

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 11 *Judaism: Ethics*

- Conflict and Suffering



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Conflict and Suffering

(a) Explain Jewish teachings about war. *(6 marks)*

(b) 'Jews should promote peace, not war.'

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)*

(c) Explain Jewish attitudes towards the use of nuclear weapons. *(6 marks)*

(d) 'Suffering brings out the best in people.'

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 11 *Judaism: Ethics*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Conflict and Suffering

June series

B Conflict and Suffering**(a) Explain Jewish teachings about war.****Target: Knowledge and understanding of Jewish teachings about war**

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:

Jews are not pacifists / war is an acceptable last resort when discussions have failed / there cannot and should be no negotiation with terrorists / Judaism teaches that Milchemet mitvah (obligatory war) commanded by God / a war of self defence is considered an obligatory war / defence against terrorism can be considered self defence / Milchemet reshut (optional war) can also be to prevent a greater calamity / Jewish history is full of conflict and war commanded by God for example Joshua and the Israelites fought for the promised land / it is a religious obligation to defend your own life and those of your family in Judaism.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'Jews should promote peace, not war.'

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: An evaluation of whether Jews should promote peace instead of war

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

Judaism teaches that God forgives Jews for their wrong doing, they should follow his example and forgive others / peace is an ideal in Judaism / violence caused in war is not peaceful / Judaism regards war as evil / Judaism promotes peace between nations as the ideal, so war should be unthinkable (Leviticus 26⁶) / Judaism teaches that peace will happen in the Messianic Age (Isaiah 2⁴) / for this reason they promote negotiation and reconciliation in case of dispute / the Amidah prayer stresses peace / Psalm 29¹¹ stresses that God will give his people peace, therefore as his chosen people Jews should promote it / it is important that Jews should practice their teachings.

Other views:

There are some circumstances when war is necessary / Milchemet mitvah clearly states that war is necessary if you are attacked first or you need to pre-empt and attack / Milchemet reshut states that war is necessary if diplomacy has failed (Judges 11¹²⁻³³) religious authority approves it and there are sound reasons for the conflict / there is the concept of Kiddush Hashem which is martyrdom in the name of God, clearly this could not happen if conflict was not a part of Jewish teaching and ideology / sometimes war is necessary for the greater good / credit specific examples of when this is the case for example when a hostile dictator is ruling a country / breaches of human rights.

(6 marks) AO2

(c) Explain Jewish attitudes towards the use of nuclear weapons.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of Jewish attitudes to nuclear weapons

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:

Many Jews accept that nuclear weapons are a major threat to the human race / however, they also accept that they serve the purpose of keeping the peace / since the second world war there have been no world wars because of the deterrent effect of nuclear weapons / however Maimonides forbid wanton destruction / the Midrah teaches that in war, civilians must be able to emigrate / for these reasons some Jews might not support the use of nuclear weapons.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) ‘Suffering brings out the best in people.’

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

Target: Evaluation of Jewish attitudes towards the role of suffering

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

Suffering gives people a chance to learn and grow from the experience / suffering allows people to help one another / suffering helps people to empathise with others / it can bring previously hidden qualities out of a person / many Jews would insist that God can be met through the experience of suffering / in the Torah, God made Job suffer therefore Jews should accept it as part of God’s plan.

Other views

Suffering is sometimes of such great scale and amount that it is difficult to see what may be learned from it / suffering can harden people / suffering often afflicts the innocent / many people’s experience of suffering causes them to inflict more suffering on others.

(6 marks) AO2