



Examiners' Report

June 2023

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2B

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Introduction

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall GCSE award when combined with another area of study. This paper is most frequently combined with Option 1C — Islam. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions: there is no element of choice on the paper.

The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is set from the specification.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict. This unit engages the interest of young people, because it addresses many Christian beliefs and teachings in addition to some of the issues affecting young people today.

Note:

AO stands for Assessment Objective(s).

SPaG: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Marks are available for SPaG in Sections 1 and 3.

Question 1 (a)

This question worked well when candidates recognised it was about the Trinity as a whole, not individual persons, and about how it is used in worship rather than a description.

This candidate has specifically shown where the Trinity is used in worship and gains full marks.

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

(3)

one way the Trinity is shown in Christian worship is by the priest blessing the congregation in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit at Eucharist services. Another way it is shown is through the Nicene Creed which refers to the Trinity and is recited in many services. A third way is when people are baptised it is in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit which can sometimes happen during services.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three ways.

- By the priest blessing the congregation in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (1)
- Through the Nicene Creed when it refers to all the Trinity (1)
- When people are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (1)

Total: 3 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Three short sentences are required: development is not required.

This candidate has not shown how the Trinity is used – it gets 0 marks.

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

(3)

one way the trinity is shown is the father he is the creator
of the world

another way is the son he guides us through life

another way is the holy spirit the holy spirit gives
us life



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes one way about each of the persons of the Trinity and gains 0 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates must read questions carefully.

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding of natural suffering. Candidates did less well when they confused it with moral suffering.

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

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

b) items are point marked – two developed beliefs are required.

b) items provide marks for four points, 2 for beliefs and 2 for the development of each belief .

(b) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about natural suffering.

(4)

One Christian belief about natural suffering is that it is how God tests people's faiths. For example, if there is a ~~big~~ natural disaster, God is seeing if people still remain loyal to him even after all the destruction.

A second Christian belief about natural suffering is that it helps people to understand God better. ~~But~~ In the ^{book of Job} ~~book~~, God puts Job through lots of tests and he says 'it is good for me to be afflicted so that I may learn your laws', showing it helped Job to understand God better.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Belief One – It is how God tests people's faiths (1) Development One – seeing if people remain loyal to him (1)
- Belief Two – Helps people understand God better (1) Development Two – paraphrase of story of Job (1)

Total: 4 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Write an answer that divides into two paragraphs each containing a belief and a development.

Candidates should write 2 mini paragraphs each including a belief and development.

(b) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about natural suffering.

(4)

one christian beliefs about natural suffering is a test from god
for example ~~the story of Job~~ if you will still have
faith in him for example the story of Job he
lost everything but prayed everyday and got twice
of what he already had.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Belief One – It is a test from God (1) Development One – for example the story of Job (1)

Total: 2 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Candidates may write two answers; however, if they cross out one, examiners will mark the answer that is not crossed out.

Question 1 (c)

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

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

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

If the development is not about the question, even if it relates to the teaching given, it will gain no marks.

(c) Explain **two** teachings about the role of Christ in salvation.

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

(5)

One teaching about the role of Christ is that he was sent to Earth in order to redeem humanity's sins. 'Hence for us and our salvation he came down from the heavens'. This is because he is viewed as a sacrifice.

Another teaching about the role of Christ is that he represents good conquering evil. Since he was perfect and without sin, he stopped the devil having a hold over humanity.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed teachings and makes use of a source in their reasoning.

- Teaching One — He was sent to Earth in order to redeem humanity's sins (1) Source — for us and our salvation he came down from heaven (1) Development One — he is viewed as a sacrifice (1)
- Teaching Two — He represents good conquering evil (1) Development Two — he was perfect and without sin (1)

Total: 5 Marks



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Examiner Tip

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 word salvation may have prevented some candidates attempting this question – they should learn all key terms.

(c) Explain **two** teachings about the role of Christ in salvation.

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

(5)

One teaching about the role of Christ in salvation was Jesus dying on the cross. 'Christ died for our sins'. This teaches Christians that Jesus died to bridge the gap between God and humanity so we can go to heaven.

Another teaching about the role of Christ in salvation is that it was important that he didn't fight ~~at~~ the guards when he was arrested. This means he could be sentenced to death and ~~re~~ rekindle humanity's connection with God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed teaching and makes use of a source in their reasoning.

