



Examiners' Report

June 2024

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 3B

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Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies 2024

Religious Studies B – Beliefs in Action

Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice

Option 3B – Christianity

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall GCSE award. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section within 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. Examination questions are set using the specification.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, its beliefs and teachings on life. Specifically, it allows the study of Philosophy and Social Justice. These are issues that are part of the study at A level: as such, this paper not only engages the interest of young people, it is excellent preparation for higher level studies in Religious Studies.

Note:

AO — Assessment Objective(s)

SPaG — Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Marks are available for SPaG on Questions 1(d) and 3(d)

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs.

Bullet point 1.3 – The Incarnation .

The question asked was:

Outline three reasons why the Incarnation is important for Christians today .

The candidates needed to provide reasons about the Incarnation and its significance today. There was a wide range of possible answers.

This question was accessible: it allowed candidates to show their understanding of the Incarnation and what it means for Christians. Most candidates were able to refer to the divinity of Jesus.

Weaker candidates did not know what the Incarnation was or why it is important. Some candidates gave answers about the life of Jesus rather than the Incarnation and gained no/lower marks.

It is important that candidates are familiar with all the specialist terminology used in the specification, so they understand the questions asked.

Examiners give one mark for each accurate reason identified and written in a sentence.

1 (a) Outline **three** reasons why the Incarnation is important for Christians today.

(3)

One reason why incarnation is important because it represents how Jesus died and lived his life.

Another reason why it is important is because it shows that God is all powerful, all loving

and his believers feel a connection with God.

In addition it shows indicates that Christians who are incarnated, sins are wiped away and can receive a better christian life.



The candidate receives 0 marks. This candidate guesses answers incorrectly and refers to general information about Jesus. They may not know what the Incarnation means because they seem to confuse it with reincarnation. Total: 0 marks



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

This candidate writes two accurate sentences outlining the importance of the Incarnation.

They receive one mark for each outline.

1 (a) Outline **three** reasons why the Incarnation is important for Christians today.

(3)

One reason why is because it shows that God sacrificed his only son for humanity. Secondly, it's important because it helps Christians to build a closer relationship with God. Lastly, it strengthens one's faith in God to be able to see God in the flesh in the form of Jesus.



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Examiner Comments

The first outline given is not clearly about the Incarnation: it seems to be about the crucifixion.

- It helps Christians to build a closer relationship with God (1)
- It strengthens one's faith in God to be able to see God in the flesh (1)

Total: 2 marks



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Examiner Tip

Teachers should refer to the specification for possible questions.

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.7 – The problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God.

The question asked was:

Explain two Christians beliefs about the nature of natural suffering.

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

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

This question elicited good answers about the nature of natural suffering – what it was. Most candidates knew how to describe it. However, some described examples and some explained moral suffering and gained much lower marks.

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

(4)

One belief is that it is all part of God's plan.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate only gives one belief: they do not try to develop this.

- One belief is that it is all part of God's plan (1)

Total: 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

Teachers should refer to the specification for possible questions and key terminology.

This response gains 4 marks. It shows that candidates should write in two separate paragraphs. However, the candidate writes too much.

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

normal part of life
to pray (4)

One Christian Belief about the nature of natural suffering is that ~~to~~ God has no control over it, as he created the world initially and left it to evolve - shows that natural suffering is a normal part of life and we cannot do anything to stop it, but to minimise its effects, by for example helping those who have been badly affected in poor countries.

Another Christian Belief about the nature of natural suffering is that it may be a sign from God wanting ~~to~~ his people to get closer to him, so a Christian may begin to pray to minimise natural suffering's effects.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs.

- One Christian belief about the nature of natural suffering is that God has no control over it (1)
- Developed by: He created the world initially and left it to evolve — shows natural suffering is a normal part of life (1)

The extra written material is not needed.

- It may be a sign from God (1)
- Developed by: Wanting his people to get closer to him (1)

The extra written material is not needed.

Total: 4 marks



Candidates should learn to write one sentence for each mark.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.6 – Christian eschatology.

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian beliefs about life after death shown in the Bible.

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

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must relate both to the 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 gets no marks.

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

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

The candidate is able to give accurate beliefs and develop them.

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about life after death shown in the Bible.

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

(5)

One Christian belief about life after death is that after we ~~die~~ die we will go to heaven or hell. In the bible it says that if you believe in God all your sins are forgiven and you'll go to heaven.

Another Christian belief is that Jesus died for humans so their sins can be removed and go to heaven. This tells us that God is merciful and forgiving.



