



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies (4051/4052)
Full and Short Course
Specification A

Unit 3 Roman Catholicism (405003)

Report on the Examination
2010 examination - June series

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Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

General comments

Teachers are to be commended on the positive way in which their candidates were prepared for this new specification. It is clear that centres are teaching the specification content very well and that candidates are responding with interest and understanding.

It is important to remind centres that all six areas of the specification will be examined on the question paper, and that the structure of the paper has changed from the legacy specification. Section A consists of four compulsory short-answer stimulus-response questions worth a total of 48 marks. Section B comprises of two optional extended response questions from which candidates choose and answer one question worth a total of 24 marks. The question paper is worth 72 marks. The assessment objective AO1 is worth 50% of the total marks, and to achieve this objective candidates are expected to show an ability to describe, explain and analyse using knowledge and understanding in their responses. The remaining 50% of marks are for assessment objective AO2, and candidates are expected to show an ability to use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints in their responses.

Candidates generally coped well with all sections of the paper, but some candidates would benefit greatly from practice in constructing answers to AO2 3-mark and 6-mark questions. To achieve a Level 5 or 6 in the 6-mark questions, two different points of view must be considered, and the candidates must present relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render the meaning clear. The text produced should be legible, and spelling, punctuation and grammar should be sufficiently accurate to render the meaning clear. The key words here are 'well-argued' and 'apply ... effectively'. The difference between a Level 6 and Level 5 is the quality of the argument and the coherence of the response. Candidates can achieve up to Level 4 for well developed, one-sided responses.

In 3-mark AO2 questions responses which showed sound knowledge and understanding of one viewpoint achieve full marks – a second point of view is not necessary to achieve full marks.

It is important to remind candidates to write in the spaces provided and not to write in the margins; additional pages can be provided if extra paper is required. Poor handwriting and the use of pale or faint pens made marking difficult at times.

Question A1 *Pilgrimage*

Part (a) was well answered. Most candidates understood pilgrimage to be a spiritual journey to a holy place.

There were some excellent answers to part (b) showing that candidates had studied what pilgrims do at particular places of pilgrimage.

There were also some very good answers to part (c). Most candidates achieved a Level 4; there were some very well developed answers from capable candidates.

Question A2 *Worship*

Almost all candidates achieved 2 or 3 marks on part (a). A Level 3 required sound knowledge and understanding of why Roman Catholics use statues to help them pray.

Part (b) was generally well answered. However, less able candidates would benefit from lots of practice in answering this type of evaluation question.

Part (c) was also well answered. Candidates showed sound knowledge and understanding of meditation.

Most candidates achieved full marks on part (d). Less able candidates would benefit from practice to enable them to write more detailed answers and achieve more than 1 or 2 marks.

Question A3 *The Eucharist*

Part (a) was poorly answered, although a few candidates knew this part of the specification well enough to gain full marks. To achieve Level 5 or 6 candidates could have explained how Baptist, Methodist or Anglican traditions receive the bread and wine, for example Baptists remain in their seats and bread is taken to them by elders. Each person takes a piece of ordinary bread and eats silently. The wine or grape juice is distributed in small individual cups and, when everyone has been served, the congregation all drink together as they would do at a family meal. However, many candidates did not know how the bread and wine were received in a Protestant tradition and achieved no marks. Many candidates misunderstood the question and wrote about transubstantiation and consubstantiation. Centres need to be aware that the specification requires candidates to know 'ways in which the Eucharist is celebrated today in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions and how these reflect differences of belief and practice'.

In part (b) most candidates knew the traditions which did not celebrate the Eucharist but many did not know the reasons why. Most answers lacked development and received only one mark.

Most candidates did well on part (c). The more able candidates were able to give a well argued response with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view and achieved five or six marks. Again, less able candidates would benefit from lots of practice answering this type of question; most achieved two or three marks.

Question A4 *Sources of Authority*

Part (a) was very well answered, with candidates showing good knowledge and understanding of the term Magisterium.

Both parts of part (b) were very well answered. Responses showed evidence of good teaching and good understanding of the two terms, fundamentalist and liberal, by candidates.

The more able candidates did very well on part (c) and presented developed, well-argued responses with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view. Again, less able candidates' responses lacked development.

Question B5 *Festivals*

Most candidates did very well on part (a). The Advent wreath was the most popular custom given, with most candidates achieving up to Level 4 for their responses. Many candidates wrote about Advent calendars for their second custom and achieved a Level 6. However, less able candidates failed to include sufficient detail, for example reference to religious scenes in their responses and so did not receive the higher marks. Candidates needed to explain in detail at least two customs in order to achieve a Level 6.

The answers to part (b) were either very good or muddled. Some candidates wrote in great detail and with good understanding and provided relevant biblical and modern day examples of works of mercy, fasting and prayer and achieved a Level 5 or 6. However, many did not understand the term 'works of mercy', and there were some very confused and muddled answers.

There were some very good, well developed answers to part (c). Candidates who knew the customs and symbols used on Good Friday achieved a Level 5 or 6. There was a maximum of Level 4 if only one custom was explained. In their responses many candidates included the timing of the service, the reading of the Passion, the Adoration or Veneration of the Cross and the Stations of the Cross, and well developed responses achieved Level 6. Again, less able candidates lacked development in their responses and did not achieve the higher marks.

Less able candidates struggled with part (d). Many responses included reasons why Roman Catholics should attend church on Sundays rather than Good Friday. Candidates achieving the higher levels of response wrote developed answers including different viewpoints about the importance of attending church on Good Friday.

Question B6 *Baptism and Confirmation*

Candidates who knew the rite of the sacrament of baptism answered this question very well and achieved a Level 5 or 6. Subject specific vocabulary was used well. Most candidates did really well on this question.

All candidates did well on part (b). Even less able candidates were able to write fairly good answers including two viewpoints, and so achieved good marks on this question.

Candidates who knew the symbols used in the sacrament of confirmation achieved very good marks on part (c). Some candidates produced very well developed responses. Most candidates achieved at least a Level 3. Three symbols had to be explained for a Level 6.

The vast majority candidates did well on part (d). They were able to give reasoned consideration of two points of view in response to this question and achieved good marks. Many candidates produced excellent, well developed answers about the importance of receiving this sacrament at age eleven and wrote in detail about the importance and relevance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives. There were some very good Level 6 responses to this question.