

Examiners' Report  
June 2018

GCE Religious Studies 8RS0 4B

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# Introduction

This is the second year for the examination of Christianity as part of the new GCE AS Religious Studies specification (8RS0) and so it was reassuring to see, that in this second year of the new specification, most centres have strengthened the preparation of their candidates to meet the criteria of this specification.

Exam technique has markedly improved with very few candidates failing to attempt some of questions. Some candidates offer answers that go beyond the demands of the question and although negative marking is not applied (i.e. no marks are deducted) candidates are not able to get credit for it.

The examination is 1 hour long. There are 54 marks available across two sections. Section A consists of three extended, open-response questions with a total of 26 marks available and Section B has one two-part essay question with part (b) providing an opportunity for an extended response that enables candidates to offer sustained analysis and evaluation.

The content is focused on an in-depth study of Christianity in terms of 'Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity'.

It was encouraging to see that the majority of candidates attempted all the questions. Successful candidates were consistent throughout the paper in demonstrating sound knowledge and understanding such as:

**Q1** - good answers understood the idea of the four marks of the church as stated in the Creeds. Detailed accounts of at least one or more of the four marks apparent and combined with appropriate use of theological terminology. The material offered reflected good organisation.

**Q2** - most managed to show an understanding of music in the Liturgy with Augustine featuring often with the quote 'he who sings prays twice'. Good responses reflected knowledge of Gregorian chant, Taize, gospel choirs etc as well as some of the current songs and approaches to music in modern day worship such as 'Hillsong'.

**Q3** - many answers explored both elements of the question in terms of 'salvation', and 'justification'. These were contextualised appropriately within the reformation and the relevant scholars associated with them. Evaluation of their impact on the development of the reformation also featured in some of the responses that reached the top of the mark bands.

**Q4a** - generally well answered and many candidates were able to explore the bible as a way of ethical decision making using of the Decalogue; the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain as well as the concept of '*agape*' love with reference to Fletcher and Situation ethics. Some very good answers saw candidates engaging with propositional and non-propositional approaches of which some were cleverly worked.

**Q4b** - some of these were extremely well presented and demonstrated an understanding of the various ways of interpreting the bible as literal, conservative (bible contains the word of God) or metaphorical. Some good responses argued that Jesus himself was the incarnate word of God. Counterclaims such as the need to dymythologise (Bultmann) or understanding the role of various genres used eg poetry, eschatological, historical, prophetic etc were evidence of some excellent answers. The question of inerrancy was also tackled well by some candidates at this level.

Weaker candidates failed to develop their answers beyond mere description especially in the 'assess' questions and 4b 'analyse' question which invited evaluation. A few number of candidates

presented answers/arguments in bullet points rather than continuous prose. Continuous prose should be encouraged as it enables a reasoned argument to be presented. The following weaknesses were very evident at this level:

**Q1** - some candidates had no notion of the nature of the Church and just gave some ideas about it being the house of God or a place of prayer. Others were able to gain 2 or 3 marks by referring to one or two of the marks of the Church (unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity). Typically responses were brief and formless.

**Q2** - weaker candidates merely offered a brief description of a 'musical' approach to worship with the Pentecostal/Charismatic favoured by many rather than 'assess' or evaluate 'the role of music'.

**Q3** - a minority of candidates avoided this question altogether, and many who attempted it struggled with it and consequently gave poor/weak answers focused on only 'salvation' in general terms and not what emerged during the reformation. Some candidates did not understand the concept of 'justification' or the distinction between it and 'salvation'.

**Q4a** - weaker responses offered a very limited account of the Decalogue and/or a selected parable such as the Good Samaritan. Generally weak answers were ineffective and superficial.

**Q4b** - some failed to grasp the intent of the question and disappointingly petered out weakly after a page at most. Some argued that errors in the Bible or differences between the Old and New Testaments made it unlikely to be the word of God and left it at that.