The candidate gives two developed reasons but does not use a source.

- One Christian belief about life after death is that after we die, we will go to heaven or hell (1)
- Developed by the use of a paraphrase: If you believe in God all your sins will be forgiven and you'll go to heaven (1)

If this source had led to more development it would have been credited as a source (paraphrase).

- Another Christian belief is that Jesus dies for humans so their sins can be forgiven and go to heaven (1)
- Developed by: This tells us that God is merciful (1)

Total: 4 marks



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

(c) items are point marked

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

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about life after death shown in the Bible.

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

(5)

Christians believe that there will be a day of judgement. This day is when God judges people's souls and decides whether they enter Heaven ~~and~~ or Hell, depending on their life on Earth.

Christians also believe that if they go to Heaven they will live an eternal life with God. In the Bible it teaches "whoever believes in me shall not perish but have eternal life." Therefore God has a rich reward, for those who ~~strong~~ are devoted to him, in Heaven.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs using a source.

- Christians believe there will be a day of judgement (1)
- Developed by: God judges people's souls (1)
- Christians also believe that if they go to heaven, they will lead an eternal life with God (1)

Then a source is used:

- Whoever believe in me shall not perish but have eternal life (1)
- Developed by: Therefore, God has a rich reward for those who are devout (1)

Total: 5 marks



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 being 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 was:

“The oneness of God is the most important Christian belief.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against .

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

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

Better candidates recognised that this was a statement that should have led to a discussion of Trinity or the monotheistic element of Christianity.

Weaker candidates who focussed on the Trinity made heretical statements and had difficulty gaining marks.

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

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

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

*(d) "The oneness of God is the most important Christian belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Many people believe that the oneness of ~~god~~ God is the most important Christian belief as many Christians say that oneness of God, meaning that ~~is~~ God is ~~they~~ and is only one, is important to them.

Some may disagree and say 'the oneness of God is not the most important Christian belief as some Christians don't believe in God and go to a catholic church as they believe ~~in a god~~ in no God.

In conclusion, the oneness of God is the most important Christian belief as Christians believe in God and say that God has control of you as he brings and takes your life and has control of what you do.



The candidate's response reaches Level 1, 1 mark, which is the lowest mark in this level because:

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1 however not all the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The answer gave:

A superficial analysis of the statement — much of the information given does not answer the question.

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

SPaG was given 2 marks, because it met intermediate level descriptors:

- Candidates spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy.
- Candidates use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.

Please note handwriting is not part of the SPaG mark.

Level 1

Question: 1 mark

SPaG: 2 marks

Total: 3 marks



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.

The candidate reaches Level 3, 9 marks, which is the highest mark in Level 3 because:

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to reach Level 3 at the top of the range of marks because it met the demands of the level descriptor.

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

*(d) "The oneness of God is the most important Christian belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Many Christians believe that the oneness of God is the most important Christian belief due to the fact that Christianity is a monotheist religion, meaning they only believe in one God, and although they believe in 3 parts of God, He is still one. For example, the Nicene Creed illustrates that God is divided into 3 parts, ~~also~~ known as the Trinity, which consists of God the father, God the son, and God the Holy spirit. God the father represents God as the creator of the universe, the omnipotent over-looker of His creation. God the son represents God as Jesus, who was sent to guide mankind on the right path and also as salvation for mankind, as he died on the cross to cleanse humanity of sin. Lastly, God the spirit represents God as an invisible power/force present in the world today to guide mankind, ~~but~~ yet these 3 attributes are all part of 1 God. This is a strong argument as all Christians, whether they are Catholic or Protestant, believe in the Trinity as showing God's characteristic and we understand that the Trinity simply helps us to understand the nature of God better, to enable us to build a closer relationship with Him.

However, other Christians may argue that the oneness of God is not the most important Christian belief ~~as~~ because if they believe that Jesus is the son of God, how can that reflect that belief? Surely, if God was truly one then He wouldn't have a son. Moreover, Christians believe that the ~~main~~ most important belief of their religion is following the ~~teachings~~ of Christ and working on being a pious Christian to get ^{decent} into heaven. This is a ~~good~~ argument as it highlights other beliefs within Christianity.

In conclusion, the oneness of God is the most important Christian belief due to the fact that majority of their practices revolve around this belief or the Trinity. Beliefs surrounding God the father enable Christians to worship and devote themselves to an all powerful God and creator. Beliefs surrounding God the son enable Christians to lead their lives according to the teachings and practices of Christ and lastly, beliefs surrounding God the Holy Spirit reassure Christians that God is present in their day to day lives. Therefore, the Trinity acts as the foundation of Christianity and portrays their core beliefs, ultimately resulting in the fact that the oneness of God is the most important Christian belief.



