

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

- Festivals



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Festivals

- (a) Describe different customs used by Roman Catholics during Christmas **and** Epiphany. (6 marks)

- (b) 'People should not start celebrating Christmas before 24th December.'

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)

- (c) Explain how the customs and symbols used on Maundy Thursday help believers to remember Jesus. (6 marks)

- (d) 'Good Friday is more important than Easter Sunday.'

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 3 *Roman Catholicism*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Festivals

June series

B Festivals

- (a) Describe different customs used by Roman Catholics during Christmas and Epiphany.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of different customs used during Christmas and Epiphany

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:

Carol Services	Special services with special readings from Old Testament and New Testament / looking forward to Christmas / songs sung about birth of Jesus.
Carol Singing	Around houses, schools, community / collecting money for charity.
Midnight Mass	Church service with readings / carol singing / Eucharist / blessing of crib / usually lasts until after 12am (however, many churches now have earlier services) people are there when Christmas begins / whole parish or community.
Special Bible Readings	About Jesus' birth and special carols sung.
Crib	In church / homes / schools / places of work / the 'crib' is a model of a stable, showing the scene of Jesus' birth / some people wait until Christmas morning to put the figure of Jesus into crib / shepherds / animals / angels / straw / light / blessing of crib / simple wooden cribs to very ornate cribs.
Nativity Play	Usually performed by school children in schools / church / for friends, family / local community / children act out the Christmas story and sing carols.
Christmas tree	Usually an evergreen tree decorated with tinsel / colourful ornaments and lights / in houses / churches / schools / place of work / outside / angel or star placed on top of tree / representing the host of angels or the Star of Bethlehem from the Nativity story.

Presents and Cards	Sending good wishes / exchanging gifts with family and friends / traditional cards showing Nativity scene / winter scenes.
Decorations, lights, candles and crackers	Brightly decorated homes / towns / lights – light of the world.
Pantomimes, Christmas and Mummings shows	Family entertainment / every play has a moral message / good overcomes evil / performed in theatres / village halls / community centres.
Christmas dinner	family occasion / turkey, etc.
Epiphany	6 th Jan / 12 th Day of Christmas / pudding made at the beginning of Advent / stirred from east to west in honour of the three wise men / was traditionally made with 13 ingredients to represent Christ and his disciples / three wise men put into crib / followed a star from the East to Bethlehem.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'People should not start celebrating Christmas before 24th December.'

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 the importance of Christmas Day

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

Too much hype / expensive / over spending leading to debt pressure on families / real meaning of Christmas lost / religious meaning secondary / people becoming too materialistic / too commercialised / shops advertising Christmas even before Halloween / expectations of Christmas presents can lead to disappointments / need to work long hours can lead to lack of worship and family time / over-indulgence can lead to sad or terrible consequences, e.g. accidents / family breakdown / can be a lonely time for people who live on their own / or have suffered a family bereavement / celebrations lasting too long.

Other views

Season of goodwill / family time / people enjoy exchanging presents / cards / time for giving-charities, e.g. SVP Christmas hampers / toys / family celebrations and worship / holidays / time to relax / time for visiting family / friends / neighbours / Advent Calendars, candles, carol services, Nativity plays, etc. help focus people on the religious importance of Christmas day / great time of fun, excitement and expectation for children / time to focus on the poor and needy / preparation that will enable sharing of Christmas family dinner.

(6 marks) AO2

- (c) Explain how the customs and symbols used on Maundy Thursday help believers to remember Jesus.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of how the customs and symbols used on Maundy Thursday help believers to remember 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:

Maundy Thursday	Maundy comes from the Latin word for 'Commandment' / Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another / the day before Jesus died.
Timing of Mass	Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples / the Mass of the Lord's Supper is usually celebrated at 7-30pm / approximately the time that the Last Supper (the First Mass) took place / the Mass of the Lord's Supper remembers three different aspects of Jesus' last meal with his disciples.
Foot Washing Ceremony	Usually 12 parishioners sit at the front of the church and have their feet washed by the priest / this reminds us that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples in the Upper Room at the Last Supper / usually the job of servants to wash the feet of their guests / commonplace in the East where people walked in sandals on dry, dusty roads / Jesus gave them a new command (mandatum) to love one another.
Institution of the Eucharist	Christians remember the events of the night before Jesus died / at the Last Supper Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine to represent his body and blood / this is the institution of the Eucharist (the first Mass) that is re-enacted at every Mass – therefore it is customary to receive communion on this Thursday / the command to 'do this in memory of me', i.e. the institution of the priesthood.
The Procession to and Watching at the Altar of Repose	When the Mass is over, the consecrated Bread is taken in procession to the Altar of Repose / a side chapel set aside for private prayer / remembers Jesus going to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray / people are asked to pray privately at this altar before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight to remind them of the agony of Jesus in the garden and his arrest.
The Stripping of the Altar	The main altar is stripped bare / reflects the desolation of Jesus at his arrest and his trials.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'Good Friday is more important than Easter Sunday.'

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 the importance of Good Friday and Easter

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

Good Friday reminds us that Jesus died for us / atonement / ransom / liberation / forgiveness of sins / example of selfless love / destroying barrier of sin / opening up access to God / new covenant / divine plan of redemption / doing what his father wanted / showed his obedience and love / God's will.

Other views

Easter Sunday is more important because Jesus came back to life / basis of Christian faith / death is not the end / eternal life / God's power – miracles / Jesus was God's son / Jesus telling the truth when he predicted his death and resurrection / shows good overcomes evil / life over death / hope over despair / affects how we live our lives today / idea of judgement at the end of time / comfort to those bereaved / see loved ones again / gives Christians encouragement to face persecutions – God will reward them in next life.

(6 marks) AO2