark scheme requires.

Question 1(b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.6 – Christian eschatology.

(b) questions are point marked.

(b) questions provide marks for four points: 2 for beliefs and 2 for the development of each belief.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** different Christian beliefs about purgatory.

It was acceptable to answer this question with two beliefs that are both from the Catholic (or Protestant) perspective.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two beliefs are required, and both need to be developed to receive the maximum 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 linked to the beliefs given and to the question asked.

This question elicited good answers about purgatory – what it was. Most candidates knew two different beliefs. However, some repeated information and gained much lower marks.

This response receives 2 marks for one developed belief.

The second paragraph contains no accurate information.

(b) Explain **two** different Christian beliefs about purgatory.

(4)

One Christian belief about purgatory is that you can ask for forgiveness. This is important as it allows you to ~~be~~ get rid of your sins so so you can go to heaven. Another Christian belief about purgatory is they believe that you will be ~~I~~ judged by God and he will decide if you go to heaven. This is important to Christians because they all want to go to heaven to live eternal life with God, and not go to hell purgatory gives them a chance to redeem themselves.



The candidate gives one accurate, developed, belief.

- One belief is that you can ask for forgiveness (1) Developed by
- Allows you to get rid of your sins (1)

Catholics do not believe that judgement takes place in purgatory.



Teachers should refer to the specification for key terms that should be taught to candidates.

(b) Explain **two** different Christian beliefs about purgatory.

(4)

One christian belief is that it is a place a soul goes to get purged or cleaned before it goes to heaven. This is to cleans the soul which may have sinned. - Catholic Belief.

Another christian belief is that it doesnt exist and souls immidiently get judged to finalise there eternal place.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs.

- It is a place a soul goes to get purified (1) Developed by
- before it goes to heaven (1)
- Another Christian belief is that it does not exist (1) Developed by
- and souls get judged to finalise their eternal place (1)



Candidates do not have to write more than 4 points to receive full marks.

Question 1(c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.2 –

The creation of the universe and of humanity.

(c) Questions are point marked

(c) Questions provide marks for five points, 2 for each reason and then 2 for the development of each reason and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the reason given. The source cannot only be added at the end – it must be used as part of the answer.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** reasons some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical.

Common incorrect answers confused a metaphorical understanding with literal and therefore the whole answer was wrong or they did not understand what a metaphor is. No marks were given for answers that no Christian would accept, such as they disprove the existence of God.

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 belief 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 given twice. Therefore, if it is used as development, it does not gain a second mark as the source.

(c) Explain **two** reasons some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical.

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

(5)

One reason some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is ~~because~~ metaphorical because some Christians think more logically, for example ~~the~~ making animals ~~that~~ takes more than a day if you link it to science and as well as the human evolution.



This response receives 2 marks.

The candidate gives one developed reason.

- One reason some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical [is] because some Christians think more logically (1) Developed by
- For example making animals takes more than a day (1)



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

(c) Explain **two** reasons some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical.

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

(5)

- One reason why some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical is because it helps people understand God's ~~own~~ omnipotence. In the Bible it says ~~God created~~ that 'God created the universe in six days.' ~~This does~~ They believe that He did not literally do it in six days but instead shows how powerful he is.

- Another reason why some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical is because there are two accounts of the Creation. This means that Christians have to take it metaphorically as some of the accounts contradict each other.



This candidate receives 5 marks.

The candidate gives two developed beliefs, using a source.

- One reason some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical is it helps people understand God's omnipotence (1) Source (paraphrase) is then used:
- In the Bible it says 'God created the universe in six days' (1) Developed by
- They believe that he did not literally do it in six days but instead shows how powerful he is (1)
- Another reason why some Christians believe the biblical account of Creation is metaphorical is because there are two accounts of the Creation (1) Developed by
- ...the accounts contradict each other (1)



A (c) question has 5 marks and can be answered in 5 sentences

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 1.1 – The Trinity.

The question asked:

“The Nicene Creed fully explains the Trinity.”

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 in 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 how the Trinity is shown or not shown in the Nicene Creed.

Weaker candidates who focussed on a description of the Trinity and knew very little about the Nicene Creed – some saying it was in the Bible – gained very few (if any) marks.

Note:

Marks are available in some (d) questions for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar – SPaG

(d) items are marked from a levels-based mark scheme: they are **not** point marked.

