



Examiners' Report June 2013

GCE Religious Studies 6RS04 1B





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Introduction

1. It was fundamentally important to examine the passage itself. All the level descriptors in the indicative mark scheme for AO1 begin with reference to the passage. There are a variety of ways this may be done. Some candidates presented a detailed exposition of the passage. This has much to commend it, including those who used this technique to explore the context of the wider source. One possible drawback was that this could become a simple comprehension exercise. This can be overcome by placing the passage in a context and showing an understanding of a detailed analysis of the more important terms and ideas. Another popular method was to present an overview of the whole source from which the passage was derived in order to examine the key points from within the passage. This method was useful in enabling candidates to show their understanding of the ethos of the passage. However, a potential weakness was that such an overview may be completed without sufficient focus on the passage itself.

- 2. Similarly, it was essential to answer the full demands of the AO2 part of the question:
- do you agree with the idea(s) expressed
- justify your point of view
- discuss its implications for understanding religion
- discuss its implications for understanding human experience.

It was important that these demands were addressed in an explicit manner rather than implicitly.

3. This unit is the synoptic part of the GCE RS course. In that respect candidates are expected to link their answers to related parts of their studies. Sometimes this may be achieved by relating work to one or more of the other sources in the anthology and also by drawing on material from any of the other three units. This enabled some candidates to compare and contrast a variety of possible responses.

Question 1

AO1 features of good quality

Candidates:

- presented well-informed answers focused on the passage. Those candidates who referred to the source as a whole or to related ideas managed their answers in such a way as to demonstrate their understanding of the passage. There was effective use of scholarship.
- structured their answers in a coherent manner, with evidence of analytical thought across the answer.
- were clear about the synoptic features of this unit relating their answers to other sources and related material in other units.

AO2 features of good quality

Candidates:

- displayed effective use of argument
- referred to scholarly opinion
- displayed a thoughtful evaluation of alternative viewswere explicit in their material on implications for understanding of religion and human experience
- constructed well-justified arguments leading to a coherent conclusion.

A01 features that require improvement

Candidates:

- tended to present a basic examination of some ideas but the answers were not wellfocused on the passage. Some treated the passage like a simple comprehension exercise.
- sometimes had a problem with unsatisfactory allocation of time, related to the two parts of the question. For example, some candidates spent too much time on part (b) in spite of the mark allocation. There were a few candidates who combined (a) and (b) but with those who did there was a tendency to have insufficient material given the range of demands in AO2.
- presented a generic account of the whole source from the anthology or a general account of related teachings at the expense of a focus on the selected passage.

AO2 features that require improvement

Candidates:

- presented basic points of view with limited use of argument.
- displayed limited explicit focus on implications.

Observations from scripts:

There were some excellent scripts. The better quality scripts were good on analysis of key themes (e.g. virtue ethics) with effective links to the Schneewind's article and to his major ideas. Candidates drew on the 3-fold structure about marked recent developments in moral philosophy and used this to good effect. A number of scripts were scholarly, including reference to Aristotle, Kant, MacIntyre, Mill and Williams. Successful candidates related their answers to pertinent emphases in Jamieson and La Follette. The best answers were precise and used technical language proficiently. Synoptic approaches included reference to ethical theories and ideas in other units, especially 6RS03.

In some cases candidates focussed on the whole Schneewind article to the detriment of the selected passage. Some candidates referred to other ethical theories but did not relate them to the selected passage. The lower levels contained little reference to the article and used basic accounts of a few ethical theories.

Good AO2 answers were rooted in academic debates with extensive use of scholarship. Some considered reasons and evidence to support their own stance followed by criticisms against their own initial position. In AO2 candidates drew on a wide range of relevant material such as cultural relativism and relevant implications derived from sociology and psychology. Candidates made effective use of topics such as medical ethics, war and peace, environment, animal rights and gender issues.

Less successful candidates relied on knowledge from AO1 but were unable to develop this into a cohesive argument. Material on implications was minimal and these failed to arrive at a justified conclusion.