## **Question 1**

### **Q1: Explore key concepts of Christian belief about the nature of the Church.**

Most candidates were able to identify the 'marks' of the church as unity (one), holy, catholic and apostolic. Good candidates were able to demonstrate that Christians worldwide confess these marks through liturgical use of the Nicene Creed and even some candidates indicated that it was part of the ecumenical understanding between various denominations. These four 'marks' provided an excellent framework for better candidates to consider traditional views of the nature of the church.

Weaker candidates, at best, merely mentioned them without unpacking or effectively 'explore' them further. Similarly, weaker candidates only gave a few lines about one of the 'marks'.

1 Explore key concepts of Christian belief about the nature of the Church.

The key ideas about the church are unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity.

unity is the idea that the church is 'one' unit or body. While this idea is challenged by the different denominations, Cyprian argued that the church resembled a tree with many branches (denominations) but one trunk. Some also felt that those outside the Roman Catholic should not be included in the 'unit' or thought of as Christians, however, Protestants have argued that their key beliefs are the same so they are part of the church.

Holiness applies to the 'purity' of the church, and while some feel that this means any lapse into sin should result in excommunication, Augustine suggested it was God who made the church holy, not people and saints and sinners should both be included. Apostolicity is the idea that the church should come from the apostles and many interpret this in that <sup>the church's</sup> teachings today should remain true to the apostles' teachings. Catholicity is the idea of a 'universal' church, in that everyone should be accepted.

(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)



The candidate's opening sentence goes straight to the point by concisely identifying the four key ideas that are considered as the marks of the Church. The following discussion is full and reflects excellent recall of relevant knowledge and understanding. The material is given some contextual background with denominational references and Cyprian of Carthage's example of a tree as an analogy of the Church. Overall, the answer deservedly achieved full marks.

## 1 Explore key concepts of Christian belief about the nature of the Church.

There is four marks that demonstrates the nature of the church. There is unity which means how the church bring togetherness however Cyprian of Carthage states that oneness is more important compared to unity, whereas Luther agrees with this concept. The other mark is catholicity (universal) where the church can be geographically applied everywhere, Cyprian of Carthage agrees with this but however states that schisms proves a problem to this and is the work of the devil, whereas Luther agrees that everyone universally can receive salvation. The third mark is holiness and because Jesus is Holy the nature of the church is also Holy. Cyprian and Luther both agree with this mark as holiness is part of the nature due to God's presence. Lastly the final mark is apostolicity which includes Bishops and Apostles within the church. Cyprian of Carthage believes in apostolic succession and that Apostles are significant, whereas Luther states that the only thing of Authority is the Bible.

(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)





This candidate does what the questions asks by identifying and also 'explores' the key ideas of Christian belief about the nature of the Church. The discussion makes use of both Cyprian of Carthage and Luther as reference points for the various marks of the Church. The candidate offers clear understanding of the terms as well as their application. This answer comfortably reaches the top mark for this question.



Candidate's need to be fully aware that this is an AO1 question that gains marks for knowledge and understanding and so they need to be careful and not drift into unnecessary AO2 material by evaluating or assessing.

## Question 2

### Q2: Assess the role of music in Christian worship.

This question was generally well answered by most candidates with few weak answers overall.

Many candidates demonstrated that the main role of music is to serve the purpose of the worship of God. Some argued that in the context of the church, music is a means to an end and is a valuable tool and a useful resource to enable people to worship God. Good candidates considered various aspects concerning the role of music. Many argued that music is a powerful means of communication and expression and helps Christians focus on God. Some noted that when the church gathers for worship Christians engage with God through singing, clapping, bowing, lifting hands, and other actions, often led by music. Some made claims that melody and harmony bring Christians together in a unique way, for example, the 'songs/hymns' of a particular church gives those believers a common bond of music that has meaning and a shared history. Some good responses identified that one role of music is to help express emotion and that it is a two-way exchange of feelings; Christians can experience the emotions of God to humanity and *vice versa*. Many indicated how music inspires, unites and encourages Christians on both an individual or corporate basis. Some candidates were able to discuss the contrast between the role of music in liturgical and non-liturgical settings.