- Teaching One — He was sent to Earth in order to redeem humanities sins (1) Source — for us and our savation he came down from heaven (1) Development One — he is viewed as a sacrifice (1)

Total: 3 Marks



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 1 (d)

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

Please note that in the bullet points it records that candidates are required to give a different Christian point of view, thus any answers that do not refer to different Christian groups is limited to level 2 – 6 marks.

This question was written to enable candidates to write about Catholic teachings versus Anglican ones, however candidates did not have to identify Christian denominations, it is sufficient to write some Christians and other Christians.

* (d) "Purgatory is an essential Christian belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

One ~~etc~~ Catholic Christian may agree with this statement as no human is perfect. ~~the~~ This is because they might say that only Jesus is perfect in all ways and thus no one ^{else} can attain ^{a ticket to} ~~the~~ heaven without ~~out~~ purgatory as ~~ever~~ no one is ~~is~~ perfect and therefore they must be ~~be~~ cleansed before they ~~write~~ with God. ~~This in the Bible it states "Do not~~ ^{Every} ~~in~~ ^{through} ~~in~~ the Bible it states "Do not sin," every human at one point of their life commit a mistake of ~~sinning~~ ^{sinning}. Thus, ~~by~~ the belief of purgatory will provide support to Christians who feel that their sins will never be forgiven. This argument can be strengthened, as only Jesus ~~Christ~~ went ~~directly~~ ^{ascended} directly to heaven after his death and as no one is comparable to God in human form, Jesus, nobody else

can go to heaven, without ~~their sins~~ ^{undergoing} any form of punishment. Moreover, ~~as everyone~~ ~~sins~~, they will be for example, their sins will be washed away and purified via fire. However, this argument can be weakened as even though Purgatory is an essential belief, another Christian may argue that Heaven is the most primary belief. This is as to firstly attain Purgatory and individual ~~has~~ ^{does} to be a good human and ~~that if~~ ^{therefore be} ~~the way~~ ^{to be a} ~~can't be achieved if a person~~ ^{is} going to heaven. This point can be illustrated as a ^{Christian} ~~sinner~~ who disregards Jesus Christ's gospel and go God's power, will most definitely never go to Purgatory and go straight to Hell.

However, this argument can be weakened as the ideology of purgatory differentiates humans from God and ultimately plays a role in reminding a Christian about God's omnipotent and omniscient nature. If ~~there was~~, this can be strengthened as if ~~there was~~ no Purgatory, ~~humans~~ ~~with~~ Christians ~~can't~~ strive to be like Jesus as they will enter heaven ~~anyway~~ without the ~~real~~ ~~of~~ all their sins being purified.

However this argument can be weakened as ~~as~~ some Christians may say that through religious rituals like Baptism and pursuing good value of soul, making ~~at~~ a person can be ~~sinner~~ and ultimately enter Heaven without the need of Purgatory.

In conclusion, most Christians would say that Purgatory is ~~not~~ ^(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks) a pivotal belief as it created a ~~st~~ ^{strong} image of ~~and this persuades people~~ ^{to be like} Jesus ~~actually~~ ^{and this persuades people to be like}



The candidate's response reaches Level Three because:

The answer shows coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief. There are judgements made throughout the answer and appraisal is attempted.

The first paragraph provides coherent and logical chains of reasoning focussed on the Catholic belief in purgatory. This is supported by biblical evidence and more reasoning, there is then an attempt at evaluation.

The paragraph then continues with more reasoning based on the biblical evidence of 'purified by fire'. This is developed with superficial argument and an attempt at evaluation.

The second paragraph (begins However) provides an alternative logical chain of reasoning linked to other ways to be pure for heaven and showing an accurate understanding of religion and belief. This is followed by an attempt at evaluation.

A conclusion is then given, which appraises the arguments given, briefly.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to reach Level 3 in the middle of the range of marks because most, but not all, of the demands of the level descriptor are met. It contains coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief.

To reach Level Four the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate a wider understanding by using more logical chains of reasoning and connections among the full range of elements in the question with a comprehensive appraisal of evidence.

SPaG demonstrated High Performance

Level 3 – 7 marks

SPaG – 3 marks

Total: 10 Marks



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

d) items are Levels marked, they are NOT point marked.

*d) "Purgatory is an essential Christian belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

~~Some~~ Some Christians will strongly agree with this statement because it shows that after you die you don't go straight to heaven or hell you would go to purgatory so that Christians would still have the chance to go to heaven.

~~Some~~ Some Christians would strongly disagree with this statement because it suggests that there are going to be judgements and that place is purgatory which is in between both the world ~~heaven~~ earth heaven and hell.