Teachers who are not familiar with the (d) levels-based mark scheme should access the training materials on the Edexcel website.

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.

*(d) "The Nicene Creed fully explains the Trinity."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Christians, mainly Catholics may agree with this because the Nicene Creed is about the Trinity. The Nicene Creed explains the roles of each of the three persons of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. For example, the Creed says, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." This shows how when Christians pray to God, they pray to all three being persons that make up the one being of God. The Nicene Creed presents how there is only one God, which is a significant belief of the Trinity and Christianity, as it is also seen in the 10 Commandments. The Nicene Creed explains the interactions between the three persons in the Trinity, but it ~~does not so~~ shows how the three persons are not each other, although they all come together to form God. The Nicene Creed is repeated in every service of the Holy Communion, so it reminds Christians about the nature of God and the importance of the Trinity. It helps Christians fully understand the Trinity ^{the Nicene Creed} as it is integrated into every day life, because it is ~~so~~ repeated so many times. This is a strong point because the Nicene Creed is very clear on its teachings about the Trinity, so there is no way to misinterpret it, so it must be able to fully explain the Trinity.

However, some Christians may argue that the Nicene Creed may not be enough to explain the Trinity in detail. Christians may also need to read the Bible to understand the individual persons of God. For example they may read the Genesis creation stories to further learn about God the Father. In the Bible it says, "God saw all that he had made and it was very good." This suggests that the Father is the creator and he loved and cared for all of his creation. Furthermore, Christians can better understand the nature of God the Son through the Incarnation; the Bible says "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This shows how God became human in the form of Jesus, who was also his Son, as ~~he~~ Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Overall, Christians may not solely rely on the Nicene Creed because the Bible offers examples of about the persons in the Trinity, so Christians may be able to get a better understanding of the Trinity, as they can learn about it in more depth. This is a strong point because the Bible is the most significant source of authority, so all Christians would use it to help develop their knowledge about the Trinity, as it is the direct word of God.

In conclusion, the strongest point is that Christians may need to use the Bible to support the teachings of the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed alone does not give in depth teaching or examples about the three persons of the Trinity so the Bible may need to be used as well.

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



The response reaches Level 3, 9 marks, because it gives sufficient accurate information to meet the demands of the Level 3 levels descriptor.

There is:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief.

This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.

To get higher marks it needed 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.

Total: 12 marks

Candidates should not refer to material that is not required. If a question does not ask for a non-religious response and the candidate provides it, this part of the answer will not gain any credit.

*(d) "The Nicene Creed fully explains the Trinity."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

On the one hand, many Christians would agree with this statement because the Nicene Creed established that God was three persons, who were not parts of God but separate persons who are all God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This was decided by a conference of Christians in Nicea in the fourth century, and for many Christians it fully explains the Trinity as it demonstrates the three persons of God. Equally, it is supported by the Bible which tells us that 'in the beginning, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.' This therefore shows Christians that from the start of the Universe, God was three persons as the Holy Spirit was present at the beginning of creation. The Bible also supports that Jesus is a person of God as it states that 'the word became flesh and dwelt among us.' Therefore, Jesus is also a person of God as he is formed from the Holy Spirit, and was therefore also present at the beginning of creation. This is further supported by Jesus himself who told his disciples that he was present before Moses, showing his own immortality and thus proving that he is God, as only God is immortal. These arguments strongly support the statement that the Nicene Creed fully explains the Trinity as ~~it~~ it is clear from

the Bible that God is three persons, which is the main statement of the Nicene Creed.

On the other hand, ~~some Christians would argue~~ ^{some Christians would argue} that the Nicene Creed does not fully explain the Trinity as the idea that there is one God who is three persons does not make logical sense. Furthermore, Jesus always taught Christians that there is only one God to worship, as one of the Ten Commandments is to not worship false idols. Therefore it seems that the Nicene Creed does not fully explain the Trinity as it asks Christians to worship three persons when God told them to only worship one. This is further supported by the story of Abraham who destroyed the statues of false gods to show that there was only one god in the Lord Almighty. As Abraham received instruction from God, this shows that God wants Christians to worship him alone, meaning that Christians shouldn't worship the three persons of God. Furthermore, the Nicene Creed states that all three persons of God are all powerful, which is not shown in the Bible as only God the Father is all powerful, as he created the universe. Overall, this is a weak argument as God can be three persons and one God as He is beyond the limits of human comprehension, and worshipping false idols is not the same as worshipping the different persons of God. As well as this, Jesus was all powerful as He brought the dead back to life and healed the blind //

Ultimately, most Christians would agree that the Nicene Creed does fully explain the Trinity as it states the essential nature of the Trinity - that God is one all powerful being with three persons, which is supported by the Bible and stated by Jesus Himself.