The first and second examples below illustrate good practice and the third represents a problem with unequal quality across the two parts of an answer.

la. Schneewind opens in this passage gens with the suggestion that there are numerous issues concerning modern mora philosophy, instead of the highly prevalent topic of divine command morelity or that of the autonomy of the self- governing individual. Schneewind reveals that philosophy is dealing with issues that offect the community and the country as a whole; "social and political problems". Therefore "is concerned with debates which affect people on an even day basis such as that of business hence we can link this to the work of Jamieson when he argues that moral theanising is something that people do in even day life and is found on "the highways and by ways, and this is perhaps due to the social and politices problems Schneewind reveals. sonneewind states that modern mod philosophy is now concerned with social and pawficer issues, however,

It could be soid that Jerenny Bentham, founder of the 18th century utilitarization death with the social and political aspears of his time. Someewind uses Bentham in his historical chronology to oppose the work of kent, and to highlight that philosophy needed to be accessed to an groups of people. This is also exhibited with Reid's common sense morsulty Bentham was a social reporter and thus, he clearly dealt with social and political repairs issues, which, as sonneewind states, modern philosophy also deals with. spherind reveals in the passage that there has been a return to virtue ethics posed by ANSTOTIE (389-322 BCE) IN SOMPLINING'S introduction he states that morelity was centred around the highest good in the Ancient world and the matter of virtue, for In virtue etnics the highest good would be to reach the good

of evaluation (flourishipp, total happiness) Therefore schneewind neverals that philosophy has perhaps come full circle and humans are now interested in the development of unives to better themselves as peop parrated with This view draws the work of Junieson and his use of the scholar Anscombe. Anscombe rejects the law ception of ethics stating CON moderity has moved away from belief in God the and is becoming increasingly secular. This stand point is highlighted in schneewind's argument with Mantaigne who argued the people could not live up to christian standards, and thus, christianity could not provide practice guidance. This is further expanded upon when schnewind illustrates that Pierre Bayle stated that a group of atticuts "could form a perfectivy decent

society". Thus, the Vision that modify was imposed upon us by God began to fade, resulting in the idea that morality is derivative. from human nature itself. In the passage this idea is taken up as virtue etnics works to develop characteristics such as . ber honesty and courage in order to aid a person when contemplating mad decisions. Therefore these Untuous characteristics could perhaps, help to solve the social and political issues deminating philosophy. in the passage schnewind illustrates how scholars such as MacIntyre and williems bevere the community to hold importance in regards to moduly. This is supported by Sonneewind's use of the philosopher previously in the cirgument to illustrate the primacy of the community. Meger argued that the more

personelity was formed by the: community, and thus, the morel autonomy of individuals is affected by those around them. Hegelstated that the community has an impetus of its own", thus placing importance upon society as a whole This is reflected in Schnewind's passage as the social and polítical issues he describes, sugh as environmental etnics, affects the whole community and not just the autonomy of the induiduzi. The "abstract principles" which sonnewind repers to in the passage in repards to virtue ethics, could be that of theories governed by rules such as Kantism Schneewing in his arguments uses kants to highlight the move towards march autonomy. and that more way was an expression of human nature Kant believed one should impose

duties which a person is morally oblighto perform, a person is a Taw-making member" in the Kongdom of Enols. Although, as Schneewind reveals, mehilipsgory developed on from this concept, in his concluding remarks in the ... section 'New Directions' Schneewind. highlights how the philosopher Rawls, is trying to revitalise Kentism and through compining it with attributes of Hegel's views. in the passage Schnelwind's third area of concernis that the autonomous agents in the community need to work together in order to come up with effective solutions to the problems The concern is no longer with the autonomy of the individual but with public morality, affecting the vast majority of people. These issues such as the environment and nucleor war to goot just affect the

individual but this moment, but affect the community and the future of the world, and thus, as Schneewind reveals in his ancualing remark that people in many different professions are attempting to solve these issues. It is no (cnger the acmain of philosophers 16. The idea sonnerwind reveals that modern mend philosophy is concerned with social and political issues, is an extremely plausible and relevent suggestion as these issues affect the entire community. We, as humans, are no longer concerned with whether morality was derived from God or whether we alone know what is more, rather we are interested in car problems which arready affect our way of