In conclusion I think that you should believe in purgatory because if you do you would have faith in God to heaven.



The candidate's response reaches Level One because:

The paragraph provides an confused argument ' you don't go straight to heaven you go to purgatory' an isolated point.

The next paragraph provdes the opposite view.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion or any evaluation in the answer.

Reasons are not developed; the information is very general. It shows isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, in the middle of the of the range of marks .

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to:

Make superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal.

SPaG is given 3 marks because it shows high performance.

Level 1

Response: 2 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 5 Marks



Take every opportunity to assess and analyse the evidence used in arguments.

Question 2 (a)

This question was specifically about biblical teachings rather than general ones. Teachings from the Old Testament as well as New Testament were acceptable.

a) items are point marked – each outline requires a full sentence.

2:08
2:20

Question 2: Crime and Punishment

2 (a) Outline **three** biblical teachings about punishment.

(3)
One teaching is "do not judge or you too will be judged" which shows that you should not judge or punish others for ^{their} sin as you have sinned.
Another teaching is "an eye for an eye" which shows punishment should be equal to crime committed.
Finally a teaching is "never avenge yourself" which shows you should not punish someone as that is God's job not yours.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences — each sentence outlines one belief.

- You should not judge or punish others for their sins (1)
- An eye for an eye (1)
- You should not punish anyone as that is God's job (1)

Quotes needed to be about punishment not judgement and paraphrases/explanations were acceptable.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should write each outline on a separate line.

This question needed only a quote it did not need a developing explanation.

2 (a) Outline **three** biblical teachings about punishment.

(3)

"An eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth." This means that to be able to commit a crime and kill somebody then your life should be taken through the death penalty.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes one sentence outlining one teaching.

- An eye for an eye (1)

Total: 1 Mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Some candidates answer using a list: this is not an outline and thus will only receive 1 mark according to the mark scheme.

Question 2 (b)

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

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding of Christian responses to non-religious attitudes to the death penalty, a very wide topic. Answers which outlined the non-religious views only gained no marks, the question asks for the Christians responses.

b) items are point marked – two developed responses are required. (The development could be the non-religious view.)

b) items provide marks for four points, 2 for responses and 2 for the development of each response.

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious attitudes to the use of the death penalty.

(4)

One response is that it breaks the sanctity of life. This means only God is allowed to take life as He created humans.

Another response is that ~~you should~~ God will hold them accountable on Day of judgement. This means humans should not do anything as it states in the Bible, "Do not avenge, leave revenge for God."



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Response One – It breaks the sanctity of life (1) Development One – only God is allowed to take life (1)
- Response Two – God will hold you accountable of the day of judgement (1) Development Two – humans should not do anything.. leave revenge for God (1)

The maximum marks have been achieved.

Total: 4 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Write an answer that divides into two paragraphs each containing a response and a development.

In this response the second paragraph is not about the death penalty.

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious attitudes to the use of the death penalty.

(4)

One non-religious Christian attitude is that to the use of death penalty is that you shouldn't kill anyone because God created so therefore only he can take the life of all.

Another non-religious Christian attitude towards the use of death penalty is that all people should be able to choose if they live or die.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Response One – you should not kill anyone (1) Development One – God created so only he can take the life (1)

Total: 2 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should make sure their answers clearly answer the question set.

Question 2 (c)

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding about the actions Christians use to end crime. Some candidates wrote about state/societal action so did not gain marks, this had to be something Christians do specifically. It was also about ending crime not punishment and it was not about war or conflict, some candidates wrote about content linked to other parts of the specification and did not gain marks – the response had to answer the question set.

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

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

(c) Explain **two** actions taken by Christians to end crime.

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

(5)

One action taken by Christians to end crime is to gently reform those who commit crimes. This is done through guiding them along the right path and teaching them skills to help get them out of bad habits. They do this because Jesus taught ~~the~~ Christians to "gently restore" those who committed crimes.

Another action taken by Christians to end crime is the charities run by churches. This is to stop youths from being on the streets and committing felonies.



The candidate gives two developed actions and makes use of a source in their reasoning.

- Action One — Reform those who commit crimes (1) Development One — through teaching them skills to get them out of bad habits (1) Source — Gently restore (1)
- Action Two — Charities run by churches (1) Development Two — to stop youths...committing felonies (1)

Total: 5 Marks



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

The first paragraph in this answer does not explain how this would end crime so cannot be credited.

(c) Explain **two** actions taken by Christians to end crime.

