

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 11 *Judaism: Ethics*

- Life and Death



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Life and Death

(a) Explain Jewish attitudes towards abortion. *(6 marks)*

(b) 'Jews should not use contraception.'

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 fertility treatment. *(6 marks)*

(d) 'You should get married before having children.'

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
Life and Death

June series

B Life and Death**(a) Explain Jewish attitudes towards abortion.****Target: Knowledge and understanding of Jewish attitudes towards abortion**

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 do not agree with abortion

Jews believe in the sanctity of life / all Jews believe that life is sacred and God given / only God should decide when life ends / the Ten Commandments teach "You shall not murder" Exodus 20¹³ / Psalm 139¹³⁻¹⁶ teaches Jews that God formed the baby in the womb, therefore he intended that life to be born / the Torah is clear that humans are made in God's image and we do not own our own bodies.

Other Jews might support abortion in some circumstances

Because there is general agreement that we are only fully human when we are born / abortion under Jewish law is not thought of as murder / Judaism stresses the importance of life and so if the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother abortion may be preferable / some rabbis accept that a pregnancy might endanger the mental health of a woman, for example in the case of rape / the Talmud teaches that the foetus is a part of the woman and not a human in its own right / many rabbis approve of abortion when the child is likely to be severely disabled.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'Jews should not use contraception.'

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: Understanding and application of Jewish teachings and attitudes towards contraception

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	
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 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 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 children are a blessing from God / Adam and Eve were told to go forth and multiply by God in Genesis / Isaiah teaches that when God made the world, he intended it to be populated therefore Jews have a responsibility to procreate (Isaiah 45¹⁸) / the use of contraception for convenience is forbidden in Judaism / Jews have a responsibility to procreate in order to ensure the survival of the faith in future generations (Genesis 1²⁸).

Other views

Sometimes the use of contraception is advisable in some circumstances for instance if the woman's life would be endangered by pregnancy / or if the pregnancy is going to put the woman under severe psychological strain / sometimes temporary use of contraception is allowed in Judaism if a woman has just had a baby and feels unable to cope with another / Orthodox Jews will accept the use of contraception for medical or health reasons / Reform Jews accept contraception for social or economic reasons / all Jews would say that contraception is preferable to abortion / some couples do not have the resources for a very large family.

(6 marks) AO2

(c) Explain Jewish attitudes towards fertility treatment.

Target: Knowledge and understanding of Jewish attitudes towards fertility treatment

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:

Fertility treatments aim to help a couple conceive a child / In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is the conception of a child outside of the mother's body / artificial insemination by the husband might be used (AIH) / alternatively artificial insemination by donor might be used if the husband is infertile (AID) / many Jews agree with fertility treatment because childlessness is portrayed as a curse in the Jewish holy texts / also it is a responsibility for Jews to procreate / many Jews feel God gave humans creative intelligence and we should use this to stop the suffering of a childless couple / some Orthodox Jews only agree with insemination by the husband rather than by donor as the child created would not be considered the son or daughter of the husband.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'You should get married before having children.'

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 whether married relationships are the only appropriate context for children

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	
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 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 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 is clear that sexual activity is only appropriate within a married relationship / bringing children into the world is a holy act between a man and a woman where they become partners with God in creating a new life / marriage creates a stable and lasting environment for the nurturing of children / Orthodox Jews believe that for a child to be considered Jewish they must have a Jewish mother / the roles of both the father and mother are clearly defined in teaching Jewish traditions to children / In the Jewish wedding ceremony the couple are blessed and it is taken for granted that they will have children.

Other views

Although a married relationship is the ideal setting for children in Judaism, it doesn't mean that unmarried people are without parenting skills / plenty of children are brought up without married parents and don't suffer / many divorcees and single parents manage to successfully bring up families without two parents / It is discriminatory to say that non-married people should be denied the experience of children.

(6 marks) AO2