



**General Certificate of Education
June 2013**

Religious Studies

RSS08

Religion and Contemporary Society

AS Unit H

Final

Mark Scheme

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor A01	Marks	AS Descriptor A02	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in A01 and A02
7	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	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	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 adequately explained.	10-11	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.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	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.	7-9	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.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS08: *Religion and Contemporary Society*

Question 1 Changing patterns of religious practice in the UK during the 20th century

0	1	Explain ways in which religion is seen to be in decline in the United Kingdom today.
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Statistical evidence:-

2011 census – shows drop from 71% identification for Christianity in 2001 to 59% in 2011;

Increase from 14% to 25% saying they had no religion.

Evidence from sources such as *Religious Trends*, *Tearfund report*, *British Religion in Numbers*;

Evidence from disused/redundant church buildings, now put to other uses or standing unused, or functioning churches which are near-empty

Re-structuring of church organisation in many areas is a response to decline

Decline in attendance, membership and identification

Declining numbers of clergy

Declining numbers of baptisms

Declining numbers of religious weddings – popularity of hotels, castles, beaches, etc.

Ageing congregations

Sunday trading

Commercialisation and loss of meaning of religious festivals

Decline in religious values

Candidates may answer from statistics evidence, other forms of evidence, or both.

(30 marks)

AO1

0	2	‘Religion in the United Kingdom is in total decline.’
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How far do you agree?

Agree:

Use of evidence as in 01 above

Looking at total picture rather than individual pieces of evidence

Decline not just in attendance but also in most measures of religion

Lack of young people in churches means they have no future congregation

Disagree:

Some areas of religious life are thriving, and on the increase

Within Christianity, Pentecostal and charismatic churches growing

Vitality of black-led churches

Regional variations – e.g. London strong

Strength of Catholicism in areas of Polish migration

Rise in Muslim numbers

‘Believing without belonging’ (Davie).

Numbers claiming belief in God still high.

Better answers likely to pick up implications of ‘total’

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 2 Expressions of religion within society

0	3	Explain how various buildings are used to meet the needs of religious groups for purposes other than worship.
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Types of examples included may well be determined by locality, so there are a wide range of possibilities. These might include:

Activities other than worship which happen within the place of worship

Community centres: social needs; language teaching, maintaining culture; serving the wider community

Monasteries, convents, retreat houses: opportunities for the spiritual life, both for members of religious communities, and those wanting to take 'time out'

Shops: clothing (to meet specific dress requirements, e.g. Muslim), foods (to meet dietary requirements (e.g. kosher, halal); bookshops (to help people to understand their faith further, to supply sacred texts); travel agencies specialising in pilgrimage (e.g. Hajj);

Caring facilities (reflecting commitment to service. These may cater for specific needs of members of the faith as well as offering help to those from any background)

Refuges, drop in centres etc.: part of mission of service

Faith schools (meeting educational needs; providing faith specific context for education, etc.)

Allow for private worship as opposed to the activities of public worship.

For answers of L4 and above, there needs to be some clear attempt to show how these buildings meet the needs of the faith communities concerned.

Question asks for 'various', so max L4 if answer lacks any breadth.

(30 marks)

AO1

0

4

'It is not places of worship but other religious buildings that are the real sign that religion is present in society.'

Assess this claim.

Agree:

They are about living the faith – the day to day aspects

They are vital to people being able to keep the rules of the faith

They are about service to the community – helping people both within and outside the faith

Places of worship may be attended by people coming from outside the area, or in the case of, for example, big cathedrals, tourists

Places of worship may only be used for an hour a week.

Disagree:

Worship is at the heart of religion, so must be central

Places of worship are about humans coming into the presence of God

In some religions, 'sacred space' is very important

If the places of worship are not there, then there is no 'heart' to the religion

Shops etc, may be important, but these facilities increasingly available online.

Some may argue that it is not buildings at all, but the way that people live their lives, which demonstrates the presence of religion.

