

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 10 *Judaism*

- Personal Lifestyle



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Personal Lifestyle

(a) Explain the laws concerning the mezuzah. (4 marks)

(b) Describe how Shabbat is welcomed into a traditional Jewish home. (4 marks)

(c) 'Keeping Shabbat is no longer relevant in the 21st century.'

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

(d)(i) Explain the role of the Bet Din within the Jewish community. (4 marks)

(d)(ii) 'The dietary laws separate Jews from the rest of the society, and this is undesirable.'

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



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 10 *Judaism*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Personal Lifestyle

June series

Part B**B Personal Lifestyle**

- (a)
- Explain the laws concerning the mezuzah.**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the laws and customs of the mezuzah

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:

Mezuzah means doorpost in Hebrew / it is a piece of parchment (usually contained in a decorative case) inscribed with specified Torah verses / these verses comprise the Jewish prayer "Shema Yisrael" and begins with the phrase "Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is One."

A mezuzah is affixed to the doorframe of Jewish homes to fulfil the mitzvah (Biblical commandment) to inscribe the words of the Shema "on the doorposts of your house" / many families place a mezuzah on the front door only, but observant Jews fix one on every doorway in the home apart from bathrooms and closets too small to qualify as rooms / the parchment is prepared by a qualified scribe (a sofer) who has undergone many years of meticulous training, and the verses are written in indelible black ink with a special quill pen / the parchment is then rolled up and placed inside the case.

(4 marks) AO1

(b) Describe how Shabbat is welcomed into a traditional Jewish home.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the basic laws and customs associated with Shabbat

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:

Shabbat is mentioned as one of the Ten Commandments / prohibition of work, spending money, all shopping, etc. means that preparation for Shabbat must be completed before sunset on Friday evening, when Shabbat begins / house is cleaned and special Shabbat food prepared / minimum of two candles lit as Shabbat enters by mother / wife, etc. / men visit synagogue and on return make Kiddush over wine / song of praise to wife / mother Eshet Chayil / traditional family meal / Shabbat songs / two loaves of Challah (Shabbat bread).

(4 marks) AO1

(c) 'Keeping Shabbat is no longer relevant in the 21st century.'

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

Target: Evaluation of different attitudes to the relevance of Shabbat

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

Modern lifestyle is very hectic and crowded / greater emphasis on leisure and sporting activities / Shabbat laws originally developed in connection with construction of desert sanctuary and are not relevant today / Shabbat occupies a whole day and will make it very difficult to enjoy leisure activities, etc. / some jobs demand work on Saturday / economic consideration.

Other views

Important to maintain a strong ethnic / religious identity in what has become a multicultural society / Shabbat gives Jews this opportunity / family aspect of Shabbat observance is important sociologically / Shabbat is a Torah commandment and is therefore obligatory.

(6 marks) AO2

(d)(i) Explain the role of Bet Din within the Jewish community.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the role of the Bet Din

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:

Bet Din – House of Law / rabbinical legislature / responsible for all aspects of Halachah (practical aspects of Jewish law) within Jewish community / members of Bet Din must be qualified rabbis with extensive knowledge and experience of Codes of Jewish Law / Bet Din responsible for marriages, divorces and Kashrut matters / recognised as court of arbitration for financial disputes and any rulings are upheld by civil law.

(4 marks) AO1

(d)(ii) 'The dietary laws separate Jews from the rest of society, and this is undesirable.'

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

Target: Evaluation of different attitudes to importance of dietary laws

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

Need for Jews to integrate into society is made difficult by dietary restrictions on Kosher food, etc. / need for separate restaurants, food outlets, shops, etc. may be perceived as elitist / Jews may become ignorant of other lifestyles, etc. / business and work often demands lunches, dinners with clients, etc. Kashrut could make this difficult / financial consideration – Kosher food is expensive.

Other views

The dietary laws are commandments mentioned in the Torah – there is no option for orthodox Jews / keeping kosher is perceived as vital means of preserving Jewish identity / also seen as important way of preventing assimilation, etc. / wide variety of Kosher outlets offering extensive variety of foods / Kosher restaurants are of a very high standard and are very acceptable to all faiths, etc.

(6 marks) AO2