## 2 Assess the role of music in Christian worship.

and uplifting

In many Protestant churches, there is a lot of joyful singing that occurs, mostly in the form of choirs. This can be an excellent way of worship as it ensures that people enjoy themselves while they sing, which in turn ensures makes it more likely that they will enjoy worshipping God - this means that they are also more likely to take part in worship. However, a common issue is that many people feel as if most of ~~people~~ the joy that people feel is towards the singing, and not God himself. However, as the songs that they sing are about praising God, this issue is not a significant ~~one~~ because they do it will show their devotion to God.

Chanting is very common in many churches too as a form of ~~active~~ worship. This is seen as an excellent way of worship because it ensures that everyone is in unison which can bring people together, and bring people closer to God as it increases their enthusiasm when people chant in unison. ~~That~~ However, it has been argued that chanting is not an effective form of worship as those who partake in it may just do so because everyone else is doing it, and not because they feel the desire to worship God. This is seen to reduce the value of music in worship as it is ~~not seen as an effective way~~ ~~of~~ ~~not~~ everyone has the same enthusiasm for worshipping God.

Lately, there are many modern Christian songs that are used for worship (e.g. 'Lighthouse') - this can be excellent for involving the younger people in church so that they are more likely to worship and praise God which they do through music. However, many have criticised this and argued that it is turning worship into a ~~'styling contest'~~ whereby only the something that can become very easily competitive. Moreover, it can exclude the older members of the church, which disrupts the unity of worship.



This candidate contrasts the musical approaches to the role of music in Christian worship between the 'pentecostal' with 'chanting' styles. This is a valid way to respond to the question as long as the element of 'assess' is present which it clearly is here. The final paragraph takes a more general approach and discusses 'modern Christian songs' and again 'assess' is evident. Throughout the candidate not only describes but also gives some balanced assessment and evaluation by highlighting positive aspects of the role of music but also drawing attention to some problems that might arise such as for the Pentecostals the '...joy that people feel is towards the singing, and not God himself' or with modern church songs they can '...exclude the older members of the church, which disrupts the unity of worship'. Overall a sound response that reaches the top of Level 3 (9 marks).

## 2 Assess the role of music in Christian worship.

Music is very important to Christian worship because it is the way in which Christians express themselves and communicate to God in a direct way.

Through choirs <sup>and</sup> congregations so people come and sing as one voice and praise the Lord, they can be expressing thanksgiving to him which ~~is~~ <sup>could</sup> be very celebratory, happy, loud music such as Christian Rock or Pentecostal or it can be slow and meaningful to express certain feelings of helplessness through hymns.

Music is very important to churches because they are calling unto the Lord, in an attempt that he will hear them, it is also more interactive than perhaps speech or just spoken words. Music draws God's attention towards the human beings. The music is also seen as a way to showcase the talents that God has blessed humans with, so this is their way of doing ~~the~~ <sup>his good</sup> work here on earth for him. Although music is not the most important part of worship because objectively, adoration, prayer and even silent expression can be seen as more meaningful and one cannot just sing the whole time and expect God to hear their call, they should do a combination of things in order for worship to be effective.

Music is very meaningful in Christian worship

because it brings the people closer together with each other through the songs they sing or instruments that they play.

It has been noted by many Christians that they have a spiritual connection that they develop with the word through music as unlike any other because they feel completely close to him in ways even prayer might not do.

Lastly, music is important to Christian worship because even the angels in the highest of heavens sitting at the right hand of God 'And they sing around him the psalm 'And here was the Spirit, each with six wings, they sang 'Holy, Holy, Holy' Lord God Almighty!'



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Examiner Comments

This is a good answer to the question as set. The candidate explores a range of ideas connected with the role of music in Christian worship and proceeds to 'assess' these in a concise, thoughtful and informed manner. The referencing of the angels singing around the throne of God in heaven brings the response to a reflective conclusion. This candidate deservedly achieved full marks.



Candidates should ensure that they identify important elements within a question. For example, in this question, they needed to engage with the word 'role' and instead of taking a very narrow view by focusing only on a description of general material found in Christian worship and go beyond this to consider a variety of 'roles' including ways in which different Christian denominations use music and assess that accordingly.