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

(5)
One action taken by Christians to end crime is by forgiveness. In the holy books, it states, "love thy neighbour." This means Christians should love everyone ~~to~~ and focus on forgiving.

Another action taken by Christians is by placing reformation centers. This helps Criminals change who they are so they can become a better person.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one accurate developed action.

- Action One — reformation centres (1) Development One — so they can become a better person (1)

Total: 2 Marks



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Examiner Tip

A source of wisdom may be given as a recognisable paraphrase.

Question 2 (d)

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

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 often restrict the flow of the arguments preventing progression to the higher levels.

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS. Candidates who did well recognised that this was about whether or not criminals should be forgiven and were able to expand answers with reasoning and appraisal.

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

(d) "Criminals need forgiveness."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

It is clear that criminals need forgiveness as Jesus ⁱⁿ instructed it. Jesus said ~~that~~ "forgive not seven times but seventy times seven." This demonstrates how only God has the right to judge people and instead ~~Christians~~ ^{people} should help criminals to reform and change for the better and forgive them for their bad deeds. This is valid as ~~the~~ it is consistent with scripture as the bible states "if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." This shows how significant forgiveness is and that Christians should ~~forgive~~ ^{pardon} others and ~~forgive~~ have mercy on them, or else on the day of ~~just~~ judgement God will not forgive your sins.

However,

Other Christians ~~may~~ may disagree ~~and~~ and say that that ~~an~~ criminals are ~~are~~ simply unforgivable people because they have done acts against the law and

against God. ~~The~~ Bible says "those who ~~are~~ ~~by~~ the sword shall die by the sword" Also, ~~a~~ victims of crimes may find it extremely difficult to forgive criminals because of the impact they have made on the victims family. Therefore Christians may say criminals do not need forgiveness ~~as~~ because it was ~~their~~ ~~bad~~ ~~them~~ ^{them} who abused their free will for wrong doings. This is flawed as it goes against religious scripture as Jesus condemned those stoning the adulterous woman. He said "let him without sin cast the first stone." This shows as no one is free ~~from~~ ^{from} sin we should forgive and show compassion to criminals as only God has the right to judge.

To conclude, it is clear that criminals need forgiveness as Jesus said "forgive not seventy times by seventy times seven." This is valid as consequences are positive because if you forgive people in this ~~life~~ life, God will forgive your sins in the next life and also because it follows Jesus' instruction.



This response reaches Level Two because:

The first paragraph provides a chain of reasoning based on the teachings of Jesus, this is supported by biblical evidence and an attempt to appraise which is actually just more reasoning.

The second paragraph, uses a contrasting argument 'criminals are simply unforgivable' this is supported by reasoning from the victims perspective and superficial assessment of the reasoning.

The conclusion is not appraisal it is repetition of the reasoning already used.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2, at the top end of the range of marks, because it fulfils the requirements of Level 2.

To reach Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about creation using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in the response.

Level Two

Total: 6 Marks



Candidates may write on the exam paper and cross out the elements (bullet points) as required.

This candidate failed to focus on the question and make use of Christian beliefs and teachings, thus was unable to argue in a manner that fulfilled the level descriptors.

(d) "Criminals need forgiveness."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

For criminals need forgiveness because if they don't get forgiven they will get angry and get ego and they will want to keep doing it because no one told them to stop.

Another reason is they will reform anyway so forgive them, they will stop doing crime and will start to reform.

against criminals need forgiveness because they will take benefit of it and need the crime and keep doing it.

and they won't stop doing crimes unless they get in prison or have a crime.

In conclusion / criminals should be forgiven because Jesus said "forgive and keep forgiving" but Jesus also said to forgive and never stop even if the person

verbs give a lot. you should forgive. if you
don't forgive your not listening to Jesus who
is God.

In the bible it says "Love thy neighbour"
which tells us love your neighbours, love
everyone and don't hate anyone because
hate will make you have stress and health
bad for them which is a sin.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate has been awarded Level One because:

Each of the paragraphs provides a single argument - isolated arguments.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion or any evaluation in the answer.

Reasons are not developed; the information is very general. It shows isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1 at the top of the range of marks because it contains religious information, within isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief and attempts a conclusion.

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

Level 1

Total: 2 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Try to think about which teachings are most appropriate rather than adding in an irrelevant one.

Question 3 (a)

This question worked well, it highlighted whether candidates knew about evangelical work, specifically that which took place locally.

This response shows that candidates who had learnt key terms did well.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways evangelical work is carried out by the local church.