The response reaches Level 3 because 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 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 was awarded 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.

Level 3

Question: 9 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 12 marks



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

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Philosophy of Religion

Bullet point 2.4 – Christian attitudes towards religious experiences.

The question asked was:

Outline three features of a Christian religious experience.

The features could include anything that defines a religious experience. There was a wide range of correct answers. However, many candidates described examples, and these were not correct features.

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

2 (a) Outline **three** features of a Christian religious experience.

(3)

One feature is it could be in a dream.

A second feature is it could show God or an angel speaking to the person.

A third feature is it could be used to show God's word and how to understand God.



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This candidate receives 2 marks for two accurate features.

The first line is a description, it is not a feature.

- It could show God or an angel speaking (1)
- It could be used to show...how to understand God (1)

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

Total: 2 marks



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should record each sentence separately.

This helps them know that they have written three outlines.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined beliefs in sentences.

Question 2: Philosophy of Religion

2 (a) Outline **three** features of a Christian religious experience.

(3)

- It is unexplainable
- It involves a higher power (God/Jesus)
-



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes two sentences, each outlining one belief.

- It is unexplainable (1)
- It involves a higher power (1)

Total: 2 marks



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Philosophy of Religion

Bullet point 2.3 – Miracles as proof of the existence of God

The question asked was:

Explain two reasons why most Christians believe miracles are important.

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 why miracles are important, recognising that they are proof of the existence of God.

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. There were also several candidates who simply described miracles: these were not credited.

(b) items are point marked. Two developed reasons are required.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why most Christians believe miracles are important.

(4)

One reason is that it proves the existence of God and shows that He is omnipotent as He has the power to do anything. This strengthens ~~believers~~ Christians' beliefs as it ~~is~~ ~~proves~~ it provides evidence that God is real.

Another reason is that it shows that God is all-loving and ~~compassionate~~ as all-knowing and ~~all-powerful~~, ~~loving and~~ and omniscient as ~~He~~ He performs miracles to help people in a state of an emergency. ^{It} ~~is~~ ~~this~~ again gives hope and guidance for Christians as God aids people in every way like people should aid each other. God sets a great example on mankind.



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Examiner Comments

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

- One reason is that it proves the existence of God (1)
- Developed by: Shows he is omnipotent as he has the power to do anything (1)

The rest of this paragraph is repetition.

- It shows that God is all-loving (1)
- Developed by: He performs miracles to help people (1)

The rest of this paragraph is not needed. This candidate writes too much.

Total: 4 marks



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

(b) Explain **two** reasons why most Christians believe miracles are important.

(4)

One reason is miracles are a religious experience that shows God's power and this can bring the Christian closer to God as they have experienced something supernatural.
A second reason is miracles show God's presence in your life as God is there for you and can give the believer a sense of longing.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

- Miracles are a religious experience that shows God's power (1)
- Developed by: Bring the Christian closer to God (1)
- A second reason is miracles show God's presence (1)
- Developed by: As God is there for you (1)

Total: 4 marks



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

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on the Philosophy of Religion

Bullet point 2.6 – Design Argument.

The question asked was:

Explain two things the design argument shows Christians about the nature of God.

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

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 correctly use a source of wisdom in their answer which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the thing given in the answer. This is the 5th mark.

In this question, most candidates were able to explain what the design argument shows about the nature of God – they realised that this required a description of God's characteristics shown by the design argument as responses. Lower marks were given to candidates who simply described the design argument.

(c) items are point marked.

(c) Explain **two** things the design argument shows Christians about the nature of God.

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

(5)

One thing it shows Christians is that God is all-powerful so since he created the universe and the world in seven days.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one thing the design argument shows about the nature of God.

They do not develop this using the design argument – they refer to the biblical creation, which is not relevant to the question.

- One thing it shows is that God is all-powerful (1)

Total: 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

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

(c) items are point marked.

(c) items provide marks for five points: 2 for things shown, 2 for the development of each thing shown, and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the thing shown.

(c) Explain **two** things the design argument shows Christians about the nature of God.

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

(5)

One thing the design argument shows is that God is omnipotent. This is proven through William Paley's theory about the watch. The way it was made and its location had a creator and a purpose. Therefore someone or thing ~~se~~ had to be so powerful to make the world so detailed and intricate and it had to be God.

Another thing it shows is that God is omnibenevolent. He created the universe in a perfect way for humanity to live ~~and~~ at ease.