## **Question 3**

**Q3: Assess the views of salvation and justification that emerged during the Reformation.**

Many candidates were able to identify one or both of Martin Luther and John Calvin as significant contributors to the development of the key concepts of 'salvation' and 'justification' that emerged during the Reformation. Most were able to recount Luther's argument that sinners cannot be righteous through their own good works, but that it is only faith in Christ that justifies the ungodly. The unrighteous are justified by faith alone. Better responses also engaged with Calvin's claim that God 'elects' a few to be saved (salvation) and discussed Calvin's theological understanding of predestination. Some good responses were able to evaluate the claim that if Christ died to save all humans then this brings into question whether human good works are necessary for salvation at all. There were a few candidates that were able to articulate the Luther/Calvin view that justification equals justification by faith in direct contrast to the Roman Catholic position that justification equals justification by faith plus good works, including the acceptance and embracing of the role of the sacraments.

Some of the weak responses gave some biblical material on Jesus Christ dying for sinners but did not link or connect this to the Reformation.



### 3 Assess the views of salvation and justification that emerged during the Reformation.

A key figure during the Reformation was Martin Luther. He had many beliefs about various aspects of the Church and criticised some which were later followed by improvements. With these beliefs, Luther spoke of the Church's "indulgences". This was a method used to supposedly cleanse a sinner of their acts in the gaining of contributions to the Church itself. Luther commented on this and thus stated that salvation from God is not brought about by making trades and deals but through having faith. Therefore Luther decided that "indulgences" should stop and Christianity should be re-focused on God and salvation through faith.

Furthermore, Martin Luther addressed the terms 'justification' and 'justification of grace'. This was partially linked to the idea of salvation in that only God could bring about the cleansing of sin and show mercy upon an individual. However, an opinion that emerged during the Reformation was that if good enough intentions were displayed ~~displayed~~ displayed for an action, then God would see the 'remorse' and show forgiveness. According to Luther this was a highly weak and flawed view which

failed to provide strong back up to common beliefs during the Reformation.

In general, the Reformation was like a re-construction of common perceptions about the nature of Jesus. Luther criticised most of these by outlining their collective weaknesses.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate immediately outlines the context from which the Lutheran understanding of 'salvation' and 'justification' emerged. The answer accurately identifies that salvation did not come about by 'making trades and deals' (referencing the issue of indulgences etc) but by 'faith'. The candidate then links 'justification' to the idea of salvation in terms of God showing mercy on an individual as opposed to actions or deeds being the means to achieving salvation. The candidate has a working knowledge of the demands of the question and so achieved Level 3 (7 marks).



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Examiner Tip

Candidates are encouraged to come to a conclusion that is logically drawn from the preceding discussion rather than abruptly with a generalised conclusion as in this response.

3 Assess the views of salvation and justification that emerged during the Reformation.

The Reformation was seen as a return to Biblical ~~tradition~~ <sup>church? Luther</sup> tradition with Vincent de Leris viewing innovations of tradition as diverging from ~~the~~ Catholicism. Salvation is the idea ~~that~~ concept of having sins being forgiven by God. Martin Luther agrees that through justification of faith alone, one can reach God's salvation. However, Calvin (protestant theologian) ~~of whom de may do~~ and his ideas may dispute this, seeing as one can apparently only seek God if God chooses ~~the~~ them. This gives conflicting views on salvation and justification.

The name of the church has been correlated to salvation by Mark the Cyprian of Carthage. He believes that you cannot receive salvation unless you are baptized by the church. This is the view that during the Reformation that actually goes against Luther's idea that faith alone is sufficient.

~~To conclude,~~ Another view is that Jesus Christ is needed for salvation. A lack of faith in Jesus as the messiah will be believed to inhibit salvation received as he is the redeemer of sins. He ~~has been~~ is believed to have been sacrificed for ~~us~~

manhood's sins because of this. Paul calls him  
'the passive lamb: ~~stare~~  
To conclude, there were differing views.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate starts with a strong opening paragraph that references two of the magisterial reformers in Luther and Calvin. Luther's salvation by 'justification of faith alone' is contrasted with Calvin's concept of election or 'God chooses' those who will receive salvation and justification. The candidate then contrasts, effectively, the reformation understanding of salvation with that espoused by Cyprian of Carthage. This is indicative of a candidate who is confident and handles the material well. Unfortunately the candidate finishes with a weak conclusion. The candidate attained a solid Level 3 (8 marks) outcome.

