



General Certificate of Education

Religious Studies (5061/6061)

**RS01 *An introduction to
Religion and Human
Experience***

Mark Scheme

2007 examination - June series

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

[Marks for 10-mark questions are shown in brackets]

Level	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks
5	Appropriate form and style of writing, clear and coherent organisation of information, with appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility and high level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples.	13-15 [9-10]	A very good response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and arguments are critically analysed. A process of reasoning leads to an appropriate conclusion.	13-15
4	Appropriate form and style of writing; generally clear and coherent organisation of information, mainly appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility and fairly high level of spelling, punctuation and grammar.	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / examples.	10-12 [7-8]	A good response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and arguments and some critical analysis. A conclusion is drawn which follows from some of the reasoning.	10-12
3	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing, some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary. Satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing reasonable understanding.	7-9 [5-6]	Main issues are addressed and views are considered, with some supporting evidence. There is some attempt at analysis or comment. Evaluation may not be fully supported by reasoning or evidence.	7-9
2	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.	An outline account, including some relevant material. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding. Some coherence.	4-6 [3-4]	A simple argument, with some evidence in support.	4-6
1	There may be little clarity and coherence in organisation; little appropriate or accurate use of specialist vocabulary. The legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be very limited.	Isolated elements of accurate and relevant information. Slight signs of understanding.	1-3 [1-2]	A few basic points which are relevant, but no real argument.	1-3
0	There may be little clarity and coherence in organisation; little appropriate or accurate use of specialist vocabulary. The legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be very limited.	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0

RS01: An introduction to Religion and Human Experience

- 1 **Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.**

‘When we explore religious experiences we are struck by their immense variety. There are many different types of vision, for example. Searching for ‘visions’ on the Internet provides hundreds of very different experiences, not all of them religious, which are sometimes described in vivid detail. Revelation experiences are also varied, as is the information they provide.’

- (a) **Examine the variety of ‘vision’ experiences by referring to three “different types of vision” experienced by religious believers.**

Expect from among the following, but credit anything relevant. All should have some obvious religious connotation.

Visions of heaven and hell; visions of holy beings; visions of wonders (e.g. Ezekiel’s vision); visions of angels; visions of the end of the world; visions of the future – if they are given some type of religious significance; corporeal, imaginative and intellectual visions.

For one only – maximum Level 2.

For two only – maximum Level 4 (7 marks).

(10 marks) AO1

- (b) **Explain what is meant by ‘revelation experiences’.**

At least two types of revelation experience to be offered, e.g.:

- (1) Holy being communicating words in a supernatural way to a specially chosen person, e.g. revelation of the Qur’an.
- (2) Moment of realisation in which a religious truth becomes obvious. This may be through an event in history or a natural wonder, and so may be experienced by everyone, but no words are directly communicated. The force of the moment at which the truth is realised may, however, still be very strong. The enlightenment of the Buddha may be understood in this way.

For answers lacking explanatory examples – maximum Level 3.

For answers dealing with only one – maximum Level 4 (7 marks).

(10 marks) AO1

- 2 (a) **Explain how and why scriptures are important in religion today.**

How

Expect some of the following: as a source of divine commands and truths; record of a perfect example; proof of the existence of God; source of personal inspiration / conversion; comfort.

Why

Expect ideas relating to the status of the holy writings as divine revelation / perfect record / authorised by religious leaders.

For answers lacking explanatory examples – maximum Level 3.

For answers dealing with only one of 'how' or 'why' – maximum Level 4 (11 marks).

(15 marks) AO1

- (b) **'Some passages of scripture may be interpreted symbolically.'**

Explain what this statement means, and assess the view that, when believers interpret scriptures symbolically, they are simply making the scriptures say what they want them to say.

Explain

Assumed to have an inner or hidden meaning, not to be taken literally, e.g. the symbolism in the Parable of the Sower, the imagery used in passages referring to the Divine ('the face of God', 'The Lord is my Shepherd', 'Jesus is the light of the world').

(10 marks) AO1

Assess

The argument here is likely to reflect the contrasting opinions of traditionalists and modernists and / or the way that the 'progressive' wings of some religions find ways of reconciling the written text with science and the modern world. Alternatively, it may focus on a tradition of symbolic interpretation stretching back to the recording of the scriptures, e.g. descriptions of Nibbana and of God have always been taken symbolically by many orthodox believers.

(15 marks) AO2

3 (a) Explain how both scriptures and religious experience can inspire faith.

This can be taken to mean cause and / or sustain / strengthen faith.

Scriptures

e.g. mediating the power / presence of the divine; describing deliverance in times of trouble; causing conversion; examples that make the reader want to do the same.

Religious experience

(N.B. may be conflated with above part), e.g. Conversion; presence of God in prayer, sense of the continued presence of the Saviour in times of trouble.

For answers lacking explanatory examples – maximum Level 3.

For answers dealing with only one of ‘scriptures’ or ‘experience’ – maximum Level 4 (11 marks).

(15 marks) AO1

(b) Explain why religious experiences can be so difficult to describe, and assess the view that, although religious experience can inspire faith, believers need more than religious experience to tell them how to live or what to believe.

Explain

A religious experience is an experience ‘wholly other’, but the words used to describe them take their meaning from worldly experience; the experiences may be emotionally overwhelming, and hence unclear to the person having them; only those who have had such an experience are in a position to understand the account.

For answers lacking explanatory examples – maximum Level 3.

(10 marks) AO1

Assess

Look for ideas related to the following:

Religious experiences can bring instructions about what to do or what to believe – many scriptures were delivered this way. However, experiences can contradict official teaching. They are open to doubt. They do not always provide answers to the questions believers ask. They are not experienced by everyone.

(15 marks) AO2