This candidate receives full marks.

- One thing the design argument shows is that God is omnipotent (1)

There is then a source paraphrased:

- Through Williams Paley's theory about the watch the way it was made, and its location has a ...purpose (1)
- Developed by: To make the world so detailed and intricate and it had to be God (1)
- Another thing it shows is that God is omnibenevolent (1)
- Developed by: Perfect way for humanity to live (1)

Total: 5 marks



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

Question 2 (d)

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

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

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

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but 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 marks are given using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Philosophy of Religion

Bullet point 2.2 – Visions as proof of the existence of God

The question asked was: "Visions prove God exists."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

Please note that candidates were not required to give ethical views. If they referred to ethical viewpoints, this part of their answer was ignored.

Candidates who received high marks recognised that this was about the evidence for the existence of God provided by visions. They were able to expand answers with biblical teachings, examples and quotations and then assess the value of their arguments.

The candidate's response reaches Level 2, 6 marks, which is the highest mark in Level 2 because:

The answer met all of the demands of the level descriptor.

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

(d) "Visions prove God exists." - miracles, near death experiences, covenants.

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view — humanists, Ian Maitland.
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Christians will agree to the statement and say that visions do prove the existence of God as we have proof. An example of this could be Bernadette seeing Mary and then she built a well in Lourdes and now people go there on pilgrimage and drink from the well and there have been 80 confirmed people who have been miraculously healed from the well and this helps prove the existence of God as it shows us that God is apart of the vision and he has healed them "people from the wells" ~~at science can't prove it and couldn't heal them.~~

To weaken the above point, a Christian might argue that miracles could be seen as a better way to prove the existence of God as we have seen many miracles which can only be God as science can't prove it. An example could be Exodus 14, which is the parting of the Red Sea and this when the Israelites were running away from the Egyptians and once the Israelites had gone past, the sea had parted, not letting the Egyptians go past. This could prove the existence of God as we can see that God was trying to help save the Israelites.

Some Christians may disagree with the above statement and say that visions do prove God exists because Joseph had a dream to take Jesus and run away as the king was going to kill all babies and so Sarah listened and ran away.

and the king did indeed kill all the babies. A source of wisdom and authority to support this could be: 'young men will see visions, old men will dream dreams'. This shows us that in the Bible it tells us that young men will see visions and old men will see dreams and that's true and that's God's way of proving he exists.

A non religious viewpoint could be Ian McCormack who was an atheist and he got stung by loads of jellyfish and he should have died but while he was ~~to~~ getting stung, he heard a voice and it was God, saying you can do this and then he managed to pull himself off shore and he survived. That was seen as a near death experience as a non religious person, experienced God in a time of need even though he doesn't believe in God and then he converted.

Some Christians may argue that people hallucinate and are on drugs or alcohol when they see visions, so it's not true as they believe it's wishful thinking, but there were many witnesses on The Lady of Fatima where lots of people seen Mary and a group of people can't see the same thing.

In conclusion, I believe that visions do ~~believe~~ prove the existence of God as it shows us things that reveal the nature of God and we have had many witnesses so it can't be a lie as there is proof for visions as well.



The answer gives:

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

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

To reach Level 3 the candidate needed to provide:

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.

Level 2

Total: 6 marks



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

This response reaches Level 3, 9 marks, which is the highest mark in Level 3 because the answer has met all the demands of the level descriptor.

(d) "Visions prove God exists."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

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

(12)

Some Christians may agree with the statement as visions showcase God's omnibenevolence. This is because he reveals himself to his followers out of his own love to ~~show~~ guide them towards the right path and keep them within the faith of Christianity. As a result, God's existence is shown through this as a believer would have seen a dream or vision from God himself. However, atheists would reject ~~so~~ such claims and state them to be a product of wishful thinking. If someone desires something such as a vision ~~or~~ from God, then eventually it would occur but would not be due to the ~~mercy~~ love of God but instead a person's own wishes. Therefore, visions can't prove God exists as it may be only a person's desire. Considering both points, it's evident that only God can create visions. With countless evidence of Christian believers experiencing visions, it's evident that this widespread occurrence justifies God's existence and therefore is a more significant point.