## **Question 4**

### **Q4(a) Explore key features of the use of the Bible as a basis for ethical teaching.**

This was generally answered well. Most, if not all, candidates were able to make use of the Ten Commandments in some way with better responses giving applied examples derived from them. Many were also able to take references to the Ten Commandments and use the New Testament summary of these by indicating the phrase Jesus offered 'love God and love your neighbour'. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew) or the Plain (Luke) figured prominently and again better candidates were able to not only recount some of the content but give some application. It was pleasing to see that some candidates demonstrated how material from the Bible dovetailed into ethical theory such as Situation Ethics, Natural Moral Law, Divine Command Theory and even Utilitarianism!

### **Q4(b) Analyse the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.**

This question received a range of relevant responses in that many candidates offered a variety of considerations about whether the 'Bible is the word of God'. These included that the Bible was inerrant, infallible, contained the word of God, a compendium of various authors' views, a historical record, a bunch of fairy tales, contained errors etc etc.

It was expected, and became evident, that answers demonstrated that the Bible arose in an assortment of historical and cultural contexts and contained diverse literary forms: prose, poetry, genealogies, laws, psalms, proverbs, history, philosophy, prophecy, letters, etc. Some candidates explored the claim that despite its many differences the Bible represents one story or meta-narrative. Some argued that Christians believed that the Bible is more than just a book written/compiled by humans but it is the inspired and authoritative word of God. Some were able to discuss that inspiration means that the Bible is not just a record of religious events or individual experiences of God, but the Bible is God's self-revelation (better candidates invoked Barth on this aspect) and one of the methods used by God to communicate with human beings. Equally many were able to contrast some of the forgoing claims with claims that the Bible is just a work of fiction or a collection of myths and fables. Some very good candidates discussed various hermeneutical approaches to understanding the Bible.

4 (a) Explore key features of the use of the Bible as a basis for ethical teaching.

(8)

Most Christians use the Bible as a basis for ethical teachings because they believe it is the direct word of God. Teachings of Jesus from the New Testament are widely used in ~~many~~ as the Christians' guidelines to living life. The main teachings used by Christians from the ~~new~~ New Testament are Jesus' greatest commandments: love ~~you~~ the Lord the God and love your neighbour as yourself. Situation ethics ~~based~~ is fundamentally based on the Jesus' teachings of love and ~~John~~ Fletcher/Fletcher believes humans should strive to do the most loving action.

The ~~to~~ Bible is also used to support the natural moral law theory as ~~the~~ the bible repeatedly emphasises the importance and value of life, ~~it~~ it states in the Bible that ~~God~~ 'all humans are created in the image of God' and that 'all men are equal in the eyes of God'. Aquinas uses the Bible to reinforce the ~~2~~ basic goods including the want to preserve life and sustain life because ~~life~~ life is given value from God. ~~The~~ The idea of all Christians being equal before God ~~is~~ is also used to reason why many Christians are ~~against~~ ~~all~~ ~~forms~~ of discrimination including racism.



A clearly confident and competent response to the question. The answer demonstrates that both Situation Ethics and Natural Moral Law are derived from biblical material. This response gained the full 8 marks.

internal testimony of texts → authentic view  
Protestant theology → inner witness of RUC  
church late reception  
divinely inspired  
written by apostles?  
PROVING PROOF  
the living community

