

## Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Unit 2 *Christianity: Ethics*

Exemplar Scripts and Commentaries



## Script 1

### PART A

#### A1 Euthanasia and Hospices

- (a) What is euthanasia? (2 marks)

*Inducing a painless death to ease suffering. People may do it out of compassion for someone with an incurable illness, to end their pain.*

#### **Commentary**

A sound answer that is a sensible length.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) Describe how hospices care for those who are terminally ill and their relatives. (4 marks)

*A hospice is somewhere a dying person can go to spend their last days with dignity. The patients have expert pain and symptom relief as well as all round care. They work to meet all the needs of the patients as well as their family and friends. There are always people they can talk to about anything, whether it is psychological or spiritual, or a social or physical matter. Patients can enjoy gardening, writing, or simply talking or just getting their hair done.*

#### **Commentary**

An excellent response that shows clear knowledge of hospice care. Full marks had been gained before the final sentence.

**(4 marks)**

- (c) 'Christians should never agree with euthanasia.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 marks)

*Some people disagree because it is such a complex issue. If somebody is in serious pain, can no longer do normal things like eat solid foods or walk, and asks for help to die, the surely it is right to help them, to end their suffering? Or, if someone's in a permanent coma, some say it would be kinder to let them go and let the family start the breathing process. However, so argue against this, saying that only God has the power to take a life and it is not up to us. Life is seen as sacred and suffering is unfortunately part of life. Also, the guilt of taking part in euthanasia would live with you for the rest of your life. For those in a coma, there would always be that big 'what if?' For these reasons I agree with the statement.*

**Commentary**

This is a well argued response that just reaches level 6. A more secure level 6 answer might have given more in the way of Christian argument (there is just sufficient here). The conclusion adds nothing to the argument. Although not necessary for level 6 to be awarded, any conclusion should take the argument further in some way.

**(6 marks)**

## A2 World Poverty

- (a) Explain briefly how voluntary aid agencies give emergency aid to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (3 marks)

*Voluntary aid agencies can help LEDCs by raising awareness about people in poorer countries using leaflets, books, videos, visiting schools etc. They also respond rapidly to disasters, sending aid and staying in those needy countries to help them recover.*

### Commentary

Sound understanding is shown. The answer is fully focussed on emergency aid.

**(3 marks)**

- (b) Explain briefly how individual Christians might help those in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (3 marks)

*Christians can donate money to the wide group of charities. They can join in fasts to raise money or take part in sponsored events like runs. Christians can also buy Fairtrade products and sign petitions for campaigns against poor people being exploited.*

### Commentary

The points made in the first two sentences are sufficient here for full marks.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) 'British Christians should help the poor in Britain before helping the poor in Less Economically Developed Countries.'

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

*Some people agree with this because if there are people suffering close to us who we can more easily help, then surely we should help them first, and worry about the more difficult case of far away people after everyone in our country is fine? Maybe if all the effort which goes overboard was spent over here, there would be no poverty in Britain.*

*I personally disagree with this statement because yes, you should help those closest to you, but that shouldn't stop anyone from helping the truly needy abroad. I don't believe that poverty could ever really be gone from Britain because it would only be accomplished the roots of poverty were conquered, e.g. good education. It is very easy to give some money to a charity, or just by Fairtrade, but it makes a big difference.*

**Commentary**

Lack of Christian content limits this response to level 3, which is a pity. It is otherwise well argued. The candidate might have commented on the parable of the Good Samaritan, where the help is given to someone of another race. On the other hand, others might argue that giving aid to help the poor living under corrupt regimes is not good stewardship of the wealth entrusted to people by God, as it might be siphoned off and wrongly used, e.g. for weapons.

**(3 marks)**

### A3 Civil Partnerships and Sexual Relationships

- (a) What is a civil partnership? (2 marks)

*A legal partnership of two people of the same sex which is not to do with religion and is not a marriage.*

**Commentary**

The first ten words ensure that full marks are awarded.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) 'Christians should not have homosexual relationships.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

*I do not agree. A Christian is someone who believes in God but also shows their faith in their actions – by helping people, following the commandments etc. Just because you are homosexual it doesn't mean you can't do this, or be happy in a loving relationship at the same time. Also, people have no control over how their body works. People should all be treated equally.*

**Commentary**

Detailed and mature justification is given of the candidate's personal response.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Give **two** reasons why some Christians believe that sex before marriage is wrong. (2 marks)

*1) God said our body is a 'temple of the Holy Spirit'. We must not disrespect our bodies by having random sex with people we don't love or really know.*

*2) Sex is meant to be a sign of love and commitment in an unending relationship. If you aren't married, you aren't committed to each other.*

**Commentary**

Two reasons are clearly stated.