wing. The implication of this

is that as these issues affect

the voist majority of people, the community will bind together to effectively come up with new solutions. schneewind's argument that society is placing USS value an rewgran is a highly plausible. and convincing organient Seculo dominates society morelity -s mystrated with the and this use of democratic governments The implications for religion regera means in this tha religious authority, experienced in the 14th entury, does not hold power any longer. HE Religion has to develop with modernisetty in order for it to keep up with modern moral philosophy. However, a solution is seen with pernaps SIEW- Robinson and Fletcher's situation ethics which bases marzi afecista On agapt love But problems also derive from this as it is limited practicely

as how to we decide what is the most bring thing to do? Thus, the rate of secularisation as Ansompe reveals in Jamisson's argument is that modern thinking banishes God. However, this claum is highly controversion and not as convincing as some as it is clear that a lot of people still uphold marchity from aivine foundationshift beinefs. Therefore authorigh Someening reveals there is a move away from this, man yapolite people theists still believe in the marchity, and the rate of Secularisation will never change this. However, 1 still believe that schneewind's argument is convincing as there has been a decrease in the number of people attending SHA Church Hourver, authough schneewind's arguments is highly reasonable, it could be argued that although we are a

secular society, focusing on social and political problems, much of the political law is actually influenced by raugion for instance; our law that murder is illeged was influenced by the decalogue with the command "they shout not will"; Therefore maring will perhaps; wears play a part in ALLA monutery as it has historical influence. Philosophers such as Agunas, although promoted the existence of God, aut also highlighteel that are should four the government and there shout their cuthonty sonnewind's argument that wes are no langer ruled by divine command implies that we are fully autononous. However, this means we cannot have an infamille leader, and thus, no one can tell anyone how to behave

The implications of this is that society could be came antinomian, and this is unclesicable, I believe, for both theists and atheists/ agrostics. Sanneewind in the passage highlights a return to Vitue ethics of an Anstotle. I believe this is the most plausible and effective philosophical energy as it is a cretaic and focusing an true individual. It further allows for both secular and religious morality, which in our modern society's crucial as there are vanying beliefs be and faiths: The implications of using virtue ethics highlight that even one is cupie to develop and active achieve afterd characteristics such as that deempethy. This arous links with Lafollette's work in which he arguer intimate relationships allow a person-

to deverce emparting and thus, apply this to impartice Monality; The peturn to virtue ethics is therefore highly efficient upitson qui also holds involtable for personal relationships as peepe will be able to interact with che another an the same level, and also and eachother in developing the SEUS OF VITUR

schneewind's remark in this possage that me modern march philosophy affects evenyone's highly plansible, along with the suggestion that it is not just conarning the profession of philosophers. This around white with Jamieron and his argument that that anyone can theorise and it occurs evenday. The issue of public merality is highly prevalent and in this regard 1 campletely signed with

schoering, assumptions



This is an example of a script gaining full marks. The candidate paid scrupulous attention to the full question and addressed the range of demands in a clear, explicit manner. The candidate kept quite close to the text in part (a) and elaborated on key points when required. Throughout there was good use of a variety of scholars.

In AO2 the candidate thought through the various points of view and drew out a good range of implications.

Par Schallswind KERNER BRIDERKENERE HADAGHER MARAS BOT BASSA ANA 1/200 1 1 ace to decker & have and a com 1De SA Scholac

The second "concurr" is the ressurection of Virtue Ethires, an ancient theory derting back to the Stoires and Aristotle Elizabeth Ascombe first revived the Margy Aristotelian

ethics in 1938 she believed it had the potential to work as all the other ethers which had principle' failed to function for example she crétisized kant for his deotological approach. She considered on ethics that consisted of principles without a diverse law giver to be illogical. By outlining the weaknesses with each ethican theory she and concluded that Virtue ethics was the most successful. Phillapa Foot later on agree'd with Ansombe in 1978 whe she went further to outline what was good about it. Alasdair MacIntyre and Bernand williams were the most recept moder moral philosophers to comment on the theory and mey concluded like Ancombe that it was sucessful because of its independence from principles. The final" concern" renneewind out lines is the problem of what to do with people when the perfect theory is created, or how should they be "co-ordinated" He uses the example of a rural retreat such at a lake, it everyone was to go to the retreat it would Lose its value, so if everyone was moral it to would pose problems. He likens this to other

problems we are experiencing in the twenty first century wire "population controland privention of necleur war." A recent examp ile is North Korea claining it has necleur weaponry, although it is highly probable it wasn't going to be used wer if they did possiess such advanced weapons, if they did divide to use them on a moralistic level justifying such actions would be near impossible. These problems caused much conversy in recent years among not only morae philosophirs but also among "ma economists and mathematics "

