

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies
Unit D (RSS04) Religion, Philosophy and Science
June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

Candidate A



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2009 (June) Unit D Religion, Philosophy and Science

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

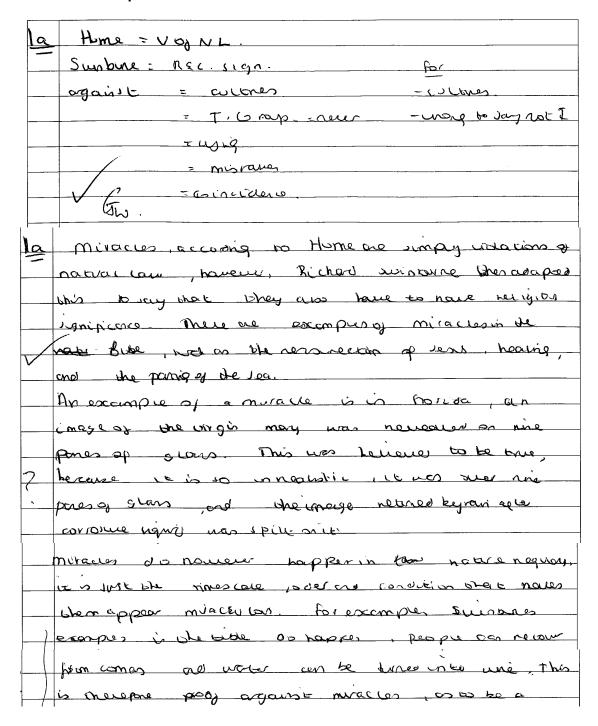
Candidate A

1 (a) 'Miracles are described as events of religious significance.'

Explain the meaning of this statement.

(30 marks) AO1

Candidate Response



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AO1 (30 marks)

The candidate has identified a definition of miracles at the start of the answer. This is acceptable but there is no explanation as to how the definition relates to the question. Throughout, there appears to be an attempt to discuss the legitimacy of miracles, even suggesting that miracles do not occur at all. This is not the focus of the question or indeed the point of AO1. Scholars are mentioned but with no real understanding of their scholarship.

Level 2 (7 marks)

(b) Discuss how far miracles make it reasonable to believe in God. (15 marks) AO2 Candidate Response

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AO2 15 marks

The opening sentence makes a rather odd distinction between proving a god and proving a theistic god. The candidate understands the arguments on both sides of the question here: that miracles both do make it reasonable and do not make it reasonable to believe in God. Although the organization of the material is not at its best, there is plenty of material to assess. Unfortunately, there is no assessment of the kind required at AO2. At no stage does the candidate evaluate the points made and justify why one point is better than another. Without such assessment, the maximum number of marks available would be Level 4 (9).

Level 4 (7 marks)

2 (a) Examine ways in which religious believers explain the origin of life on Earth. (30 marks) AO1 Candidate Response

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AO1 30 marks

The candidate has identified as primary material the account in Genesis and something of Michael Behe. Credit can be given for describing some aspects of Genesis 1 and elements of Behe's ideas. The candidate has not developed the ideas presented and the material is presented in a disjointed manner. The candidate seems to think that Christians cannot believe both in God as sustainer and God as creator. Much of the material available for this question has not been referred to.

Level 3 (10 marks)

(b) Assess the view that evolutionary theory conflicts with belief in a creator. (15 marks)

Candidate Response

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AO2

AO2 15 marks

The start of the answer demonstrates that the candidate has not seen that the focus is on life on Earth not on the creation of the cosmos. When life on Earth is considered, the material presented is AO1 and there is no attempt to assess how far evolution can challenge religious beliefs about creation.

Level 2 (4 marks)