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



The response reaches Level 3, 9 marks because it gives sufficient accurate information to meet the demands of the Level 3 levels descriptors.

There is:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief.

This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.

To get higher marks it needed 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.

Total: 12 marks

Question 2(a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.8 – Christian teachings about gender prejudice and discrimination.

The question was:

Outline **three** ways Christians oppose gender discrimination.

In this question any action that a Christian might take to counter gender discrimination was credited. This includes teaching and showing; it had to be something a Christian might do.

Common errors include giving a reason why they might work for gender prejudice, for example writing a Bible reference, giving examples of gender prejudice or writing about prejudice because of sexual orientation. None of these is something a Christian might do to oppose gender prejudice.

2 (a) Outline three ways Christians show opposition to gender discrimination.

(3)

Some Christian denominations, such as the Protestantism, allow women to lead in church. They believe that God created man and women equally, but with different roles. Many Christians group campaign against gender discrimination.



The candidate outlines two ways.

- Some Christians denominations such as protestants allow women to lead in church (1)

The next line refers to a belief: there is no way or action involved and this cannot be credited

- Many Christians groups campaign against gender discrimination (1)



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

2 (a) Outline **three ways Christians show opposition to gender discrimination.**

(3)

One way is by forming groups to help those who have been discriminated. Another way is by protesting. A final way is by praying to stop gender discrimination.



This candidate receives 3 marks for three accurate ways.

- One way is by forming groups to help those who have been discriminated (1)
- Another way is by protesting (1)
- Another way is by praying to stop gender discrimination (1)

Question 2(b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

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

The question is:

Explain **two** Christian beliefs about divorce.

Answers to this question could include any accurate belief about divorce, either that it is acceptable or that it is not acceptable.

Common errors that were not credited included: both partners need to agree/divorce is adultery (needs to refer to remarriage)/ answers that are about annulment but have no reference to divorce/answers about remarriage.

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.

In this question most candidates were able to show knowledge of divorce. 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.

This response shows that candidates do not have to write extensively to receive full marks.

(b) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about divorce.

(4)

one Christian belief about divorce is that it is not allowed. This is because you can't break God's bond.

Another Christian belief about divorce is that it is allowed. This is because God knows we make mistakes and is forgiving.



4 marks are given for:

- One Christian belief about divorce is that it is not allowed (1) Developed by
- This is because you can't break God's bond (1)

Another Christian belief about divorce is that it is allowed (1) Developed by

- This is because God knows we make mistakes and is forgiving. (1)



It helps to write answers that divide into 2 paragraphs, each containing a point and a development.

The candidate gives two developed beliefs.

However in comparison with the first example they write more. This wastes time that could be used on the longer questions.

(b) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about divorce.

(4)

The Roman Catholic Church are strongly against divorce. This is because they believe that marriage is a covenant and it should not be broken as you have made a vow before your partner and God which cannot be broken.

Some Christians may accept the divorce of a couple but only under extreme circumstances. This may be things such as abuse and adultery and it is seen as the best interest for both sides of the couple.



This response receives 4 marks.

- The Roman Catholic Church are strongly against divorce (1) Developed by
- This is because they believe marriage is a covenant and it should not be broken (1) The remainder of the material is not needed.
- Some Christians may accept divorce (1) Developed by
- Extreme circumstances...such as abuse and adultery (1)

The remainder of the material is not needed



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

The question is:

Explain **two** Christian teachings about the purpose of the family.

Answers needed to focus on the purpose of the family – why the family is needed, what the aim of family life is.

Common incorrect answers refer to the purpose of marriage, for example, the unity of the couple, rather than the family group.

In this question, most candidates were able to explain what the purpose of the family is – frequently referring to raising children, or educating children in the faith.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two things 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 thing given in the answer. This is the 5th mark.

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the purpose of the family.

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

(5)

One teaching is that parents should guide their children to follow the right path, as in the Bible it tells parents to 'not exasperate your children'; parents shouldn't ~~make~~ wind up their children but should help them. Another teaching is that family creates a sense of belonging, and can make a person feel less lonely.