(b) Analyse the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

John's Prologue captures the concept of the 'Word of God'. It is written that "in the beginning there was the Word, this Word was with God and the Word was God". This has been interpreted to mean that the 'Word' is the message of Christianity, but also the works of the Trinity and refers to revelation of God through this message. This message is perfect in Scripture (the Bible) as part of 'revealed theology' and prop is called 'propositional' revelation. Therefore, the Bible is believed to be 'divinely inspired' as it is the 'word of God'.  
(However, as the synoptic gospels of the Bible were written by humans (Jesus' disciples), this queries the authenticity of this "word of God" and truly how 'divinely inspired' it is. One reason is because the disciples such as Matthew, Mark and so on never actually met Jesus, who was believed to have been an embodiment of the 'Word of God' as part of the Trinity. The Nicene Creed states that the 'word became flesh' and 'incarnate from virgin Mary', therefore signifying that Jesus was this 'word'. The disciples relied on 'Sarcophagi' which were Jesus' sayings. Thus, as they have never met Jesus and are basing their



writing as secondary material or hearsay, this challenges ~~but~~ the Bible is the word of God.

Nonetheless, Protestant theologians would agree against this as they believe the Bible itself has <sup>an</sup> 'inner quality' within them that the Church or receivers of the Bible cannot create but are strongly related to divinity. ~~through this~~ This may suggest the Bible has <sup>an</sup> intrinsically the 'word of God', through ~~its~~ <sup>this</sup> unique quality. Furthermore, Scripture has been described as the 'internal testimony of the holy spirit'. ~~This holy~~ This is significant because the holy spirit forms a part of the Trinity also according to the analysis of John's prologue (John 1 - The prologue). Therefore, ~~this~~ as it is ~~the~~ His 'testimony', his message (i.e. word) is within the Bible.

Alternatively, a debate on how reliably the Bible is the 'word of God' lies through the ~~collection~~ selection and discrimination of material before creating the ~~old~~ New Testament. The Apocryphal gospels were omitted because they were not seen to fit the Apostolic tradition. ~~But~~ In this sense, the Bible seemingly presents what would appeal to the 'receiving community' of the ~~and~~ leave out potentially crucial information.

To conclude, even if scripture within the Bible  
's believed to be the 'Word of God'  
as it was not written by 'the Word' ~~Jesus~~ (Jesus)  
this undermines how authentically divine the  
Bible is in this sense. Therefore, this weakens the  
Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.



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Examiner Comments

This is a good response that gets to the heart of the matter and thus the demands of the question set. The use of the prologue as a launching pad to present a range of relevant material is creative and makes an impressive start to the response. The candidate is clearly confident in the material being presented with reference to such as 'revealed theology' and 'propositional revelation'. The discussion around the writers/sources of the Gospels reflects a considered and insightful approach to the question as does the material on the creation of the New Testament. A strong conclusion in which the candidate takes a position strengthens an already strong response. The candidate was awarded a mark towards the top of Level 4 (18 marks).



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Examiner Tip

To do well in this question candidates are encouraged to plan an argument ending with a conclusion which directly answers the question (as this answer successfully managed to do).

## SECTION B

909  
917  
925

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

4 (a) Explore key features of the use of the Bible as a basis for ethical teaching.

(8)

The ~~the~~ Ten Commandments are generally considered a foundation for ethical teaching. They can be summarised into two main points: ~~know~~ love of God, and love your neighbour. It is from these agreed agreeable principles that ~~the~~ the Ten Commandment can be seen to be derived from. Thus it follows that Christians ~~generally~~ try to live their lives by these main principles.

The Beatitudes describe a series of qualities & characteristics and say that people with these features will be rewarded in heaven. ~~The~~ Specific attributes are listed, and for each a reward is stated, suggesting to believers that they should possess ~~at~~ at least some of these attributes to demonstrate them through ~~their~~ their actions. As these qualities are generally quite desirable, it is a valuable reference for ethical teaching.

Jesus' Golden Rule is often regarded as the only ~~the~~ rule for which Christians today really need to follow. This rule is to "love others as I have loved you". From this rule alone, an entire ethical system can be deduced, for example, situation ethics which emphasises the importance of love in every circumstance.



This candidate offers a clearly defined response that identifies relevant features from the Bible as basis for ethical teaching. The initial use of the Ten Commandments as a 'function for ethical teaching' is good but, rather than regurgitate some of the Ten Commandments, the candidate effectively summarises these (as Jesus did in the New Testament) - 'love God, and love your neighbour'. The overview of the Beatitudes is succinct and concise. Finally, the offering of the 'Golden Rule' is handled well and makes a relevant link to Situation Ethics and the importance of 'love'. Overall a thoughtful effort that allowed the candidate to achieve the top mark of 8.