Schneewind begins his article werk how we went from being in ancient western thought which consisted of superstition and cool to free autonomous beings who can decide how to be moral for themselves. It is this transformation from a secular to autonomous that schneewind out lines in this argument in the passage also as it displays how the change in prospectives of morality has resulted in this modern moral dicussionin ancient western noral accussionin ancient western moral accussionthey also focused on the artiosophy they also focused on the antenns, passformed in source in prospectives, passformed and in the source of an ancient western and a secular to secular to the secular to a secular to a secular to secular to the secular to the secular to a secular to a secular to the se

fourth century BCE also wrote about politics and how they could be improved. He also did work on ethics in his Most famous back "NIComachean' ethers which resulted Vintue Ethics The involvement of the onura in medieval church within the government also supports this premise as thiestic ethics determined the law and therefore the ethicality of such laws must have been discussed on a political level. TÄKDUU YHT SKUULOT DALANUSALL BADAKKOURPHISAN KOOR server and som and and and the source of the added and the source of the Manenaicheermenterpartier Schneuvens is highlighting the contraversites use find within soviety today winen he is referring to his prot' concern'. Scholens such as montain re, Gastins, The first take of shaftsburry Hobbes and to cre wouldn't have had to have faced These concerns didn't begin to arise until the enlighterment period and even then they went the focus point of the moral philosophers The enlightenment period was more -concerned with deontological thinkers such as Kant and the foursed on principles and how to be moral. Hume another scholar of the enjoyterment period also

focused on how to be moral through his emotivist approach to ethics. He believed how we felt was noval to ad avos moral because we feel it. Kart and perseave belived the senses were fallable and were "open to manipulation" our minds and ability to "rationalise as rational human belogs" is what enables up to be moral.

()B) I personally agree with schnewind, the three concerns of: "actual social and political problems" " the return of thistotelian ethics and the problem of what to do its accurate with weryone once they are moral are correct issues that modern moral scholars as well as a econolicists and mathematitions ever aussicussing.

Scrnewind states that the "Mights of annals" is a so cial problem, this is correct as recently Peter singer created "preference utilitariabism" where by re deemed animals just as valuable as us and west turner to state that we oursewes are animals. He defined an ethical basis he daimed we should consider the preferences of animals with many animal protection charters ect-

in place politically the views on the rights of animals readed to be adapted and hence forth we have a the RSPCA. He is correct-that "rights of animals" is a polifical problem of today to as we have laws in place to prevent the ill treatment of animals. Here The implacations of this for religion is regative as animals are receiving the same theatment as humansas they have rights, Christian Leachings prohibit the idea of animals having puts and exihibit that we are supereor to them. Plato was also coreful to distinguish between human and animat sours and allassees the wider implacations of this for humans as an experience is good as morally in we are empathetic beer of and menyore should consider other living things that we pavent in the past that lead to immoralit ły.

The seturn of Anestotelian Unics is support ed by four modern moral philosophers: Elizabeth Ansonable, Philippa Foot, Bernard Williams and Massdair Machtyre Ansombe outlined the negative aspects of Kart, Utilitarianismi and Situation Ethics but maintained in support of Ventue Ethics and considered it The feest theory later on Foot went further

by outlining what was good about the theory Mastair Macintyre and Bernand William went the most secent moral philosophersto ressared the theory and they believed it was the idea of "Eudaimonia" or "focus on "human flourishing" was why it 15 suces-Ful as well as the absence of principles in the peopy when there is no diverse lain giver to prohibit immonauity. The idea of non them developing a "communitation view" is not entirely corned as the theory does spearing specify on individual "flouten Mish ment" and not on the flourishment of others like with atilitarianism where it is "the greatest happiness for the greatest number " Although Aristotle did ray " we leave virtuous behavjour from vertuous people" or the "ideal types which nould require a community with people With regards to the third concern of "effect we action being taken" and now to "co-ordina te people after Schnewind I also correct many arti-theorists would agree with him such as Susan Wolf who stated that it we were all "moral Saints" life would be boring, not only that but we would all be alike and

the concept of individuality would be lost. William Blake the Self procleaimed profit stated " without contraries there would be no progress" This the is something schnewing reglects to mention that without bud mere would be no good, we reed the contrast to define mem.