This candidate receives 5 marks.

It shows that candidates can gain full marks without writing very much.

- Parents should guide their children to follow the right path (1) There is then a source:
- In the Bible it tells parents to 'not exasperate their children' (1) Developed by
- Shouldn't wind up their children but should help them (1)
- Family creates a sense of belonging (1) Developed by
- Can make a person feel less lonely (1)



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

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the purpose of the family.

Church
all children
welcome

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

(5)

One Christian teaching about the purpose of the family is ~~to have children and raise them with love and faith. In the bible he states 'be fruitful and increase numbers'.~~ to have children. God wants Christian families to have children and raise them with love and faith. In the bible he states 'be fruitful and increase numbers'.

Another purpose of the family is to raise children within the church. ~~the bible~~ God encourages Parents to bring their children to church by the bible teaching. Saying all my children are welcomed to my house. He wants family to raise children in a faithful environment.



This response gains 2 marks.

The candidate gives one reason about family in the first paragraph (raise them with love and faith). Most of the information is about marriage.

They then repeat the reason and develop it in the second paragraph – using positive marking, this second paragraph is credited.

- ...to raise children within the Church (1) There is then some confused material, but the reason is developed by
- Raise children in a faithful environment (1)



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

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 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 failed to evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting student's progression to the higher levels.

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

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family

Bullet point 2.3 – Christian teaching about family planning and the regulation of births.

The question asked was:

"It is acceptable to use artificial contraception."

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 not required to give non-religious or ethical views. If they referred to non-religious or ethical viewpoints this part of their answer was ignored.

Candidates who did well recognised that this was about artificial contraception; they were able to expand answers with biblical teachings, examples and quotations and then assess the value of their arguments.

(d) "It is acceptable to use artificial contraception."

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 Christians may disagree with this statement. This is because ~~so~~ everytime a couple engages in a sexual act of intimacy, there should be the possibility of a child being conceived. This can be backed up by the quote "be fruitful and ^{increase in} ~~multiply~~ number" further establishing the view that for Christians sex should equal children or possibility. For some that is why they reject artificial contraception which linking back to the statement evaluates as a strong argument. It makes it strong as it references the Bible and God's wishes for mankind.

Other Christians however may ~~disagree~~ agree with this statement. This is because of financial problems in which they can not afford to have a child. This poses as a legitimate reason for Christians to use artificial contraceptives as long as they have the

intention of having children in the future. This only makes it partially acceptable but in financial struggles artificial contraceptives are legitimate and acceptable. This overall is a strong argument as it takes into practical considerations and how sometimes people are not ready/can't afford children. Therefore this is a strong argument.

Other Christians may also disagree with this statement as they view artificial contraceptives as wrong and going against the will of ~~man~~ God.

In conclusion, the strongest argument is against this statement. This is because it ~~takes~~^{takes} into consideration the will of God and what he wants for the world and his creation overall making this a strong argument and the strongest out of the two.



The response reaches Level 3, 7 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 3 because the answer has met some of the demands of the level descriptor.

It gives:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief.

To get Level 4 it needed to give:

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 supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.



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

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

(d) "It is acceptable to use artificial contraception."

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.

For

- health
- family planning

Against

- block God's plan
- degrades sex

(12)

On the one hand, liberal Christians agree with this statement. One reason for this is that its use may protect the mother's health. This is because it reduces the chance of repeat pregnancy, which can be detrimental to women's health. Additionally, taking the pill helps women with severe period pain. As Jesus is God is all loving, he would want for women to not to suffer. As sex is an act of love, God would also want women to be able to having loving sex without suffering. This means that it is acceptable to use artificial contraception. Overall, this is a very strong argument, as the Anglican Church accepts the use of artificial contraception in these cases. Furthermore, an Anglican may argue it is acceptable for family planning. This is because it allows people to choose how many children to have. This may help with the financial costs of having children, especially because it means you can withhold from having children until you are financially ready. This improves the quality of life for both the parents and the child & so may be the most loving outcome. Overall, this is a very strong argument, as in the UK today, raising a child is very expensive & people with three or more children are disproportionately likely to be in poverty.

