

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 1 *Christianity*

- Beliefs



PART B

There are 24 marks for this question.

B Beliefs

(a)(i) What do Christians mean by the Holy Trinity? *(2 marks)*

(a)(ii) Explain what Christians believe about the Holy Spirit. *(3 marks)*

(b) Explain what Christians believe about the life and death of Jesus. *(6 marks)*

(c) 'What you believe as a Christian is more important than what you do.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer. *(6 marks)*

(d) 'This world is all that there is, there is no point in believing in the 'world to come'.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer. *(6 marks)*



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 1 *Christianity*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Beliefs

June series

Part B

B Beliefs

(a)(i) What do Christians mean by the Holy Trinity?

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the Holy Trinity

1 mark for a simple valid reason.

2 marks for a developed answer.

e.g.

The Holy Trinity is God in three parts / or the three parts of God. (1 mark)

The Holy Trinity is the revelation of one God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (2 marks)

(2 marks) AO1

(a)(ii) Explain what Christians believe about the Holy Spirit.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of Christian belief about the person / work of the Holy Spirit

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Holy Trinity / the Holy Spirit was responsible for conception of Jesus / the Holy Spirit was power of God which anointed Jesus at his Baptism / the Holy Spirit was the power of God sent to the apostles at the feast of Pentecost enabling them to start the Church / the Holy Spirit is the power of God at work in the world today / empowers Christians to live and work in the world today / the Holy Spirit inspires worship, e.g. Charismatic worship, or Quaker worship / answers may make legitimate reference to the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism / Confirmation / use of the gifts of the Spirit.

(4 marks) AO1

(b) Explain what Christians believe about the life and death of Jesus.

Target: Knowledge and understanding about the life and death of Jesus

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Jesus is the Son of God / God incarnate / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit / born of the Virgin Mary / therefore Jesus was of both human and divine natures / Jesus lived on earth and went about amongst mankind / he taught and performed miracles which revealed his divine nature / he was sentenced to death by the Roman authorities (Pontius Pilate) / suffered death by crucifixion and he was buried / his death was the sacrifice offered by God for the sins of the world / by the sacrifice of himself Jesus has made atonement for the sins of mankind and restored the relationship between man and God / Jesus defeated death by rising to new life, etc.

(6 marks) AO1

(c) 'What you believe as a Christian is more important than what you do.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of belief vs action

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Without acceptance of fundamental beliefs how can you be a Christian? / what matters more is belief in and a relationship with God and Christ rather than just doing 'good' works / perfectly possible for someone to be a good person and be caring and loving towards the rest of the world humanity without having an ounce of belief / faith and belief is what sets a Christian apart from others therefore belief is at the basis of the Christian life / some people may go through the motions of worship without really believing what lies behind it / for worship to be sincere and meaningful there must be a connection with belief.

Other views

Faith without works is dead / some people have problems accepting all aspects of Christian belief, e.g. virgin birth but are nonetheless no less Christian than others who do in their devotion to God and service of others / faith without practical response in worship and service is just blind faith and not worth much / Christianity requires both inward belief and outward living of that belief in service and devotion thus both are of equal importance, etc.

(6 marks) AO2

(d) 'This world is all that there is, there is no point in believing in 'the world to come'.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of Christian belief in 'the world to come'

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

For some, the idea of an existence after death is without proof / this world is the one which we know and once this life is over that is that / the idea of judgement and future existence may be seen as old fashioned and archaic / what matters now is how a person leads his / her life rather than some future hope of another world for which there is no solid proof / what type of world is the world to come? / the only evidence for a world to come stems from documents that were written many centuries ago before the rise of science and reason – they cannot be taken seriously in a scientific age.

Other views

The promise of everlasting life or the hope of resurrection is central to Christian belief / Christians believe that as Jesus died and rose again so those who believe in him can do the same. (More able candidates may make reference to St. Paul's teaching about the certainty of the resurrection and futility of faith without it, e.g. 1 Corinthians 15) / the teachings about judgement and the world to come are important parts of Christian teaching and tradition / whilst there is no certain proof that there is a world to come this belief depends not on certain proof but faith / there is no certain proof that there is **not** a world to come and so the view expressed in the statement could be seen as wrong / belief in the world to come has an effect on how Christians live now and so it is still an important belief.

(6 marks) AO2