

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit H (RSS08) *Religion and Contemporary Society*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate C



2009 (June) Unit H *Religion and Contemporary Society*

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate C

This is an example of a good response to this question. Questions 1 and 4 were the less popular of the 4 Questions, but there were some very good and well informed attempts at this question.

- 4 (a) **With reference to New Religious Movements, explain what is meant by 'millenarianism'.**

(30 marks)

AO1

Candidate Response

4A Millenarianism is the group that some religious groups are in. These are watch tower society other wise known as Jehovah witness, mormons are also Millenarianists.
 Millenarianism is the view that the world will come to an end and be replaced by a period of paradise.

New religious movement like Jehovans witnesses and mormons believe that the revelations in the bible are Gods words and this is too literally. The key terms that explain Millenarianism are imminence, The end times, the new age and The Rapture. Imminence means 'soon' this is believed by New Religious Movements. They believe that the world will come to an end it is imminent, and will happen in there lifetime or near the millenium. The words state such as Global warming, corrupt Government, increasing crime all contribute to this.

The second phase of millenarianism is the end times where the world will be destroyed, people will suffer and die, some how ever will survive, these are people who are innocent, millenarianists themselves, christians or those chosen by christ will survive. This will then be following by the coming of christs second return. There will also be a battle between innocent good angels and satan in heaven this is the battle armageddon.

The third phase is the new age where christs second coming is this is when the end time or tribulation ends.

People chosen will have a physical relationship with God. Peace will be restored, everyone will get along including animal such as the lion and the lamb, the dead will be raise and they will all live together in a world transformed to paradise just like the Garden of Eden.

The last phase is the rapture extreme new religious movements such as the American adventurists are worried about this. This is when God choses people to live with him in paradise.

But the new religious movement mentioned above are worried about situations for example pilot is chosen by God they

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are concerned for the people
 on the plane about to crash.
 This is from the revelation and
 is taken literally by religious
 movements such as Mormons,
 Jehovah's witnesses and American
 activists.
 They strongly believe in this and
 are preparing for this.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

Although the opening paragraph of this answer is not very clear, the candidate goes on to reveal a good understanding of the topic. The basic definition is given in the second paragraph on the first page. This is developed well, showing understanding of the fundamentalist nature of such groups, and using terms generally appropriately. S/he is able to relate these ideas to 'signs of the times' (although s/he does not use this phrase) there is a clear explanation of the 'end times' and the key features of this. This is followed by good descriptions of the New Age and the Rapture. In this section there is some appropriate exemplification from a particular movement.

The Level 6 descriptor states:

'A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence/examples'.

The Level 7 descriptor states:

'A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available, information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence/examples'

This part of the answer was awarded a mark at the very top of Level 6 (27). With a little more exemplification, it would have been in Level 7, possibly at the very top. Had the question been worded 'examine what is meant by millenarianism', it would have been, but there was a specific demand here 'with reference to new religious movements'.

Level 6 (27 marks)

- (b) 'Millenarian movements will always be attractive to the deprived.' Assess this claim.

(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

4B some people think that Millenarian movements will always be attractive to the deprived. This is because deprived members of society do not have a social network and have no belief in mainstream society, they look for someone or something to depend on this is why Millenarianism is always attractive to the deprived.

Others disagree Millenarian movement may not always be attractive to the deprived as they may not believe in what millenarianists say therefore they may lead their own life with their own belief.

Others say that millenarianism movements are attractive to the deprived as they help them cope with difficult situations, they help them in what they need help with and can be a family to them.

Millenarianism movements are not always attractive to the deprived as they search for a meaning this does not mean they will be attracted to them. They are individuals with different beliefs.

I think that in some ways millenarianism movements will always be attractive to the

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deprived as they look for some
 thing to follow and find there
 beliefs easy to understand,
 where as traditional religions
 are hard to understand, also
 5 gives them a religious family
 they feel more included than
 mainstream society.

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

This part involves an evaluation of the relative deprivation theory, as applied to millenarian movements. The candidate makes some attempt to deal with the issue, but in no real depth. There is a clear attempt to explore different views, but these perspectives are not always teased out sufficiently. So, for example, there is relevant discussion in the first paragraph of the need for a social network, or someone to depend on. The next paragraph remains very general – ‘they may not believe in what millenarianists say..’ A point is made about ‘helping them to deal with difficult situations...’, but this is not explained or developed. There is some attempt at a conclusion but this merely tends to reiterate what has been said earlier, rather than drawing on reasoning. Much of what is said here may relate to NRMs in general but does not really address the specific case of millenarian movements.

The Level 4 descriptor for AO2 reads:

‘A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.’

The Level 5 descriptor for AO2 reads:

‘A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas are adequately explained.’

This answer does attempt to deal with both sides of the argument, albeit with some limitations. It does therefore just get into Level 5.

Level 5 (10 marks)