On the other hand, conservative Christians disagree with this statement. One reason for this is that ~~it can be seen~~ Catholics & Orthodox see it as blocking God's plan. This is because in the Bible it says "before I formed you in the womb I knew you." This means that God has a plan for every life before it is conceived. This means that artificial contraception may block God's plan. As humans are not omniscient & God is, they should respect God's plan & so it is not acceptable to use artificial contraception. Overall this is a weak argument, as if God had a plan for every life, stillbirths & miscarriages would not occur, so ~~negating~~ negating the premise of this argument. Furthermore, a Catholic may argue against artificial contraception because it degrades sex. This is because sex is the culmination of a loving relationship because every act of sex should be open to procreation. This defines why sex is an act of love, and as artificial contraception removes the possibility of procreation, it removes the key purpose of sex & so degrades it. Therefore it is not acceptable to use artificial contraception. Overall this is a very weak argument, as Catholics allow natural contraception such as the rhythm method & so admit that not every act of sex must have the possibility of conception.

In conclusion, despite the arguments against this statement, the health concerns of repeat pregnancy & the cost of raising children mean that it is acceptable to use artificial contraception.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The response reaches Level 4, 10 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 4 because the answer did not meet all of the demands of the level descriptor.

The answer gave:

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.

To get full marks in Level 4 the candidate needed to provide:

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 supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.



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

Question 3(a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.1 –Christian worship.

The question was:

Outline **three** examples of liturgical worship.

In this question any example of liturgical worship was credited – this included any set service a Christian might take part in. Most correct answers referred to sacraments.

Common errors include descriptions of what liturgical worship is, examples of individual prayers, vague answers or repeating the same example using different names for it.

3 (a) Outline three examples of liturgical worship.

(3)

One example of liturgical worship is an eucharist.
Another example of liturgical worship is an
Easter Sunday service.
A third example of liturgical worship is a baptism.



This response receives 3 marks.

Each mark is given for an example of liturgical worship, outlined in a sentence.

- One example of liturgical worship is an eucharist (1)
- Another example of liturgical worship is an Easter Sunday Service (1)
- A third example is a baptism (1)



Each reason needs to be given in its own standalone sentence, otherwise it is not an outline.

Sentences do not need to be more than one line.

Although the candidate knows three examples, they have only written one example in an outline – they cannot be credited for single words.

3 (a) Outline **three examples of liturgical worship.**

(3)

Mass is liturgical.
Eucharist service
Baptism



This response receives 1 mark.

- Mass is liturgical (1)



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

Question 3(b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.6 – The future of the Christian Church.

The question is:

Explain **two** ways the Church takes part in missionary work.

Answers to this question included any accurate way that the Church takes place in missionary work. This could be any form of outreach to the community; it could be international or local.

Common errors that could not be credited included: descriptions of what missionary work is and reasons why the Church may do missionary work. It must be what they **do**.

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.

(b) Explain **two** ways the Church takes part in missionary work.

the church takes part in missionary work by hosting food banks. (4)

Another way the church takes part in missionary work is by starting youth clubs.



This candidate gives 2 ways, which gain 2 marks.

- The Church takes part in missionary work by hosting food banks (1) This is not developed.
- Another way the Church takes part in missionary work is by starting youth clubs (1) This is not developed.



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

(b) Explain **two** ways the Church takes part in missionary work.

(4)

One way is by preaching. This is done in order to spread the word of God to as many people as possible.

Another way is through schools. This is done in order to raise children in christian environments.



This response receives 2 marks for the ways and 2 marks for the development of each way.

- One way is by preaching (1) Developed by
- This is done in order to spread the word of God (1)
- Another way is through schools (1) Developed by
- This is done in order to raise children in Christian environments (1)



Writing reasons in separate paragraphs, one for each way, helps candidates gain maximum marks.

Question 3(c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.3 – The nature and purpose of prayer

The question was:

Explain **two** reasons Christians may use informal prayer.

Correct answers to this referred to informal prayer collectively as part of a worship service, or personal prayer either in a church or at home.

Common incorrect answers confused informal with set prayer/liturgical services and they then had the whole answer incorrect.

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.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Christians may use informal prayer.

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

(5)

One reason why Christians may use informal prayer is it's more
easier



The response receives 1 mark.

They give one reason. There is no attempt made to develop the reason.

- One reason why Christians may use informal prayer is it is more easier (sic) (1)



Candidates can develop reasons by using an example, giving an explanation of the reason or using a source.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Christians may use informal prayer.

