

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 2 Christianity: Ethics

- Personal Responsibility



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Personal Responsibility

(a)(i) Why might people take drugs? (2 marks)

(a)(ii) Explain possible effects of taking illegal drugs. (4 marks)

(b) 'Christians should never take illegal drugs such as cannabis.'

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

(6 marks)

(c) Explain how Christian beliefs and teachings might influence the attitudes of Christians to drinking alcohol. (6 marks)

(d) 'Smokers should not receive free treatment for smoking-related diseases.'

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

(6 marks)



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 2 ***Christianity: Ethics***

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Personal Responsibility

June series

Part B

B Personal Responsibility

(a)(i) Why might people take drugs?

Target: Understanding reasons for taking drugs

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Medicinal purposes / social reasons / psychological reasons / addiction / rebellion / the 'buzz'.

One mark for a superficial comment or a simple point.
Two marks for a developed answer or more than one point.

(2 marks) AO1

(a)(ii) Explain possible effects of taking illegal drugs.

Target: Understanding the effects of taking illegal drugs

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:

Addiction / physical harm to oneself, e.g. heart problems, might lead to death / mental harm to oneself, e.g. hallucinations, recurrent bad 'trips' / harm to family and friends, e.g. financial problems for family, emotional pain for those who are close / harm to society, e.g. committing crime to pay for or under the influence of drugs / relief of pain.

(4 marks) AO1

(b) 'Christians should never take illegal drugs such as cannabis.'

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

Target: Evaluation of whether Christians should ever take illegal drugs

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

Illegal / Christians should obey the law / Jesus' and Paul's teaching on obedience to civil authorities / harmful physical and mental effects / body a temple of the Holy Spirit / creation by God in his image / sanctity of life / harmful effects on others / 'love your neighbour' / respect for oneself and for others.

Other views

Christians might sometimes break the law if they think it is wrong and law needs to be changed – a matter for conscience / some evidence of the usefulness of cannabis in treating certain medical conditions, e.g. MS and treatment given legally in some countries / still some debate as to harms caused by cannabis and some other drugs / problems with cannabis largely through use of 'skunk' and this could be controlled / problems no worse in the case of some illegal drugs (and possibly less in some instances) than those caused by legal drugs, e.g. alcohol and cigarettes / view of some that use of certain drugs heightens spiritual awareness.

(6 marks) AO2

- (c) **Explain how Christian beliefs and teachings might influence the attitudes of Christians to drinking alcohol.**

Target: Understanding of Christian attitudes to drinking alcohol

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:

Some accept drinking in moderation – important to keep it in limits / not breaking the law / socially acceptable and enjoyable / medical evidence as to benefits of red wine / reference in the psalms to wine as bringing joy to human hearts / the advice in 1 Timothy as to drinking a little wine to aid digestion / Jesus drank wine, e.g. at Cana and the Last Supper.

Importance of setting good example / stance of Salvation Army and many Methodists / dangers of excessive drinking to self and to family / problems of addiction / dangers to society / leads to criminal and / or immoral (from Christian standpoint) behaviour / references in Proverbs to folly of drinking excessively / Paul's denunciations of drunkenness / Paul's teaching regarding abstinence from anything that might lead to another's downfall.

Christian principle of compassion to be shown in attitudes to those with an alcohol problem and their families / counselling, rehab units, hostels, etc.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'Smokers should not receive free treatment for smoking-related diseases.'

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

Target: Evaluation of personal responsibility with regard to smoking

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

Christian teaching on taking responsibility for one's actions and on having to accept consequences / 'you reap what you sow' / they know the risks and will have been warned / it is unfair if others who have never smoked, etc. are pushed to the bottom of the queue – NHS has to make priorities and the 'innocent' (e.g. children) should come first.

Other views

Judgemental attitude / contrary to Christian principles of love and compassion / example of Jesus' Parable of the Plank and the Speck of Dust / his teaching not to judge others / human right to medical treatment / people given free treatment for conditions caused by other lifestyle-related conditions / too sweeping a statement – need to take into account a variety of issues / some dependent on smoking and may have started before dangers fully known / psychological and social reasons for smoking make it hard to give up / smokers pay taxes, which fund the NHS among other things, so only fair that they should receive treatment / pay more taxes, i.e. on tobacco / may give up smoking as a result of disease and / or after treatment – giving people a second chance reflects attitude of Jesus / some smoking-related diseases are caused by passive smoking / can't always be sure that smoking is the cause of the disease.

(6 marks) AO2