(3)

One way evangelical work is carried out by the local church is by giving out Bibles.

Another way that evangelised work is carried out by the local church is by teaching people the words of Jesus.

A third way evangelical work is carried out by the local church is by charity events or speeches.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences — each sentence outlines one way.

- ... by giving out Bibles (1)
- ...by teaching people the words of Jesus (1)
- ...by charity events or speeches (1)

Total: 3 Marks



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Examiner Tip

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

This candidate needed to write one more way.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways evangelical work is carried out by the local church.

(3)

The church work to help people in need.
They church have volunteers that donate for the
work and help them



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes two sentences — each sentence outlines one way.

- The church works to help people in need (1)
- The church have volunteers that donate ...and help them (1)

Total: 2 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Three separate sentences is a good idea!

Question 3 (b)

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about reasons Christians may choose non-liturgical worship. Those that gave general answers or wrote about private worship gained fewer/no marks.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two activities 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 described and to the question asked.

This response shows that the candidate was not secure in their understanding of non-liturgical worship.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians may choose to use non-liturgical worship.

(4)

one reason some Christians may choose to use non-liturgical worship is because they may feel the spontaneity of non-liturgical worship fits better with their lifestyle. This means they can worship whenever and wherever they would like.

another reason some Christians may prefer non-liturgical worship is because they may feel closer to God. This is because often liturgical worship is done in groups, so they may feel that non-liturgical worship on their own makes it more personal.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two accurate reasons – however in each case the development appears to be about private worship.

- Reason One – They may feel the spontaneity of non-liturgical worship is better (1)
- Reason Two – They may feel closer to God (1)

Total: 2 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

This response shows that candidates must revise the entire specification.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians may choose to use non-liturgical worship.

(4)

one reason why a Christian could choose to use non-liturgical worship is if they did not have access to a Church or holy place, so they could show devotion by their own means. Another



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate has not understood what non-liturgical worship involves.

It was awarded 0 marks.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should try to give specific, rather than general answers.

Question 3 (c)

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding about features of the work of Christian Aid, which is straight from the specification. Some candidates wrote about why they did their work or wrote about evangelical work, and thus gained fewer marks.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two features are required, and both need to be developed. The features then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the feature described. If the source is used as development, it does not gain a second mark for the source at the same time.

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.

(c) Explain **two** features of the work of Christian Aid.

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

(5)

One feature of Christian aid is helping the persecuted ~~by~~ in different countries. This means that teams are sent to help evacuate and deliver supplies. This is done because it is said 'defend the oppressed' and this is an example of a good deed helping attain heaven.

Another feature of Christian Aid is offering charity to those in need. This is because many suffer from poverty and Jesus in his example performed miracles to provide fish for the poor. Therefore Christian aid follows this example and collects donations and supplies the needy with basic necessities.



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

- Feature One – Teams are sent to help evacuate and send supplies (1) Source – defend the oppressed (1) Development One – good deed helping attain heaven (1)
- Feature Two – collects donations and supplies the needy with basic necessities (1) the development comes before the feature Development Two – offering charity to those in need ...because many suffer from poverty (1)

There is additional reasoning, however, maximum marks have already been awarded.

Total: 5 Marks



Learn and use quotations — do not make them up!

This answer shows that candidates need to learn all of the content of the specification.

(c) Explain **two** features of the work of Christian Aid.

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

(5)

One feature is that they help people repent for their sins.
This is to help strengthen their relationship with God.

Another feature is that they help people confirm their
faith. This is to build a large church community
and strengthen the love of God in them as they
pray.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate appears to be explaining how Christians are aided – or they have no idea what Christian Aid does .



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should have a copy of the specification, so they can see key terms before the examination.

They gain 0 marks.

Question 3 (d)

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS.

Candidates who did well knew about why Christians might celebrate the Eucharist weekly, and were able to expand answers with evaluation. Those who did less-well did not know alternatives to arguments supporting the statement.

Candidates who ignored the element (bullet point) to refer to different Christian points of view could not get more than level 2.

On questions 1 and 3 the d question has 3 additional marks for spelling punctuation and grammar – SPaG. Candidates should ensure they write using accurate SPaG to show High Performance and get 3 marks.