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

(5)

One reason is because it's a personal conversation with God. The quote "whoever seeks shall receive" shows that asking God for personal needs is beneficial. These prayers are known as prayers of petition.

Another reason is because this can be done privately. Formal prayer often happens in the church, which an individual may not want to go to or may not have the time for.



The response gives two developed reasons and uses a source as part of their reasoning: 5 marks.

- One reason is because it's a personal conversation with God (1) Source:
- Whoever seeks shall receive (1) Developed by
- Shows that asking God for personal needs is beneficial (1)
- Another reason is because this can be done privately (1) Developed by
- Formal prayer often happens in a church, which an individual may not want to go to (1)



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

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

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.4 – Pilgrimage.

The question asked was:

"Pilgrimage is not a holiday."

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. Any non-religious material within an answer was ignored.

Candidates who did well knew about different views about pilgrimage: they were able to expand answers with examples of pilgrimages.

Candidates who did less well tended to give descriptive answers, rather than any focus on the purpose of pilgrimage.

*(d) "Pilgrimage is not a holiday."

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.

FOR	AGAINST
• test of faith • dedication • suffering • salvation	• used to take mind of life • reflect on suffering

(15)

Some Christians may agree with the statement "Pilgrimage is not a holiday," as ~~it shows~~ pilgrimage should be used as a test of faith, to determine your dedication ~~to your faith~~ to God. On pilgrimages we following in Jesus' footsteps (like going to Jerusalem) in order to reflect on ~~to~~ his vast suffering in order to gain salvation for human kind. Therefore, treating it as a holiday could be seen as selfish as in order to thank God for his omnibenevolence or sacrificing his son, we must take the time to ^{reflect} ~~reflect~~ and repent. This is a strong argument as it ~~all~~ aligns with the belief of God's salvation. Linking back, pilgrimage is not a holiday as it should be used as a break for reflection on you're sins and Jesus' sacrifice, not for enjoyment.

However, some Christians may disagree with ~~the~~ the statement "pilgrimage is not a holiday"

as it can be used as a time to escape from tough times in a Christian's life when they are struggling to persevere. The ~~be~~ protestant belief that pilgrimage should be ~~enjoye~~ enjoyed, encourages celebration, in order to remember Jesus; Just because you are gaining enjoyment out of pilgrimage doesn't mean you aren't reflecting on it's true meaning. A point to back this up is "worship God in spirit" ~~is~~ suggesting pilgrimage can be seen as a holiday, as you are still complying by ~~the~~ reflecting and worshipping. Yet, this could be seen as a weak argument as Catholics believe it is necessary to understand Jesus' suffering, and the only way to somewhat understand is enduring a fraction of what he went through (which you can reciprocate through pilgrimage). Linking back, some Christians may ~~op~~ oppose the statement "pilgrimage is not a holiday" as they believe ~~there~~ their worship is stronger if done liturgically, ~~and the~~, enduring enjoyment.

Concluding, I believe pilgrimage could be seen as a holiday as it is optional and ~~so~~ as long as you are reflecting and repenting then enjoyment is allowed.

(Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)



The response reaches Level 3, 8 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 3.

It meets most of the demands of the level descriptor but not all of them.

It gives:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief.

This leads to reasoned judgements, leading to a partially justified conclusion.

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

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.

Total: 11 marks



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

*(d) "Pilgrimage is not a holiday."

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)

For

Pilgrimage isn't a holiday because it's where a religious person travels to a holy or religious place

Also ~~etc~~ during pilgrimage religious people perform holy rituals to seek forgiveness from God

Furthermore the purpose of pilgrimage is to become ~~get~~ closer to God by surrounding your self with a holy community

Against

It can be considered holiday because you are leaving work behind so you can go to a different country to do holy activities and relax.

Also pilgrimage allows you find peace with yourself by ~~less stressing~~ reducing stress, so that makes it count as a holiday.

Furthermore pilgrimage helps you stay away from bad habits by changing your day to day schedule.

In conclusion, ~~the~~ Pilgrimage is a holiday because it's ~~at~~ where religious person travels to a ~~at~~ holy place to get closer to God.



This response reaches Level 2, 4 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 2.

It gives sufficient accurate information to reach the lowest part of the range of marks because it meets a few of the demands of the level descriptor.

There is:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments.

To achieve the top of this level they would need to give an answer that led to simple judgements, which had 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 considerable accuracy.
- They use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.
- They use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Total: 7 marks



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.