It is important that candidates are able to justify the material selected (rather than list various ethical features, as in this question's case) in order to be able to access the top mark band for a question like this.

(b) Analyse the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

(20)

The idea that the Bible is deemed to be the word of God and not the ~~experiences~~ experiences <sup>that the</sup> ~~experiences~~ God experienced by the different authors who wrote it is known as propositional revelation.

There are a number who consider the Bible to be Propositional Revelation and ~~not of so~~ tend to take the Word of God literally in the sense that the scripture would not have room for any interpretation since it is the ~~word~~ word of the Living. Such Fundamentalists hence ~~to argue~~ try to show that the ~~word of God is~~ Bible is truly the Word of God since they believe that the ~~Scriptures are~~ what is written in the Scriptures came directly from God's own words.

The Bible is also deemed to be a

propositional revelation as it aims to show how God wanted ~~the~~ human beings to live their lives in ways that would please him since we are all created in his own image. It is also ~~self~~ believed that the authors of the Scripture were ~~in~~ inspired by God to ~~write~~ write what he wanted ~~to~~ us as human beings to learn about his nature as an omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscience God.

However despite the Bible being deemed as the direct word of God, there are other Christians who believe that the Bible is non-propositional and thus making it open to human interpretation since the Bible might have experienced some errors unlike propositional revelation and so human beings are able to interpret it in ways that would create better understanding of God and his purpose for humanity.

This view can be seen to have some liberalist aspects as it is the testimonies of those who experienced the ~~the~~ Glory of God making it easy for human beings to be able to have an even more personal understanding of God's nature.

There are some strengths that come with viewing the Bible as the word of God. ~~The~~ First would be that human beings would be able to understand fully what God wanted from us especially as there is no room for interpretation since ~~human~~ the human mind can be said to have been altered ~~and~~ ~~due to~~ after the Fall making humans not to be able to fully understand God's intentions and purposes.

Secondly would be that people would feel more inclined to follow what the Bible says as it would be what the Divine commanded of Christians thus making the Bible

to be viewed or upheld with glory and respect which as it greatly reflects on God, the Lord.

However there are some weaknesses that come along with this view. One of ~~us~~ which would be that people or rather Christians may tend to take the scripture literally in the sense that they would follow some of the rules such as the penalty of death for sin. This however would be seen to go against the modern views that are there today whereby Christians have become more sympathetic to the death penalty and ~~so~~ ~~there~~ would rather not wage death ~~of~~ on human beings as God is ~~the~~ seen to be the Giver of life and he has the right to take it away.

In conclusion, the Bible can be seen to be the Word of God however,



can also be interpreted to have  
non-propositional revelation. ~~However~~ <sup>Nonetheless</sup> All depends on  
how Christians view the Bible itself.  
All in all in my opinion the Bible can  
be deemed to be both propositional  
and non-propositional revelation as  
they both are able to clearly bring  
out the Nature of God and his  
wishes for man-kind as seen  
from ~~from~~ the Book of Genesis to  
Revelation.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a good response that identifies elements of fundamentalism as well as conservative and liberal responses to the claim that the Bible is the Word of God. The response contains a range of relevant material about different interpretative approaches and identifies some strengths and weaknesses arising therefrom. The candidate offers a conclusion that reflects a reasoned opinion. This candidate was awarded a mark at the top end of Level 4 (20 marks).

## Paper Summary

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

- Ensure writing is legible as examiners cannot make assumptions about what candidates are writing if the writing is illegible and so it follows they can only mark what candidates have successfully communicated
- Ensure good time management is applied throughout the paper so that question 4b does not suffer from being 'rushed'
- Try to avoid making assertions or assumptions without offering supporting reasoning and/or examples
- Candidates need to read the questions carefully and focus on the precise issues and trigger words in the questions
- For question 4b some candidates would benefit from planning their response before starting the answer

## 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>