2:42
2:54

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

*(d) "It is important that Christians celebrate the Eucharist weekly."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

holy spirit

(15)

It could be strongly argued it is important for Catholics to celebrate Eucharist weekly as it represents you accepting God. At the last supper in the bible Jesus said "this wine is ~~the~~ my blood and the bread are like my blood and body." This shows that because Holy Communion is ~~the~~ literally the blood and body of Christ it is important to show you always accept Jesus. This could be strengthened as Eucharist is where Jesus showed his omniscience as God. Jesus in the bible predicted "one of you here will betray me". For Jesus to know beforehand the sinner shows he was God so the Eucharist is also accepting that Jesus was God. However this can be weakened as doing Eucharist weekly is excessive as Jesus never said to. The last supper only happened once so Christians only need to eat complete Eucharist once to show their belief.

On the other hand, Matrimony is a more important sacrament as all denominations follow it and it promotes unity. In the bible it says "love thy neighbour" which shows God wants all of us to be united and Eucharist does not promote this as much.

This could be strengthened as the Baptism could be considered more important. When Jesus was baptised the whole Trinity was present showing it was a very important event whereas only Jesus was present at Last Supper.

However, this can be weakened because during the Eucharist you can most closely link with Jesus Christ through his literal (Catholic) or metaphorical (Protestant) presence during the ceremony whereas with Baptism you only mimic what happened. Adversely, the Holy Spirit is present in some of the other sacraments unlike Jesus who is only present in Eucharist.

In conclusion Eucharist does not have to be celebrated weekly as there are other more important parts of faith Christians should focus on to ensure they are the best Christians they can be and have all the right morals or follow Jesus's teachings correctly.



The candidate's response reaches Level Two because:

The first paragraph provides reasoning linked to the Last Supper, it is in a superficial chain of reasoning using biblical evidence. There is an attempt to appraise but this just adds more reasoning. Towards the end they give an alternative argument with an isolated reason.

The second paragraph uses a contrasting argument: 'Matrimony is important'. This is supported by a chain of logical reasoning linking to Baptism and another alternative reason (again not appraisal).

The candidate then gives a personal opinion and a conclusion that does not show judgement of the arguments: it simply repeats an argument already given.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 2, at the top of the range of marks. It contains all of the requirements of Level 2.

To be awarded Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about the Eucharist using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in their response.

Response: 6 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 9 Marks



Appraisal requires candidates to assess the strengths of the arguments they have already discussed.

d) items are Levels marked, they are NOT point marked.

*(d) "It is important that Christians celebrate the Eucharist weekly."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

A Catholic ~~would~~ ^{would strongly agree} ~~agree~~ that this is crucial for maintaining faith and that it benefits young Catholics as they can show that they acknowledge the ~~entire~~ Last days of Jesus. This shows that those who celebrate it weekly can remember the salvation of Jesus and his purpose of Earth. This can be stressful ~~as~~ by saying that ~~but~~ ~~created~~ ~~that~~ Jesus should be remembered as he is the reason that Catholics can now go to heaven. ~~The~~ However this argument is considered weak by Protestants who believe that Holy Communion should only be done ~~once~~ by children to confirm their faith to God. This shows that ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~way~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~by~~ ~~doing~~ ~~it~~ ~~weekly~~ does not benefit individuals as faith should be confirmed once.

A Protestant would argue ~~that~~ ~~Eucharist~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~crucial~~

In conclusion, I believe that Eucharist should ~~not~~ ~~be~~ be done weekly in order for Catholics to maintain their faith and remember the teachings of Jesus.



The candidate's response reaches Level One because:

The paragraph provides an argument 'acknowledge the last days of Jesus' this is explained using superficial connections There is then an alternative isolated reason linked to protestant views.

The candidate then provides a one line conclusion. There is no evaluation in the conclusion.

Reasons are not developed; the information is very general. It shows isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, at the top of the of the range of marks .

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to:

Make superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal.

Level 1

Response: 3 Mark

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 6 Marks



Take every opportunity to assess and analyse the evidence used in your arguments.

Question 4 (a)

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding of pacifism . Many candidates answered providing teachings about conflict, which was an incorrect response.

This candidate writes too much – they could gain full marks writing less and focussing on pacifism.

2:54
3:06

Question 4: Peace and Conflict

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian teachings about pacifism.

love your enemies (3)

One christian teaching about pacifism is that ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~love~~ ^{love} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~enemies~~ ^{enemies} which shows you should not harm anyone you dislike and always show compassion.

Another christian teaching is that "no more of this" which shows we should avoid violence if possible.

Finally a christian teaching is "let the ~~first~~ ^{one among} ~~you~~ without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" which shows we should not hurt enemies as we ourselves have wronged them.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded one mark for each teaching outlined (written in a sentence).