Some Christians may argue against the concept of wishful thinking and provide Biblical evidence of

visions which prove God's existence. For example, the vision of Abraham slaughtering his son was granted by God ~~but~~ as well as the vision of St Paul ~~where~~ where he miraculously gained his eyesight. Such evidence from a trusted source proves God's existence as these could not be a product of ~~with~~ wishful thinking but instead a direct message from God. ~~However~~ On the contrary, atheists may argue that most evidences are unreliable as it can't be proved by science. Furthermore, claims of these visions being a result from God is a result of the epistemic gap. Consequently, this raises questions of whether it's God or another being or an aforementioned, due to a believer's own desires and epiphany. Considering both points, the Biblical evidence provided is significant, highlighting examples of prophets who have experienced visions. However, the secondary argument counteracts the claims and questions the epistemic gap, but with the evidences from the Bible provided, the primary argument is more robust.

In conclusion, visions occur to faithful believers of Christianity but as stated by non-religious viewpoints it's unclear whether it's a product of wishful thinking or if it is God. However, visions and their complexity associated with it can't be proved by science and therefore proves that God exists.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The response reaches Level 3 because 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 which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.

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.

Level 3

Total: 9 marks



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

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.2 – The role of sacraments in Christian life.

The question asked was:

Outline three features of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Most candidates recognised that this was about the features of the celebration of the sacrament. They were able to outline three things that took place during the sacrament.

However, some candidates did not know what the Eucharist was, and these gained no marks. Some candidates did not focus on what happens during the sacrament and these gained lower marks.

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

3 a) Outline **three** features of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

(3)

One feature is that ~~the baby~~ ^{to the} Lord's prayer is whispered into the baby's ear. Another feature is that ~~the~~ the baby is washed in Holy water. Another feature is that oil is poured on the baby's forehead.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate receives 0 marks because they clearly do not recognise what the Eucharist is. They confuse it with Muslim practice and the sacrament of Baptism.

It is important that candidates are familiar with the specialist words used in the specification.

Total: 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

(a) items are point marked.

3 (a) Outline **three** features of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

(3)

One feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is the breaking of the bread.

Another feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is eating the bread

Another feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is the drinking of the blood.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response receives 3 marks. Each mark is given for a feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist, outlined in a sentence.

- One feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is the breaking of bread (1)
- Another feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is eating the bread (1)
- Another feature of the sacrament of the Eucharist is the drinking of the blood (1)

Total: 3 marks

These are three sentences: three outlines.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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 3.7 – The role and importance of the local church in the local community.

The question asked was:

Explain two reasons the local church helps the individual believer.

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

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

In this question, candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding regarding how the local parish helps an individual believer. Most candidates were able to give valid answers linked to support, and growth in faith. Some candidates gained lower marks if they discussed the worldwide Church or why the local church helps the community.

(b) items are point marked – two developed reasons are required to receive maximum marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons the local church helps the individual believer.

(4)

Firstly local churches help the individual believers as they believe it is their duty to do so, as the Bible promotes Christians to help others by spreading the word of God.



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

This candidate gives one developed reason.

- Firstly, local churches help the individual believer as they believe it is their duty to do so (1)
- Developed by: The Bible promotes Christians to help others (1)

Total: 2 marks



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

(b) items are point marked – Two developed reasons are required.

(b) Explain **two** reasons the local church helps the individual believer.

(4)

One reason the local church helps the individual believer is because God has asked us to help one another so the local church aims to support other individual believers to follow what is taught in the Bible.

Another reason is that it brings more believers and strengthens their faith in God. This is because they support the individual and educate them in Christianity so they are able to teach others and bring more believers.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

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

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

- One reason the local church helps the individual believer is because God asked us to help one another (1)
- Developed by: Aims to support the individual (1)
- Another reason is that it brings more believers (1)
- Developed by: They support the individual and educate them (1)

Total: 4 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.1 – Christian worship

The question asked was:

Explain two different attitudes to the use of liturgical worship.

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

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

In this question, candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about two different attitudes to the use of liturgical worship. There were many correct answers, these usually provided a reason why it was favoured and why it was not.

Answers that gained lower marks either only gave one attitude or did not recognise the term *liturgical worship* – this is a specification term and should be learnt by candidates.

(c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for different attitudes, 2 for the development of each attitude and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the attitude given.

(c) Explain **two** different attitudes towards the use of liturgical worship.

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

(5)

Liturgical worship helps Christians understand God's intentions and by having a set way of worship they can strengthen their belief in God and solidify their faith and trust in him. They believe having an order of worship allows them to feel organised in their faith.

Other Christians may prefer non-liturgical worship, as it allows them to freely express their love and faith in God and they might find a repetitive order of worship boring or too repetitive - which is why some Christians may not prefer liturgical worship.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed attitudes but does not use a source as part of their reasoning.