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 3 Issues of identity and belonging

0	5
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Examine ways in which religion attempts to maintain community. You may refer to one or more religion(s) in your answer

This can be answered either from the point of view of maintaining internal community, or contributing to community cohesion, or both

Expect some definition of community – mutuality, belonging; shared values, etc.

Internal community

Most obvious form is gathering together for worship/prayer. The coming together of a group of people on a regular basis instils sense of community.

Cultural factors:

Religious festivals may be a particular time at which a sense of community is established; this may also bring together more ‘scattered’ members of the community. Issues of dress and diet may be considered – but need to be linked to idea of community

‘Pastoral care’ – all groups have systems for looking after their members in various ways, and these can contribute strongly to the sense of community.

Role of the family. Religions stress the importance of the family, and as such, particularly where there is an extended family, this becomes a ‘building block’ of community.

In many religions, also smaller groups meeting on a regular basis. In Christianity these may be house-groups or weeknight fellowships. Such groups may be for study or for prayer

Activities with children and young people: these may be aimed at instruction and nurture within the faith, or be more relaxed and light-hearted. Such activities may instil a sense of community across the age groups.

Activities with and for older people; may include bringing them to the place of worship or going to them in their homes.

Language classes: some religious groups will run language classes (e.g. Urdu, Punjabi) for members and others, which will help to develop sense of community and identity with cultural roots

Faith schools may be mentioned, though should not be the sole focus

Community cohesion

Religions are involved in the wider communities in which they are set

Many are involved in community service of some sort, offering help and facilities to those within the community, whatever their faith background

Common concerns over local and national issues

Inter-faith activities and more formal dialogue.

Max L3 if only dress and diet and no focus on community.

(30 marks)

AO1

0

6

'Maintaining community is a vital role of religion.'**Assess this claim.****Agree:**

Some may argue from Durkheim's view that religion is the 'glue' that holds a community together

All people have basic need to feel a sense of belonging, and the community built up by a shared religion is vital to them

People are not going to be able to worship if they do not feel comfortable and a part of the group

Vital for religions to contribute to the wider community in which they are located; part of their ethos of service to others.

Disagree:

Religion is about the individual and his/her relationship with God, not about the social grouping

People can worship alone; or equally they are able to worship in a strange place where they have no sense of community belonging

To take this view may be to see religion as merely a 'social club'.

(15 marks)**AO2****Question 4 An introduction to New Religious Movements (NRMs)**

0

7

Examine the nature of millenarianism as found in New Religious Movements.

Expect some definition:

Background in Judaeo Christian tradition

Background in apocalyptic, especially book of Revelation

Belief in 1000 year direct rule of Christ, and 'Golden Age'

Variations between pre- and post- millennialists

Ideas of the tribulation and the 'rapture'

Belief in the elect – often a defined number (especially for Jehovah's Witnesses)

Sometimes based on predestination

Usually with pessimistic view of humanity - especially for world rejecting groups

Rewards in the afterlife rather than the present life

Belief in some form of divine justice

Some see Golden Age as coming gradually rather than cataclysmically.

Examples may be drawn from a variety of movements including Adventists, Latter Day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, Branch Davidians, Supreme Truth Movement and People's Temple. Many others may be cited.

For marks of L5 and above there needs to be clear exemplification.

(30 marks)**AO1**

0

8

'It is only the state of the world today that makes millenarian views attractive to people.'

How far do you agree?

Agree:

Wars, famines, tsunamis, earthquakes, global warming, pollution and financial crises could all be read as 'signs of the times', and would fit in with millenarian teachings. Many followed Harold Camping in May 2011.

Disagree:

Even though these things are going on; they do not explain attraction of the actual theology of many millenarian groups.

Several of the NRMs come from late 19th century/early 20th century when these factors were not significant.

Idea of the 'elect' is incompatible with most modern views of humanity.

Community aspects are the most important attraction

Answers need to focus on 'state of the world today'

(15 marks)

AO2