- You should not harm anyone you dislike (1)
- 'No more of this'.. avoid violence (1)
- We should not hurt enemies as we ourselves have wronged them (1)

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

This candidate has not provided 3 teachings, which are required in this question.

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian teachings about pacifism.

(3)

- Christians should always try avoid conflict



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded one mark for each teaching outlined (written in a sentence).

- Christians should always try avoid conflict (1)

Total: 1 Mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should have enough lines in the booklet to answer the question.

Question 4 (b)

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about Holy War. This question frequently was not answered or confused with Just War.

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

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

b) items are point marked – two developed ways are required.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Christian group works for peace.

(4)

Corrymeela ~~works to~~ try to negotiate with south Ireland. This one way as it prevents conflict from happening.

Christian Aid provides funds for victims of war. This shows one way because it prevents victims from trying to take revenge against their attackers.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Way One – Corrymeela try to negotiate (1) Development One – prevents conflict from happening (1)
- Way Two – Christian Aid provides funds for victims (1) Development Two – prevents victims from trying to take revenge against their attackers (1)

The maximum marks have been achieved.

Total: 4 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Like this answer it is best to write an answer that divides into two paragraphs each containing a way and a development.

This candidate has confused working for peace with working to end crime.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Christian group works for peace.

(4)

One way in which a christian group works for peace is through helping people change by Spreading Gods word. Prison fellowship are an organisation which go inside of prisons to meet criminals, and they help them to become more peaceful people, by guiding them to the light of their Lord.

Another way in which christian groups work for peace is through preventing crime, Street Pastors are a group of christians that patrol the streets at night to ensure people get home safely, avoiding crime, and maintaining peace.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate has not correctly answered the question set, so they are awarded 0 marks.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should read the question carefully.

Question 4 (c)

Most candidates were able to identify Christian teachings about the use of weapons of mass destruction and frequently used the commandment not to kill as a source.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings 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 quote/paraphrase) or an example. The development must link to the teaching given and to the question asked.

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

The question asked about use of weapons of mass destruction is candidates referred to them being 'used' as a deterrent this was credited as use.

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(5)

One christian teaching about the use of weapons of mass destruction is ~~that~~ they disagree as you should not fight back as it rejects the ~~the~~ sanctity of life Argument. In the Bible it states "pray for those who persecute you". This demonstrates that christians should seek worship rather than nuclear weapons as it was instructed in the Bible.

Another christian teaching is that authority figures disagree with the use of weapons of mass destruction. ~~that~~ The pope exclaims that using nuclear weapons is immoral. This illustrates to christians that they should follow his advice and not use WMDs.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

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

- Teaching One - ... is they disagree (1) Development One - it rejects the sanctity of life (1) Source - pray for those who persecute you (1)
- Teaching Two - the Pope exclaims that using nuclear weapons is immoral (1) Development Two - follow his advice (1)

Total: 5 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

In this question candidates could use their general knowledge to gain marks – marks are not taken away for incorrect answers

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the use of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(5)

The believe weapons should never
be used in any ~~circ~~ circumstance
They never end well



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one teaching.

- Teaching One – weapons should never be used (1)

Total: 1 Mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should not write 'a source of wisdom 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 limiting progression to the higher levels.

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

Candidates who did well recognised that this was about the causes of conflict and whether they could be overcome by religion. They were able to expand answers with evaluation.

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS.

This stimulus could have been used in different ways, as there is an additional element – non-religious points of view this was the most common route. A non-religious view was required to get more than level 2.

(d) "Religion is the only way to overcome the causes of conflict."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

eye → at hand;

religion causes conflict → full amount of God
golden rule

→ pacifism, hate cannot drive out hate

fear, national pride, power

rather amnesty

love your neighbour

(12)

It is clear that this statement is correct because Christianity promotes peace and social justice to prevent war. ~~Christians should be helping people to prevent poverty~~ conflict caused by an abuse of human rights. The Bible states "we are all one in Christ Jesus". This exemplifies every life is special as we are all made in the image of God, so Christians should work to stop the abuse of human rights and longing for power from causing conflict. Religion is the only way to do this because Christianity promotes pacifism to prevent conflict. This is because the Bible states "turn the other cheek". This advocates the idea we should not retaliate with violence. If everyone agreed with this idea, it would be possible to overcome the causes of conflict because it would prevent violence and wars being caused from a longing for power. This is a persuasive argument because it is relevant today: in Northern Ireland, the Cullymeela community works to resolve peace between Catholics and Protestants, hence preventing religious disagreements becoming a cause of conflict. A humanist (non-religious person) would agree with this because they promote the golden rule which is echoed by the Bible which states "do unto others as way you do unto yourself". Therefore, as non-religious people agree with the religious approach then ^{all} people are equal (shown by the 2010 equality act that made it illegal

to discriminate against anyone even the 8 protected characteristics) and peace is better than violence. Religion is the only way to overcome the causes of conflict. The strength of this argument is heightened by its consistency with scripture: the Bible states "love your neighbor as yourself" so we should treat everyone with $\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\epsilon$ (unconditional love) to overcome the causes of conflict. //