Question 4(a)

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

Bullet point 4.7 – Implications of Christian teachings about the value and sanctity of life for the issue of euthanasia

The question was:

Outline **three** reasons Christians reject the use of euthanasia.

In this question any reason why a Christian may choose to reject euthanasia was credited – this included secular reasons.

Common errors include descriptions of what euthanasia is, giving arguments in favour of euthanasia or vague answers that could be about other issues.

4 (a) Outline three reasons Christians reject the use of euthanasia.

(3)

Firstly, one reason Christians reject the use of euthanasia is because they are taught to not kill.

Secondly, another reason is that Christians are taught to "love thy neighbour".

Thirdly, another reason is that many Christians believe that euthanasia is wrong as the patient doesn't consent.



The response includes 2 accurate reasons and one that is vague and could be about anything. 'Love thy neighbour' on its own without an explained link to euthanasia is not an acceptable reason.

- Firstly, one reason Christians reject the use of euthanasia is because they are taught not to kill (1)

The next line is too vague to credit

- Thirdly, another reason is that involuntary euthanasia isn't okay as the patient doesn't consent (1)



The specification should be used to produce schemes of work and for revision.

4 (a) Outline **three** reasons Christians reject the use of euthanasia.

(3)

one reason is because it breaks the sanctity
of life.
Another reason is because it is murder.
one more reason is because it can be used
for evil purposes.



The response receives 3 marks, one mark for each reason euthanasia is rejected, outlined in a sentence.

- One reason is because it breaks the sanctity of life (1)
- Another reason is because it is murder (1)
- One more reason is that it can be used for evil purposes (1)



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 4.3 – Christian responses to scientific and non-religious explanations to the origins and value of human life

The question is:

Explain **two** reasons why evolution as an explanation for the origin of life may be important for Christians.

Answers to this question could include any accurate reason about why evolution as an explanation for how life began is important. This includes that it shows God's plan and could refer to some Christians not accepting it.

Common errors that could not be credited included: reference to the Big Bang theory and creation of the universe (not life), reference to humans evolving from monkeys, which is inaccurate.

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.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why evolution as an explanation for the origin of life may be important for Christians.

(4)
A reason is that it ~~we~~ may ^{defy} ~~prevent~~ God's power. This is because believing in evolution ~~will~~ critique the 7 days creation story.



The candidate gives one developed reason: 2 marks.

- A reason is it may defy God's power (1) Developed by
- This is because the evolution theory would critique the seven days creation story (1)



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

- (b) Explain **two** reasons why evolution as an explanation for the origin of life may be important for Christians.

(4)

one reason why it is important is because some Christians believe it contradicts the Genesis story of how God created humanity, so therefore must be wrong. This is important, because it means Christians must put full trust in God, rather than science.

Another reason why it's important is because it conflicts the idea that humans were divinely made in the image of God. This leads to Christians having to question their true value and rely fully on God.



The candidate gives two developed reasons, each is in its own paragraph: 4 marks.

They do, however, write too much.

- One reason why it is important is because some Christians believe it contradicts the Genesis story of how God created humanity (1) Developed by
- It means Christians must put full trust in God rather than science (1)
- It conflicts the idea that humans were divinely made (1) Developed by
- This leads to Christians having to question their values (1)



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 4.2 – Christian teachings about the sanctity of life

The question asked was:

Explain **two** different Christian attitudes to abortion.

Answers for this question must be different attitudes – a maximum of 3 marks can be awarded for answers that are the same attitude (for or against).

Common errors were: only giving one attitude, referring to abortion, and adding a quote on the end, rather than using it.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two different attitudes were required, and both needed 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 attitude given and to the question asked.

One of the attitudes should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the attitude describes and cannot be awarded twice.

Therefore, if it is used as development, it does not gain a second mark as the source.

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.

(c) Explain two different Christian attitudes to abortion.

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

(5)

Firstly, some Christians believe that abortion goes against the ten commandments. This means that some Christians view abortion as a form of murder, which is condemned in the Ten Commandments, "thou shall not murder".

Secondly, some Christians allow the use of abortion because they believe that your sanctity of life is more important than other people's. This means that, if a pregnancy poses a risk to the mother's ~~well~~ health, abortion can be allowed to save the mother's life.



The candidate gives two developed attitudes and makes use of a source.