**(2 marks)**

- (d) 'Teenagers under 16 year of age should not be given contraception.'

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

*Some people agree because it is illegal to have sex when you are under 16, and giving people under 16 contraception would just encourage them. Also, Christianity teaches people not to break the law, and that you must only have sex in marriage. It would encourage people to ignore these teachings if they were given contraception. However, if teenagers under 16 are not given contraception they could break the law in other ways to get it and end up with an unwanted baby. Christianity teaches responsibility as well. It would be irresponsible to allow many unwanted babies to be born. I therefore do not agree. Teenagers must be taught to be responsible themselves, but should be given contraception if necessary.*

**Commentary**

A well-argued and clearly structured response that makes effective use of Christian teachings and principles. This time, the conclusion does extend the argument further.

**(6 marks)**

#### A4 Gene Therapy and Genetic Engineering

- (a) How might genetic engineering save lives? (2 marks)

*Through genetic modification human beings could be improved, because cures could maybe be found to diseases like Alzheimer's and Motor Neurone Disease.*

**Commentary**

This response just makes full marks with its reference to modification of genes and an example of a terminal condition (Motor Neurone Disease).

**(2 marks)**

- (b) 'Christians should support any treatment that will save a life.'

What do you think? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

*Not necessarily. I think you must look at other things which could potentially result from the 'treatment' as well. For example, with genetic engineering, it could possibly lead to curing diseases, but it could also lead to everyone wanting 'designer babies'. Also, Christians believe that God is the giver and taker of life, so does using these treatments which have potential to do bad or good go against God?*

**Commentary**

Full justification of the candidate's personal opinion given.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Explain Christian attitudes to the issue of saviour siblings. (6 marks)

*Christians are often divided on this subject. Some who argue against it say that saviour siblings are wrongly valued for what they can do for their siblings, instead of being a child of God. Also, some believe that destroying embryos is the same as murder, which often happens when selecting the saviours. Some also say it could emotionally damage a child if they feel they are only here for their sibling, and aren't loved as much. However, others argue that Jesus healed the sick, and that is what saviour siblings do – they heal their sick siblings. Also, the 'saviour' can still be treated as their own special person. Also, some see it as just another good reason to have a child, like to complete the family.*

**Commentary**

A very full and coherent response which includes differing Christian attitudes.

**(6 marks)**



## PART B

### B6 War and Peace

- (a) What is pacifism? (2 marks)

*Pacifism is when you are opposed to any form of violence, whether physical or mental. A pacifist would never hurt anyone in any way.*

#### **Commentary**

Although there is no reference to war, pacifism is explained in sufficient detail for full marks to be awarded.

**(2 marks)**

- (b)(i) Explain **two** reasons why a country might become involved in a war. (4 marks)

*A country might become involved in a war to defend their religious beliefs or to try and become more powerful by taking another country's land.*

#### **Commentary**

Marks were lost through not noting the command word of the number of marks allocated. Unlike 3(c), here candidates were asked to 'explain two reasons' and 4 marks were available. Development of each through further comment or exemplification would have gained full marks for the candidate.

**(2 marks)**

- (b)(ii) Explain why some Christians are always opposed to war. (6 marks)

*One of the ten commandments is 'do not kill'. War will always involve killing. Also, many Christians are pacifists due to what Jesus said. Christians also believe God created the earth – war does not show any respect for God's creation. He wants us to take care of the earth and its inhabitants, not destroy it with bombs. As well as this, Christians follow Jesus' teachings of 'love your enemies' and believe you should 'turn the other cheek'. After all, there are other ways to sort out problems. It is not necessary to destroy lives with war.*

#### **Commentary**

There is not quite sufficient detail or coherence for level 6, though it is a sound level 5. The second sentence might have been developed by pointing out that often it is the 'innocent' who are killed. The third sentence would have been better had it come immediately before the fourth and the candidate might have listed alternative ways of sorting out problems.

