

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit H (RSS08) *Religion and Contemporary Society*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate A



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

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate A

- 1 (a) Examine the relative strengths and distribution of the main religious groups to be found in the United Kingdom today.

(30 marks)

AO1

Candidate Response

1(a)	The 2001 census record has shown that there are over 170 religions worldwide yet and 72% of the British people believe in God yet 66% are not with any religious organisation or part of a church despite what they write on official papers
2(a)	In Britain 37.3 million people claim that they are Christians making this the most popular religion in U.K, Muslims make up 3.71% of
3(a)	of the population with an average of over 9 million Muslims, Hindus make up less than 2% of the population and Sikhs with over 1%.
4(a)	The highest population of Christians are found in Merseyside, and Cumbria. The highest proportion of Muslims are found in London totalling up to 80% of the overall population. The highest proportion of Gujaratis are found in Leicester and the highest proportion of Pakistanis are found in Birmingham, the highest proportion of Jews are found in Barnet and the highest proportion of Hindus found in Harrow.
5(a)	Although the fastest growing religion is Islam with new members converting each day and overall the number of Muslims are rising steadily there has been a decline in Christianity. Between 1998 and 2005 over a million people have stopped going to church on Sunday due to continued secularisation, it is now more

socially acceptable than before; which has had an increase in 'believing without belonging', people are still believing but prefer to worship alone as they feel a stronger connection with God so they prefer to worship privately rather than institutionally. on the other hand people are saying that they are part of a religious group but do not believe in its teachings they are simply called part of a religious group because of traditions or simply because of social pressure.

A British poll in ~~2008~~ 2006 for year 9+10 pupils showed that only 19% believed in God, the younger generation are the future and the fact that they don't believe in God shows that religious affiliation is going to decrease.

A survey carried out in 2003 found that 55% of the British public could name one of the four Christian gospels yet 60% could name the holy book that muslim used & which is the Quran, this shows that people are aware of other people's religion as Britain has become a more diverse country.

There has been an increase & in secularisation as it is more socially accepted so people are leaving religion as science can now provide answers for people which has increased demand in Scientology.

Church attendance has overall decreased especially in Catholic churches, the 1851 census showed that 40% visited church but this has fallen to 6%. wedding and baptisms are also not taking place in religious places as because in 1900 73% of children were baptized but this fell to 35% in 2001. Tearfund found

that 10% of people attend church weekly 15% attend monthly and 27% attend yearly are 59% practically never go.

church outside the church has increased, there has been an increase in Alpha course which attracts ~~the~~ a wide range of people of different ages and races, it mainly attracts people who are not church goers but interested in whether god exists or what is going to happen to them after they die other people simply come to learn about other peoples religion

Charismatic worship has also increased which is in the narrow sense of word specific gifts of charisma given by the holy spirit, Charismatic renewal is the evolved form of worship, such as using the personal pronouns which mean that people talk and sing to Jesus instead of singing and talking about Jesus, people then express it in a variety of different ways such as screaming waving hands and shouting.

Overall has secularisation actually taken place or is their new forms of worship evolving.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

This answer begins appropriately with a reference to the 2001 census. Although the figures here are not quite accurate, the 'big picture' given sets the scene appropriately for the rest of the answer. The question asked for strengths and distribution. The second paragraph makes clear reference to relative strengths, and goes on to give a clear and appropriate picture of the distribution of some of the different religions. The answer goes on to talk about the rise in the number of Muslims and the decline in Christianity, and gives a balanced view. At the top of page 3 there is reference to aspects of belief. Although this is not strictly relevant here, the candidate incorporates this well into the answer. S/he then goes on to look at other aspects of practice in modern Britain. The points made in the last section of the answer slightly lose focus on the question, but the first part of the answer is very well focussed and clear.

The L6 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 L7 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'

The answer was awarded a top L6 mark. Had the focus been maintained throughout, this would certainly have been worthy of Level 7.

Level 6 (27 marks)

(b) 'Religion in the United Kingdom today is alive and well.' Assess this claim (15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

b) People would disagree with the comment as secularisation has increased 72% of the British population felt that religion is no longer important and that friends family and education comes first. many of the youngsters no longer believe in God with only 19% of year 9 + 10 pupils believing in God. many people are turning to science for answers as they feel they provide better answers and people are also turning away from religion and turning to atheists many people do not also know the name of the 4 main gospels or the holy books they are supposed to read, people no longer see church attendance and baptism as important.

People would agree with the statement as millions and billion of people in the UK claim to be part of a religious group. There are many types of religion and many of them are becoming increasingly popular such as the Jedi knight. People also think that as Britain is multi-cultural and faith there are many faith groups so people feel that they do belong to something. overall it is not well and alive as many people are turning away from religion each day to find better answers.

L
b

F

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

This answer shows some relevant awareness but is not well focussed on the question. It reads almost as a 'prepared answer' to a slightly different question. If this candidate had planned his/her answer slightly more carefully some of the material which was included in part (a) might have been better in part (b), but no 'cross- credit' can be given.

The answer is rather formulaic. It starts with 'people would disagree because....' and gives further statistical material, but this is not really used as evidence. The second paragraph again has potential in referring to ways in which people are distanced from religion through science or through ignorance, but this is not used well to develop an argument.

The counter argument is presented in the formulaic way 'people would agree because...'. This does not always suggest a good process of reasoning. The 'throwaway comment 'millions and billions of people' could be a slip of the pen, and was certainly not penalised. The reference to the Jedi Knights however, suggests a lack of understanding of this point (arising from a campaign at the time of the 2001 census).

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 adequately explained.'

The Level 4 descriptor 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.'

Although this answer did give more than one point of view, it lacked clear focus, and there was little real reasoning. For this reason it was awarded a L4 mark of 8.

Level 4 (8 marks)