- Liturgical worship helps Christians understand God's intentions by having a set way of worship (1)
- Developed by: They can strengthen their belief in God (1)
- Other Christians may prefer non-liturgical worship (1)
- Developed by: Freely express their love and faith in God (1)

Total: 4 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

Question 3 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

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

The question asked:

“Charity work is essential in Christian life today.”

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

Candidates who received high marks knew about the different views concerning the use of charity and involvement in charity. They were able to expand answers with examples of charitable organisations. Candidates who were less successful tended to give descriptive rather than analytical answers.

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

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the middle of the range of marks because most of the demands of the level descriptor were met.

* (d) "Charity work is essential in Christian life today."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Somebody could agree with this statement as some people are less fortunate than others and could be feeling unloved by Jesus. It is a human, kind hearted person who knows Christians. "Love thy neighbour". This encourages support and stability for our fellow Christian.

Somebody could argue that be above point is made as we are always at the same point. It is been as far gone and it is an demand on you as a person too. Change the attitude you have. Some people tend to make wrong decisions in life and it is therefore their responsibility to rectify these.

Somebody again could argue that we
threw him to follow the script
or to let and pick up and
practice some of his characteristics. For
example if he forgives Jesus for
his betrayal of him, we should
also try to forgive people and
the mistakes they have made.

Somebody could disagree with the above
point as justice is better
to let people learn the hard way.
For example if somebody does the same
mistake repeatedly and it is always
redemption the likelihood of the repeats
that mistake is a high chance as
they would hope it won't be redemptive
again.

In conclusion Luther + Bar = the
theory work is identical as we
are a religion and we are one.
"we are all members of one body" says
we should acknowledge where help is
needed and put it into practice (Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)



The candidate reaches Level 2, 5 marks, and then receives 2 marks for SPaG.

The candidate gives:

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

To achieve the top of this level they would need to give an answer that led to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.

SPaG is given 2 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.

Level 2

Question: 5 marks

SPaG: 2 marks

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.

This response reaches Level 3, 9 marks, which is the highest mark in Level 3 because the answer met all the demands of the level descriptor.

* (d) "Charity work is essential in Christian life today." - Sullivan

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Christians may agree with this statement because they may say that charity work reduces inequality in the world which Christians should strive for as God views all people as equal, seen in the Bible where it says "God created mankind in his own image". Therefore, by striving for ~~the~~ equality through charity work it pleases God. Some Christians may also say it is their obligation to do charity work and is thus essential in Christian life today ~~as they say~~. By doing charity work, you are caring for others. This follows Jesus' teachings of 'love your neighbour' and thus charity work may be the deed that gets you into Heaven. Furthermore, charity work is essential in Christian life today as it follows in the footsteps of Jesus as Jesus spoke out ~~against~~ ^{for} the oppressed and the poor and helped them, and thus by doing charity work a Christian would liken himself to Jesus, allowing them to get closer to him and thus helping them build a stronger bond with God. Furthermore, charity work is greatly praised in the Bible where it says "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their maker ~~but~~ whoever is kind to the needy honours God". This argument overall is a strong

argument as it uses Biblical teaching to prove that Charity work is essential in Christian life today to reduce inequality and to care for others. However, some Christians may disagree with the statement and say that charity work is not essential as all that is needed is salvation. ~~When Jesus was~~. This is because in the Bible Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will live even though they die", proving how only belief in Jesus as Lord and salvation is needed to achieve eternal life in Heaven ~~as when~~ Jesus was crucified ~~here~~ he cleared the sins of mankind and repaired the bond between God and humanity by clearing original sin and by destroying the power of ~~the~~ sin; the Bible says "Christ died for our sins" and thus charity work is not essential, but only salvation and belief in Jesus as Lord is essential. However, this argument is weak as it fails to realise that there are other aspects to living a good Christian life, which Jesus taught, such as his teachings on the sermon ~~to~~ on the amount, and one of Jesus' teachings is helping the poor and thus it should be followed as he is the ultimate role model, overall making the for argument stronger. To conclude, I agree with this statement as Charity work ~~it~~ helps reduce inequality, pleases God and follows ~~the~~ his teaching of ~~of~~ loving others. Furthermore, the Bible says "money is the root of all evil" and thus by doing charity work, you can cleanse yourself of this evil and greed, allowing you to be a **(Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)** good Christian and thus it is essential to Christian life today.



The response 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 which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.

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

SPaG was awarded 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.



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

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Equality

Bullet point 4.7 – Christian attitudes to social justice.

The question asked was:

Outline three Christian teachings about social justice.