**(5 marks)**

- (c) 'Nuclear war is always wrong.'

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)

*Some people do not agree because they look at the Old Testament saying 'a tooth for a tooth', and say this means it is okay to have a war in the first place, especially when you are defending your country etc. A nuclear war is just a war with nuclear weapons – just more innovative ways to win the fight and end the war faster.*

*However, some people do agree because not only is a war in itself an awful thing, but one with nuclear weapons is even worse due to just how incredibly destructive and powerful they are. The Bible teaches 'do not kill' and take care of the earth, but not only will a nuclear bomb destroy thousands with its initial blast, it will cause radiation. This will effect people thousands of miles away from the initial blast and destroy the environment, making the place uninhabitable.*

*For these reasons I agree with the statement.*

**Commentary**

An excellent response that fulfils the criteria for level 6.

**(6 marks)**

- (d) 'Acts of terrorism can never be justified.'

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)

*Some people do not agree. Terrorists are desperate people who have turned to crime as a last resort. They think it is the only way to get their views across, or the terrorists are just doing what they believe is 'the will of God'.*

*However, many do agree because of the awful things terrorists do. For example, in a terrorist bombing hundreds of innocent people are killed. Not only does this break the commandment 'do not kill' it could never be thought of as 'just' simply due to meaning of the word. Just means 'morally right', and terrorism which involves murder of innocents is never moral and certainly not right. Terrorism simply goes against everything Christians believe in – it could never be the 'will of God' because God loves every living thing and by destroying these things you are hurting God.*

*Therefore I agree with the fact that terrorism can never be justified.*

**Commentary**

Another mature response that 'flows' from start to end. Reference to war criteria, to the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment and to beliefs in God as loving makes Christian content an integral part of the answer.

**(6 marks)**

## Script 2

### PART A

#### A1 Euthanasia and Hospices

- (a) What is euthanasia? (2 marks)

*Euthanasia is killing somebody in a pain free way, particularly if they have an incurable problem. It can be done in two ways actively and passively. It is also known as a "mercy killing".*

#### **Commentary**

More was written than needed for 2 marks, but a sound answer.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) Describe how hospices care for those who are terminally ill and their relatives. (4 marks)

*A hospice is a place where terminally ill people go to die after living the last few days of their lives as nicely as possible, and still with some dignity.*

*They provide good pain relief and special facilities to care for them very well. They can do various activities and emotional, physical and social needs are met for the patient along with their family and friends.*

#### **Commentary**

This just fulfils the criteria for level 4, referring to quality of life and the maintenance of dignity in the first sentence, and to effective pain relief and special facilities. The third sentence expands on this further by outlining the type of needs met by hospices not only for the patient but also relatives and friends.

**(4 marks)**

- (c) 'Christians should never agree with euthanasia.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 marks)

*This is a very difficult issue, and I can see both sides to this. I believe that euthanasia should be allowed anywhere in the world and should be legal everywhere. Though people are thought to want euthanasia because they are in unbearable pain; but only one third actually receive euthanasia because of this. Others want it because they lose quality of their lives. If they are suffering from vomiting and incontinence, for example, they may not want to have constant help and have to live off someone who is basically living for them.*

*However, some people may say 'no' to euthanasia because we are all lucky enough for God to have put us on this Earth and love and care for us, is it really our decision to take our own lives that God had specially planned out for us?*

**Commentary**

This just makes level 5. The first paragraph refers to two circumstances in which people might want euthanasia, explaining the second in some detail. The second view is given more briefly but Christian argument is included. A more secure level 5 might have given more detailed argument (the first paragraph includes a lot of description) on both sides.

***(5 marks)***

## A2 World Poverty

Look at the photograph of Fair Trade produce below.

- (a) Explain briefly how voluntary aid agencies give emergency aid to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (3 marks)

*Richer countries like Britain, give emergency aid to LEDCs. Organisation such as; The Red Cross, CAFOD, Oxfam are all charities that send emergency aid and also long term aid e.g. help during natural disasters or funding projects in LEDCs.*

### Commentary

There is only one creditworthy point. The first part of the answer is muddled; the final five words refer to long term aid.