Conversely, it could be argued that this statement is incorrect because religion causes conflict. The Bible states "put on the full armor of God".

This implies that religion cannot overcome conflict because it both ~~causes~~ encourages and causes conflict. A secular person may agree with this by referencing the Crusades - a series of wars in the

11th century between Muslims and Christians over the Holy Lands. This proves that religion causes conflict, so is not the only way to overcome conflict. However, this is a flawed argument because it is impragmatic:

Christians argue that this scripture should be interpreted metaphorically and should encourage Christians to remain faithful to God during the "spiritual battle" on earth. For example, the Bible actually refers to metaphorical weapons, such as the sword of the spirit and the shield of faith. This exemplifies that religion does not cause conflict, but instead is a way to overcome the causes of conflict because religion promotes pacifism. The

weakness of this argument is exacerbated by its lack of relevance today: Martin Luther King declared "hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that". This exemplifies religion is the only way to overcome ~~conflict~~ because the causes of conflict because it promotes pacifism and treating people with compassion to prevent a violation of human rights causing conflict. This exemplifies religion is the only way to overcome the causes of conflict.

To conclude, it is clear that religion is the only way to overcome the causes of conflict because Christianity promotes

treating everyone with $\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\epsilon$ love and promoting peace to prevent a violation of human rights from causing conflict. A non-religious person would agree with this because of the similarities between the golden rule and the Christian teaching in the Bible about treating others the way you want to be treated to prevent conflict. This is a more persuasive argument than the alternative, which is not practical as teaching ~~that~~ that **(Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)**
imply religion causes conflict are taken ~~out~~ out of context.



The response reaches Level Three because:

The answer shows coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief. There are judgements made throughout the answer and appraisal is attempted.

The first paragraph provides an argument focussed on the concept that 'Christianity promotes peace and social justice' and makes links to peacemaking as supporting human rights, this is part of a long chain of reasoning that included explanation and a brief appraisal giving new reasoning.

The candidate then provides an humanist argument which supports the Christian view-using the the argument that 'people are equal' is then provides coherent and logical chains developing this idea making connections with discrimination and then returns to a Christians view. The paragraph then continues with superficial evaluation before looking at an alternative arguement. The alternative given 'religion causes conflict' is explained in a coherent chain of reasoning including reference to the Holy Wars and Martin Luther King. This is then evaluated 'lack of relevance today' (Holy Wars) and that it can be the only way 'prioritises pacificism'

A conclusion is given that repeats some arguments, and attempts to appraise the whole essay.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 3 at the lowest of the range of marks. It contains coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief.

To reach Level Four the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate a wider understanding by using more logical chains of reasoning and connections among the full range of elements in the question, with a comprehensive appraisal of evidence.

Level 3

Total: 7 Marks



Candidates should revise the whole of the specification so that there are no gaps in knowledge.

d) items are levels marked: they are not point marked. Try to write in chains of reasoning and assess the value of your answer whilst you are writing.

(d) "Religion is the only way to overcome the causes of conflict."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Religion is the only way to overcome the cause of conflict.

I do not agree with this statement because just because you are in a religion doesn't mean that all conflict and arguments will just suddenly stop because that's not how it works.

I do agree with this statement because everything with god by your side will then help you along as you worship him.



The candidate's response reaches Level One because:

The paragraph provides an isolated argument 'just because you are in a religion does not mean conflict and arguments will go away' this is explained that's not how it works.

The second paragraph does not seem to make sense.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion or any evaluation in the answer – their paragraphs have begun with I agree because and I do not agree – a structure that might not have helped them.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, at the bottom of the range of marks .

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to:

Make superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal.

Level 1

Total: 1 Mark



Candidates should try to plan their answer before they write.

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 of wisdom as a fifth element
- A source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- The source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- d) item responses must show AO2 skills to receive high marks
- d) items must show an appraisal of the argument not simply rely on a set format
- Level descriptors should 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>

