

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit K (RSS10) *World Religions 2: Judaism*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate B



2009 (June) Unit K World Religions 2: Judaism

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate B

- 5 (a) Explain what is meant by the covenant and by 'the chosen people' in Judaism. (30 marks) AO1

Candidate Response

5a)	<u>Plan</u>
	Define covenant
	define chosen people
	list meanings
	meaning
	how reminded of it
	story Exodus
	importance
	duties
	3 covenants
	god through history.
5a)	<u>Essay</u>
	Covenant is an agreement between two parties for Jews it is between them and God and forms a special relationship. In Hebrew 'brit' is the covenant and it was formed between God and the Jews through God and Moses on Mt Sinai after Moses led them out of Egypt from slavery where they then received the ten commandments and became God's chosen people.
	The covenant is central basis to Jewish faith and enables them to form a special relationship with God. There are many meanings for the covenant in Judaism. It is a gift from God and is shown as an outward bodily sign of on Jewish males is a ceremony known as circumcision. Here a mohel removes the foreskin from a newborn boy as a sign he has entered the covenant with God. The importance of the circumcision shows how generations the Jewish faith is passed and the God is close to you from the moment you were born.

4) The covenant is what makes the Jews spread the word of God it is a promise between God and His people that if they obey His laws and spread the word of God He will promise never to abandon the Jews and always look out for them.

The duty of the chosen people is to aim to get all nations to believe in one God so the world can live in peace and harmony which is believed to occur when the messiah comes to earth in the Messianic Age.

The chosen people of God were not 'chosen' because they deserved it but because of God's power and incentive to chose them. They have a very important role as the chosen people and are reminded of this in their everyday lives for example in the prayer and worship they wear a tallit reminding them of the 613 commandments they obey from the fringes on their prayer shawl. The sabbath every friday evening to Saturday evening is a weekly reminder of the covenant and also in festivals like Passover, Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashannah.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

The answer is fairly well detailed and it is pleasing to see the candidate construct a plan before embarking on the response. The response has attempted to address the focus of the question with some exemplification and support. Some key ideas and facts are included and it is clear that there is a good deal of understanding on display. The response in its entirety fits level 5 descriptor.

Level 5 (22 marks)

(b) 'God has not kept covenant with the Jewish people.' Assess this claim. (15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

5b.) "God has not kept covenant with the Jewish people"
Plan
 Some people agree; Holocaust - examples
 nature of God acting through history

Other people disagree; Gods always with them, promised
 never to abandon them as part
 of covenant.
 renew the covenant ✓/✗

5b.) Essay

Some people believe God has not kept the covenant as they believe the Holocaust would not have happened. This event where Jews were victims to genocide has made a lot of Jews question their belief in God and their duty as the chosen people. One survivor of the Holocaust said "God could not ~~not~~ be all powerful or all knowing as he would of stopped the Holocaust from happening" They cannot understand why he let them suffer.

Other people think God has kept the covenant as it was a promise he made to the Jews never to abandon them. A covenant is an agreement between two parties so both Gods and the Jews have to keep their part. Every 7 days Jews renew their part in the covenant through the Sabbath and then again in the most important festival every year through Yom Kippur. If they believed God had not kept his part in the covenant they would not be performing these practices today, and would have abandoned their faith in Judaism.

I think God has kept the covenant as he still acts through history towards the Jews and their faith in him is still strong. The nature of God shows the covenant is still strong and that some people believe the holocaust occurred as a punish for everyones sins in the world, God did not abandon the covenant then as there were survivors and if not then Judaism would not exist today. If God had not helped them.

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

This is a good response and clearly deserves level 6. Some detail, organisation of response and analysis are contained in this answer the candidate only has between 12-13 minutes. Detailed evaluative comment is not expected but this response has got the balance of at least two differing points of view alongside a personal comment in the conclusion.

Level 6 (12 marks)