

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies Unit H (RSS08) *Religion and Contemporary Society* June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

• Candidate C



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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 Millenananism IS the $\Omega(\Omega)$ sano 110 111 inavene nan nninn $\infty 10000$



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AQA

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'.

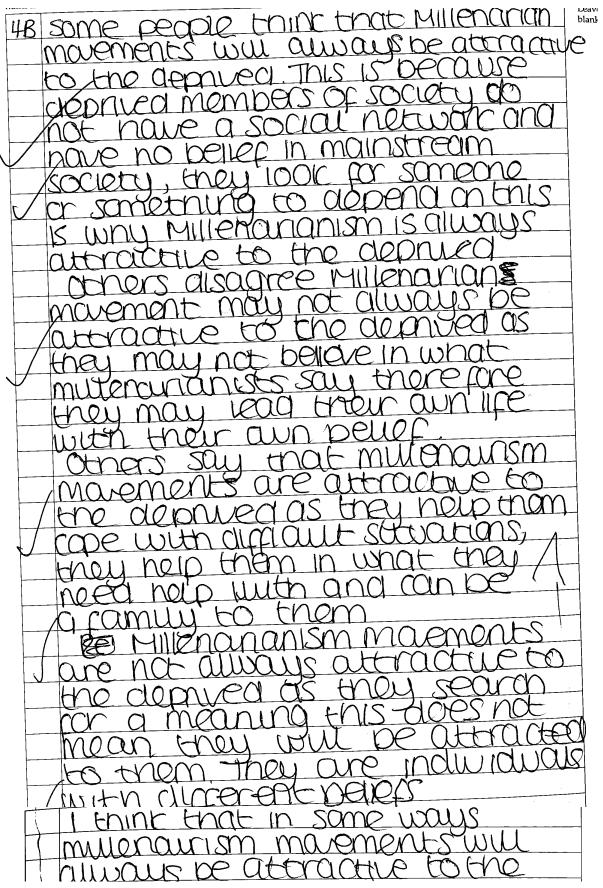
Level 6 (27 marks)

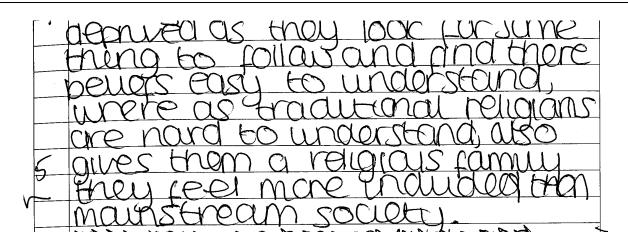
(b) 'Millenarian movements will always be attractive to the deprived.' Assess this claim.

(15 marks) AO2

AQA

Candidate Response





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)