The candidates needed to provide teachings about social justice, which is straight from bullet 4.7 in the specification. As such, candidates should have been familiar with the concept of social justice.

Whilst there were many good answers that discussed working towards reducing inequality, many candidates gave inaccurate and vague answers. Many of these were based on the idea that everyone is equal, which, sadly, is not true in today's world and is why social justice is required.

(a) items are point marked.

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian teachings about social justice.

(3)

One thing Christians teach about social justice is that we're all equal in God's eyes, that we were made to love and care for each other, and that we were all made in the same way by God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate clearly does not understand what social justice is.

Social justice is a whole bullet point in the specification and teachers should give lesson time to look at the uneven distribution of wealth and opportunity in the UK and in the world.

Total: 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The specification should be used to produce schemes of work.

This candidate writes three accurate outlines.

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian teachings about social justice.

(3)

Christians believe that they should speak out against social justice. Christians also are taught that they should do everything they can to ensure equality. Church leaders also have speeches which teach Christians to be just and churches also hold days of prayer in order to pray for ~~social~~ ^{social} justice.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives three marks: one mark for each Christian teaching about social justice outlined in a sentence.

They begin with an incorrect sentence.

- Christians believe they should speak out against social justice (1)

The candidate clearly meant injustice – however, the examiner must mark what the candidate writes.

- They should do everything they can to ensure equality (1)
- Church leaders also have speeches which teach Christians to be just (1)
- Churches hold days of prayer for social justice (1)

Total: 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Equality

Bullet point 4.1 – Christian teaching on human rights

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian responses to non-religious arguments about human rights.

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

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

In this question, candidates were able to explain what Christians might teach about human rights. A few candidates described a non-religious view and these candidates gained no marks because the question asked what the Christian response is.

(b) items are point marked – two developed responses are required to gain 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious arguments about human rights.

(4)

One way a Christian responds to a non-religious argument about human rights is by talking about how we were all made the same and from the same material. Another way could be that ~~we are not~~ by talking about how we are not meant to hate each other, we're meant to love each other.



The candidate clearly does not understand what human rights are.

They discuss equality in general and do not link to the rights this entitles humans to.

Total: 0 marks



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

The candidate gives two developed reasons. This answer shows that candidates do not need to write very much to receive maximum marks.

(b) Explain **two** Christian responses to non-religious arguments about human rights.

(4)

One Christian response to non-religious argument about human rights is that everybody should have human rights. This is because everybody is equal in the eyes of God.

Another Christian response to non-religious argument about human rights is that nobody is allowed to decide who has human rights. This is because the only person who can judge is God.



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

- One Christian response ...is everybody should have human rights (1)
- Developed by: Everyone is equal (1)
- Nobody is allowed to decide who has human rights (1)
- Developed by: The only person that can judge is God (1)

Total: 4 marks



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

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Equality

Bullet point 4.8 – Christian attitudes toward wealth and poverty.

The question asked was:

Explain two Christian teachings about the causes of poverty in the world.

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. Teachings do not need to be scriptural; they can be anything Christians are officially taught.

The reasons then 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 the source

Most candidates were able to explain two Christian teachings about the causes of poverty: the majority was also able to use a source of wisdom as part of their reasons. A few candidates discussed Christian responses to poverty, and these answers were not credited.

(c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for teachings, 2 for the development of each teaching and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the teaching given.

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the causes of poverty in the world.

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

(5)

one Christian teaching about poverty in the world is greed as someone having loads of money and not sharing it is not helping the poor and as God states in the Bible "love thy neighbour" but the reason why there is poverty in the world is because people are not giving to the poor.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed teaching, and they use a source of authority.

- One Christian teaching about poverty in the world is greed (1)
- Developed by: Showing it is not helping the world (1)

A source is used:

- Love thy neighbour (1)

The candidate does not give another teaching.

Total: 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

(c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for teachings, 2 for the development of each teaching and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the teaching given.

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

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about the causes of poverty in the world. ^{greed} ^{war}

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

(5)

One teaching is that poverty is caused by greed in society, which may be due to money "money is the root of all evil". This may lead to a ~~Christian~~ person ending up performing unlawful things, which would end up in poverty.

Another teaching is that wars cause ~~poverty~~ poverty, as wars displace people and cause a loss in jobs and homes, which would contribute to homelessness.