They gain maximum marks: 5.

- Some Christians believe that abortion goes against the ten commandments teaching (1)
Developed by

This means some Christians view abortion as a form of murder (1) Use of source:

- Which is condemned... 'thou shalt not murder' (1)
- Some Christians allow the use of abortion because they believe that your sanctity of life is more important than other people's (1) Developed by
- If a pregnancy poses a risk to the mother's life, abortion can be allowed (1)



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

This response shows that an answer that is not divided into two paragraphs is more difficult to read and to give marks.

Candidates do not have to reference where a quote comes from.

In fact, if they give an incorrect source then they cannot receive marks for the quote.

(c) Explain **two** different Christian attitudes to abortion. ^{Soft}
^{Tsnk}

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

(5)

Some Christians believe that abortion should not be allowed, as we are taught in the bible that 'Thou shall not Kill' regardless of when you think life starts at. Another Christian belief is that the bible tells us 'life is sacred and belongs to God' so even if you don't want the baby, you can give it up for adoption to have a chance at life with a happy family.



The candidate gives one developed attitude, and they use a source of reasoning: 3 marks.

They then give another reason for the same attitude, which cannot be credited.

- Some Christians believe that abortion should not be allowed (1) A source is used:
- As we are taught in the Bible 'thou shalt not kill' (1) Developed by
- Regardless of when you think that life starts (1)

The candidate then gives another reason based on the same attitude that abortion is not allowed – the question required different attitudes so this cannot be credited.



Write two distinct paragraphs: one for each requirement of 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 failed to 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 levels and marking is carried out using a 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

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

Bullet point 4.2 – Christian responses to issues in the natural world

The question asked:

"All Christians should work to end pollution."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that there are no bullet points in the question requiring candidates to refer to ethical or non-religious points of view. If they did, then this part of the answer was ignored.

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

(d) "All Christians should work to end pollution."

commodities
dominion

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

Stewardship

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Christians agree with that they all should work to end pollution. This is because God has given us Stewardship over the Earth so we should take care of it. As pollution damages the Earth you are damaging God's creation as he tells us to 'let no man separate' what he has made as it's sacred. This is a strong argument as God has made us responsible to take care of the Earth for future generations so if ~~we end~~ pollution doesn't end it will damage the Earth further.

Other Christians may disagree and say that we all shouldn't. This is because we have been given dominion over by God. God has given us ~~dominance~~ control over how we use the planet and what we should do with it. As God has given

commodities such as water, oil and grain and we should be using it resourcefully however everyone has freewill and dominion to do whatever they like. This can be seen as a weak argument as God wants you to make more from what he has given like the story of 3 men that was given money and made more than they had except one which was punished as he wasted it.

Other Christians would agree with the statement as we do have stewardship over the earth as well as dominion so we should end pollution by stop using commodities that cause this like coal and use them for purposes that are more beneficial.

In Conclusion both ~~arguments~~ arguments are compelling but the arguments for are right as God has given stewardship over the earth (commodities) as well as dominion. (Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)



The response reaches Level 3, 7 marks, the lowest mark in Level 3.

It gives:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view.

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



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

(d) "All Christians should work to end pollution."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Christians believe God made this world and should be kept nice - ~~and~~ and clean the way God intended and made in seven days and we can not ruin it with any dirt or pollution.

I agree with this statement as ~~us~~ God made the earth nice and beautiful but because of humans we have ruined Gods creation of ~~land~~ ^{land} water and life which have not been good as God created this world for better purpose and not to ~~let~~ let it will be destroyed.

Since God made the earth and us and we ~~serve~~ ^{serve} Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour then we should take care of his creation and not let it ~~die~~ die because of us.

For the bible God created earth in seven days and ~~we~~ we can destroy it in seven minutes which is not right ~~because~~ ^{Jesus} because God is the alpha and omega and we serve him.

In conclusion I believe ~~we~~ ~~the~~ Christians should work together to keep



This response reaches Level 1, 2 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 1, because it gives sufficient accurate information.

However, not all the demands of the level descriptor are met. Much of the content is off-topic or too general and could not be given any marks.

The answer gives:

A superficial analysis of the statement.

It needed to show understanding of religion and belief to get a higher level.



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 three sentences for (a) items: each should be on a separate line
- (b) items should have two developed reasons (not more than two)
- 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 levels-based mark scheme: 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 are 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>