(1 mark)

- (b) Explain briefly how individual Christians might help those in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (3 marks)

*By buying products like Fairtrade regular people can support people in LEDCs. When we buy the products we know that they are from Fairtrade, we are trading fairly. And though the price is higher, the farmer/worker is getting a fair share of the money made.*

### Commentary

For a developed reference to buying Fairtrade products. Child sponsorship might have been given as another way.

(2 marks)

- (c) 'British Christians should help the poor in Britain before helping the poor in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).'

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

*Some people may not agree to this statement because everybody is equal in God's eyes and we all live on the same planet (although ironically we are very literally from different worlds). More fortunate can lend a loving hand to those that need it. People in LEDCs are suffering on a much larger scale than poverty in Britain, but everybody is suffering and no person deserves a bad quality of life.*

*Though some people agree because they may feel the LEDCs' suffering is much larger and how can one person possibly help the millions there suffering? And people in Britain are more like themselves they may believe that 'charity begins at home'.*

**Commentary**

A sound level 5 answer. For level 6, there needs to be more in the way of Christian argument. The candidate might have commented upon the parable of the Good Samaritan, where the help is given to someone of another race. On the other hand, others might argue that giving aid to help the poor living under corrupt regimes is not good stewardship of the wealth entrusted to people by God, as it might be siphoned off and wrongly used, e.g. for weapons.

**(5 marks)**

### A3 Civil Partnerships and Sexual Relationships

- (a) What is a civil partnership? (2 marks)

*This is a homosexual partnership that is legally recognised. This means they have the same rights as married couples.*

**Commentary**

Full marks are gained by the end of the first sentence.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) 'Christians should not have homosexual relationships.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

*I believe that everybody has the capability to love, whether it is a homosexual person/bisexual or heterosexual person.*

*However some people may disagree because God made Adam and Eve, and man and women to repopulate and gay sexual relationships cannot produce children. No where in the Bible does it say that homosexual relationships are acceptable.*

**Commentary**

Perhaps the candidate was unable to develop sufficiently her personal view, in which case it was wise to show understanding of another argument that Christians might take.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Give **two** reasons why some Christians believe that sex before marriage is wrong. (2 marks)

*1) Because your body is like a 'temple'. And you should respect it yourself and save sex for after marriage for the person you love.*

*2) When you become married you become one flesh with your partner. And this is made official by consummating your marriage. (Having sex).*

**Commentary**

Two reasons are given.

**(2 marks)**

- (d) 'Teenagers under 16 year of age should not be given contraception.'

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



*I agree with this statement. I agree because in the Bible Jesus teaches about us becoming flesh with our partner in marriage, so although sex is legal from the age of sixteen, by the Bible it is not to be done.*

*Particularly sex under the age of sixteen, this is illegal, and if they are willing to break the law and possibly become pregnant, then they should NOT be given contraception – they could use this as a safety net – they should have to face the consequences of their actions. However, some people may disagree because an unwanted child could be born. This then raises the issue of the right to life, complicating matters further. So they may think it is just easier to allow contraception to be available to under 16s.*

**Commentary**

The question links the issue of contraception with underage sexual activity, but the candidate has totally missed that point in the first paragraph. The candidate might have used the teaching given to argue that Jesus linked sexual relationships with commitment (as seen in marriage), and giving contraception to underage teenagers might just encourage sexual activity without commitment. In the second paragraph, the argument that underage sex is illegal might have been expanded by pointing out that the availability of contraception might encourage more to break the law, yet the Bible teaches obedience to it.

**(4 marks)**

#### A4 Gene Therapy and Genetic Engineering

- (a) How might genetic engineering save lives? (2 marks)

*With reference to the article, it could save lives by allowing young children the possibility of life in the first place. And also allow them to live prolonged and happy lives.*

##### **Commentary**

The candidate's answer does not relate clearly to genetic engineering. She might have referred to the correction or replacement of faulty genes which in somatic cell therapy treatments have literally saved life, as in the case of the young boy with no immune system.

**(0 marks)**

- (b) 'Christians should support any treatment that will save a life.'