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

- One teaching is that poverty is caused by greed in society (1)

Use of source:

- Money is the root of all suffering (1)
- Developed by: A person may perform unlawful things which would end up in poverty (1)
- Another teaching is that wars cause poverty (1)
- Developed by: As wars displace people and take a loss in jobs (1)

Total: 5 marks



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

Question 4 (d)

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

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

The question is '**Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion** – there must some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but 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 levels and awarding is carried out using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Equality

Bullet point 4.2 – Christian attitude towards equality.

The question asked was:

" Christians must work to end inequality."

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 candidates did so, this part of the answer was ignored.

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

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

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

(d) "Christians must work to end inequality."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I agree with this statement because Christians are taught by God to love each other equally, and to prove this they must help each other stop everything going ~~to~~ wrong in the world and work together. Humans should be seeing others humans as the same as them and imagin being in ~~that situation~~ the situation that they're in. Christians should prove to God that they ~~love his creation~~ appreciate him and his creation by stopping inequality.

I disagree because ~~God~~ if God was so all-powerful he ~~should~~ ~~to~~ should've ended evil ~~for~~ many years ago, it's impossible for ~~just humans~~ humans to completely end something that is everywhere. God should be responsible for the creation of evil or he just isn't all-powerful.

In conclusion, I partially agree with this statement because I believe that ~~we~~ we should all work to end inequality, even though it is nearly impossible to destroy ~~the~~ ^{all} evil.



The response reaches Level 2, 5 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 2.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2 at the middle of the range of marks because some of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The answer gives:

A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view.

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

Level 2

Total: 5 marks



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

The response reaches Level 4, 10 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 4 because the answer meets some of the demands of the level descriptor but not all of them.

(d) "Christians must work to end inequality."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Christians may agree that inequality is not a problem for them to fix. They may view it as the responsibility of governments or simply the world-wide church. So, whilst some Christians will be involved, not all have to be. Instead, they should focus on cultivating their own relationship with God and helping others (especially their children) to become educated about Jesus and his life. They may say that it is their responsibility to "raise their child up in the way that he should go", such that "when they are old, he will not depart from it". They may view this as their primary mission and the welfare of others as a separate matter, not for them.

This is a weak argument, in my opinion, because it distances oneself from the problems that have arisen due to injustice and treats others as separate and 'other'. This does not align with Christian teachings of everyone being "made in the image of God" and so the same.

A stronger argument may be that inequality in any section of life should not exist. Galatians proves this by denouncing religious, wealth and power, and gender inequality, ~~where~~ ^{where it} says that "there is neither Jew nor Gentile [religion], slave nor free [power], male nor female [gender] for you are all ~~one~~ ^{one} in Christ Jesus". This means that, wherever any ~~form~~ ^{form}

of inequality is present, it is a Christian's duty to end it. They should follow the examples of renowned Christians, such as Martin Luther King Jr., who stood against inequality. In terms of addressing it, charity work by donating to charities, or working as part of local communities in providing services at food drives for the homeless are easy ways to help end inequality. The Parable of the Good Samaritan, from Luke, is a great example for Christians ^{on} how to address inequality, where a Samaritan man helps someone from a different tribe and culture, breaking the walls of hatred between them in order to stop the suffering of that other man. Jesus said that "whatever you do for the least of your brothers or sisters, you did for me", showing that ending poverty and helping others is something that pleases God and as proverbs states, "Whoever is kind to the needy honours God". This is all a necessity, because, as James put it, "faith without work is dead" and, as Peter says "we are stewards on this world and so must "be willing" to help others in God's name.

This is the much stronger argument because it clearly outlines why addressing the issues of and causes of inequality is essential, using scripture and referring to Jesus' core teachings of love and engage.

In conclusion, ~~sets~~ Christians must partake in ending inequality, due to the commands and benefits stated in the Bible that tell them to do so. Whilst other actions are important, it is also essential to "work" in the way of God, so, I agree with the statement.



The response reaches Level 4 because it gives:

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

To get higher marks it needed to give arguments with reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

Level 4

Total: 10 marks



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

Paper Summary

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

- Answer (a) items in outlines – this means they should write in full sentences
- Provide 3 sentences for (a) items, each should be on a separate line
- (b) items should have 2 developed reasons (not more than 2)
- Development may be 1) examples 2) quotes 3) extra relevant material
- Development must link to the reason given and the question set
- (c) items are similar to (b) items but use a source/ quotation as a fifth element
- A source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- The source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- (d) items have a new mark scheme this year candidates should be familiar with it
- (d) item responses must show AO2 skills
- (d) items must show an appraisal of the argument not simply rely on a set format
- Levels descriptors must be used to mark (d) items

Grade boundaries

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

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