The alpea overall implacations for & religion in the passage from Schnewind I's article 'modern moral philosophy "' is that religion is no longer needed when deciding how to be moral, without religion all ethi cel theories face the problem of 'unit' to be moval if there is no divine law giver to dictate unat 15 right and wrong and to purch us for being immoral which is supported by the modern mor al philosopher Bernard Williams The Bigger under implacations for human experience is that sevolving and we need to find and a way to be moral and why to be moral Morality consist more in question form for premains and That is how we experience novals through asting it something is moral not through the use of principles like cant. Donathan Dancy would support this as he enlated

Particularist ethics "the ethics with principles " Where by he said we know to do but we don't creat principles et condusively overall th ey In are evolving ancient tom SU. wester morral thought



This is an example of a script gaining full marks. Candidates at this level of ability have many commendable features. There are two that are note-worthy for this current task. First, throughout the essay the candidate makes exemplary use of scholarship. Secondly, the candidate structures the answer very well indeed, and this can be seen especially in part (b).

2a) plan: moral philosophy - morality) - Social + power can proteins ✓ racism, Politics, unequality · aporoion, enuronmental etc.... 4 religion + morculty teaching / conclicting thought 2 - Anisiotie - Virave emics. Centre become - petter person proces and () In this passage by Schneemind, it Concerns recent developments in moal philosophy. This is based on morally and so councies on one acts of someone mar is higher or wrong rance mon one character of that person there he coulouses on the social and polloical problems in moder day that have deverged in moder model philosophy, mis forms one of one mree developments, it acresses questions concerning abordion, envormentar emiss, just war, meduicar preament, bussness practices, minor rights and one pasion of women and children. All of mese concerns are convouersial problems in the moder socially this con incurcle examples of innoral acts such as

racism, sexism. Racism particulary was a Social issue that segregated the direrenc races in the 19-20m century. It were againse moral rules to wear equar euryone impossionly or unless when a ord imparcially inless there was morally relevance reason to preas 0 anyone differency, as looked at into depen in la collette aroicie on re personal relationships and morality. unequarray plays a huge part in enical issues not only Racism which was greatly reduced and aboushed sidely by Maron woner king won me helps of marcoun y. It also deals when one issues such as womens rights, which is a modern day issue still happening prevalent today in may countres where women are given less pay once a more tor one some job or oney are quien a less of a choice due to pregnarcy and meuricu issues. pase natal care. Monueuer since one humon womens right's campaign it has tradicated even more serism than what is apparent today Anomer excremely convoluesial

15 sue scheepund lists is aboroin, this not only contricts religion and morally but one emical issues as men Abortion according to the campuic church 15 (morally wrong) it is classed as murder Abortion housever can create contraction opposing problems for example 11 il was a case of rape, men me mother may not want to bring up a child from this criminal and trailmatic act. Momente from a chrispon point of men u would be thought more almough the ace was wrong, the unborn Letus is not evil, it has not sinned mrough its aim faurt. As a kinnon life it is sacredas Gods creation and so should not be punished However as I premary mentioned this Issue une conjucit in emical merie for example Unitarianism is joured on the greatest good to me greatest number perhaps me women has been raped has a husband and it is allo his decision to about the baby as aleu as the womens therefore in This case up manaism wand accept mis as it found on the most happeness that

can be created, despite only faraving the majority as apposed to the minority in subations. There are ma there as Proce mont other occassions where arreas modern day inpications the as However the camolic church do allow artain arcumitnes alhere is me child to momen is at risk for example she is during of concer and need chemomerapy, in ade to the chemomrapy to work the child must be aborted, with this a certain life span, issues of abortion can be rarely allowed in cano iisem canolicism. Renjaron anso plays a part on one ocassions mentioned by schneening such as medical reatment in me the camelic church it is conduced to allow blood transfusions as it is going against goas will to the person and is mixing up me generates and Drood mal is soured to mar one being. It is as on an narva way or survival. Momen in concilco berneen religion and moraning, in some scrapions such as a

