

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Candidate Exemplar Work

Unit A: *Religion and Ethics 1*

Candidate's Response to *Abortion*

(Christian perspective)



CANDIDATE EXEMPLAR WORK

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT A RELIGION AND ETHICS 1

RSS01

EXAMPLE OF CANDIDATE'S RESPONSE

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is **RSS01**.
- Answer **two** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- In each question, part (a) tests your knowledge and understanding, while part (b) tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.
- You will be marked on your ability to use English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

RSS01: Religion and Ethics 1 – *Abortion*

- 4 (b) ***Assess the view that it is the definition of the start of human life which lies at the heart of the rights and wrongs of abortion.***

(15 marks) AO2

There are many different view of when life begins. The beginning of life may be from the moment of conception this is what the Roman Catholics teach, or from the embryo stage or the moment of birth, although not many people agree that this is right. If the person's life begins at the moment of conception then abortion is murder According to the Bible murder is wrong so this makes abortion wrong as well.

Other people believe that a person's life starts later. For example some argue that it does not start until the baby is capable of living on its own outside the mother's body. Those who believe this will then argue that abortion may be allowed before the baby reaches that point and that it is not murder because there is no person being killed.

Others say that God puts the soul into the baby at some point and that it is then that abortion is wrong. This also shows that the moment human life starts is what decides.

Commentary

The answer comes from a Christian perspective and the candidate is aware of different points of view about when human life starts. However, the candidate has lost sight of the question which was not about when human life began but about whether this issue was 'at the heart' of the debate.

As a result the argument is one sided. It explains the ideas quite clearly but offers nothing to support the point of view that this is not the central issue. It may be that there was not enough time for the answer to be finished.

Level 4 (9 marks)