What do you think? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

*I agree with this because life is a very precious gift and it is from God especially for us. We are lucky that God has made us what we are, and not inferior creatures e.g. cats/dogs.*

*God made and loves each and every one of us and placed us on Earth to care for it and love our neighbours. If we do not care for ourselves, we do not care for the Earth and are not doing our duty to God.*

##### **Commentary**

Sufficient justification to merit full marks.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Explain Christian attitudes to the issue of saviour siblings. (6 marks)

*Some Christians are against saviour siblings because to get one other embryos are thrown away and destroyed. Christians who believe that in the sanctity of life will say 'no' to it. Others say that creating a child for someone's happiness is not respecting the child as a person but for what it can do for someone else. They should be respected as God's children, not their purpose.*

*On the other hand other Christians believe that it is no different to organ donation. It is making somebody to help another, and God wants us to help each other; Jesus healed the sick.*

*I personally believe that saviour sibling is acceptable because a saviour sibling is still a person. Mothers have children (usually) because they intend to love and care for them and make them happy. Not just for themselves.*

**Commentary**

This merits level 6 for the detail contained in the response.

**(6 marks)**

## PART B

### B5 Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

- (a) What is cohabitation? (2 marks)

*Cohabitation is a period of time before a marriage where two people decide to live together to see if they are compatible. Some people substitute marriage for cohabitation because they do not want to get married.*

#### **Commentary**

Had the candidate made it clear that living together included a sexual relationship, full marks would have been awarded.

**(1 mark)**

- (b) Explain two reasons why a marriage might break down. (4 marks)

*Reasons for marriage breakdown:*

*1) Having children – This can put tremendous strain on marriage and take up a lot of time, leaving you with very little time for each other.*

*2) Communication problems – If in a relationship you cannot listen to each other clearly, then there is a problem because communication is key. If you misunderstand your partner then you can fall out of love.*

#### **Commentary**

Good development made of two reasons.

**(4 marks)**

- (c) 'Marriage is out of date in today's society.'

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

*I do not agree with the statement because though the divorce rate has increased vastly since years ago, it does not mean that there are not marriages that are successful in today's society.*

*The vows of marriage have also not changed, and if they are 'no longer relevant' then surely they should be changed? People are and always will be capable of loving each other. Boy, girl, heterosexual, bisexual or homosexual.*

*However, some may think it is due to the increase of divorce and step families in today's society etc. And it is much more common to become marriage in a registry office.*

**Commentary**

There is considerable irrelevance in this response. Two simple reasons are given for disagreeing with the statement. Much more could have been argued, e.g. on the one hand that marriage vows that demand lifelong commitment and fidelity are unrealistic in a world that is so rapidly changing and uncertain, and on the other hand, that in such a world, these vows are more relevant than ever, setting ideals that encourage couples to deepen their love and commitment and provide stability for children.

**(2 marks)**

- (d)(i) Explain why some Christians might agree with divorce in some situations. (6 marks)

*Christians may agree with divorce in some situations because for example if the relationship was violent, then a divorce is a relief / weight lifted from their shoulders and an escape. This is not acceptable, so a divorce should positively be granted as hastily as possible.*

*Also, because everybody makes mistakes and we are only human Christians should accept this and show the forgiveness that God has and allow people to have the happiness that is sought after to have a fulfilling life. This should be allowed by marriage.*

**Commentary**

The answer fulfils the level 4 criteria but lacks the detail required for level 5. Other reasons given are the harm to children living in a home where there is violence or where there is frequent quarrelling or a cold, unloving atmosphere between the parents.

**(4 marks)**

(d)(ii) 'Divorced people should not be allowed to remarry in church.'

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

*I agree with this statement because when people get married the first time they promise things such as 'till death do us part' and if they get a divorce then they could not have meant what they said. When you get married in a church you are promising before God to 'love and cherish' your partner, because a marriage is intended to be for life so every effort should be made to make a marriage work.*

*In Matthew 5 he says that 'the only grounds for divorce is unfaithfulness', so other Christians may say that on these terms only is a divorce acceptable.*

*On the other hand everybody, including Christians make mistakes. And if they did not love somebody they cannot help it, and they should have the right to be happy. Also the divorce sometimes can only be wanted by one party, then the person who does not wish for a divorce should be allowed to have the opportunity to find somebody else that will respect them for life and when they do the chance to have a marriage before God should be allowed. The first time they become married they obviously did not intend to break their vows.*

**Commentary**

This is a detailed answer, but the first paragraph is focussed more on the issue of divorce rather than on remarriage in church. Had the arguments been directed consistently to the question, the response might have achieved level 6.

**(5 marks)**