mothers son in crutical conduction needing a tronsplane from the mothe on order to survice me mother being religious and so needs to decide to go against her roum a morally? In This case I believe most nothers Would seek to help their child in my way possible, as unned to la ponettes aroice primo faire duries enable w to have song bonow berneen mother and child ad so on a strong rectanoship line this, the Mome would generally do what is marally good as so help her child. the first point Schnee wind believes not mese issues are important in moral philosophy or ethics. The second point is highlighting the return to Phistories Willing of morally as a central mater of being a Urrous peso, rame no abstrace Principles. Schneemind begins to imply that Aristones emic & Virtue theory is hey in understanding moraling ord how to be moal, he also mention

Alasdair Mc income ad Bernard willions in their ways or attempting to modernise aristones belless Virtue emics was is an emic established by pristotle, it's foundations are in Objecto geer mymorogy or is a subjective enic based an not on the auto of humans line deantalogy and Narun Miral las but if fouries on 0 person usery and becoming a better person. By becoming a peter person it thought that you need \mathcal{O} 15 being good practice on une on arow praincising on a taget, as la jouette highright in his article that to become moral your you need to practice being moral and De only way you can do onis is by engaging in inomate personal reconstrups a you lean mora chora clensno of unal males you moral. Anitate had a table la dere charamenta u has a dence of deficiency and a dence of expression alian a Mea in the middle which 1ay

The balaced attracte need to be Moraly good. (Such as Cowardy brane - brash He berened to be good you needed to goin There attributes and so Manye and When exponded on musiones Urave neary to mare it more carespoary to once uno Moden Usues. Schneewind apreciate here that in Society y euryne aers like onis men overe would be very per issues, in a broken down sowery today loosing to moral valles, currence entries Aristotla enic is needed. In Concusion The mira objection Loored at is the rapid grown of mean propren pored to cooduct the beharcon or induviduals 11 on a chin is tale. For example onis con relate to per unuariaistic approahes by doing the greatest good / for The majority excuding the minoray It poses issues in society, for example modern day usues of

Nuclear war, population Control and presering the environment. All here ispured moun philosophes to loom back at the basic emic procepts Unich on help Shape Today' society ca nese usues presenter. Nuclear War kining theresards of who can people to protect a carry curias, a population controp Juch as The child pricy in china, do this really help a is it gavening people to not portion be pree and have as many children they want? Ouvan Sinnee wind Mighlights there main issues presented naseeks to find rear to men. 1b) To agree and the idees needs to look expressed one the negaries and porthing ar to the argument Fistry schneening argument has a huge effect on rengio du la as camali a binaui sm chirch, ision anot ere mat an have their own teamings and beliefs. These beliefs for example The all where Carronson cn 24

moe prominent, is has major consilioners Laus moden day ng 1 deas exomple was fare to hono sepucing are an exa 15sues mar Spark ωp per day issues. Mordon Hon to day 15 in awa Jam neugion perhaps War nece depate) The warn Jesus' teaching for Love of your neighbour, or one gorden rue 15 a cim Idea mai Probeelded 15 Most armes Juch d. neres cn ond Society Such as and hordes Iala Ja Muned bι gond S Louie add, on Yoeva ha and S hiner TISO ~ Marty er La or CN techings Messeres Juch as 20 ma ad ritan That loured a estublish 10 neped Mac N In Moder world Maas 16Usm Usuli

Results Plus Examiner Comments

This is an example of an unequal treatment of part (a) and (b). Part (a) is quite full and clarifies key features in the passage. Part (b) is comparatively short and is a superficial look at a few pertinent ideas.

Part (a) 25 marks

Part (b) 7 marks

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Develop an interest in a rigorous study of religion and relate it to the wider word. To succeed in this paper candidates must show evidence of a thorough study of the selected passage and fulfil the demands of A02.
- Treat the subject as an academic discipline. This paper requires specialist study, drawing on knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Adopt an enquiring and critical approach in order to reflect on all previous units studied.
- Develop own values and views in the light of learning. AO2 in particular enables candidates to engage in this creative process.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





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