

## Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Unit 11 *Judaism: Ethics*

Exemplar Scripts and Commentaries



## Script 1

### PART A

#### A1 The Law and The Environment

- (a) Give **two** of the Ten Commandments which refer to how people should respect God. (2 marks)

1. *I am the Lord your God*
2. *You shall observe Sabbath*

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate only gives a partially correct answer in identifying the part of the first Commandment. As the candidate does not say anything about how this means people should respect God, the mark for this Commandment was not awarded.

**(1 mark)**

- (b) What is stewardship? (2 marks)

*Stewardship is the Jewish concept that humans are on Earth to take care of it and keep it in order.*

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate makes one simple point about stewardship, that humans are meant to look after the world for God. For a further mark the candidate needs to develop this answer further.

**(1 mark)**

- (c) 'It is never right to experiment on animals.'

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)

*I believe that it is alright to test on animals if it is to save a human's life. This is because, in Judaism, a human's life is more important than an animal's. The problem is that people also use animals to test cosmetics, and other things that could be easily tested by humans. Then, sometimes the animals are badly treated, which could be considered against stewardship, as we are treating creatures that we should be caring for badly. In conclusion, animals should be used to test life-saving medicines, but nothing that humans can harmlessly test, and they should be treated well.*

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate makes three creditable points: that a human's life is more valuable than an animal's; that in some animal experiments the animal is treated badly and this is not stewardship; and, reading through the lines, concludes that there is a difference between testing life saving medicines in comparison with testing for cosmetic purposes. There has been some attempt to give religious content and there is also some development of two points. This answer just reaches level 4, 4 marks. For level 5, clearer religious content and much better development is needed.

**(4 marks)**

## A2 Crime and Punishment

- (a) Choose **two** of the five aims of punishment and explain their meaning. (4 marks)

*1<sup>st</sup> aim - Deterrence*

*Meaning - A punishment that stops potential criminals doing crimes because they don't want to face the consequences.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> aim - Reformation*

*Meaning - A punishment that is used so that the criminal charges and realizes what they have done.*

### **Commentary**

Obviously this candidate was well prepared on this question, and has picked up full marks for learning key vocabulary and definitions.

**(4 marks)**

- (b) Explain ways in which the following punishments are designed to help the offenders. (4 marks)

*community service - If a criminal took away from the community, by theft or vandalism for example, then they are giving back to the community they took from.*

*a fine - A fine deters potential criminals. For example, many people will park well so they don't have to pay a fine.*

### **Commentary**

Here the candidate has a grasp of the purpose of community service, but does not really develop the idea much further.

The concept of the fine is more developed. Overall, the answer is more than 2 simple points, but not enough for a level 4 showing some development or analysis. Therefore this is a level 3, 3 mark response.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) 'The death penalty (capital punishment) is supported by Jews.'

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

*The death penalty is not supported by Jews because life is sacred, and it is a gift from God. It is also quite horrible to take away someone's life. However, there are some instances when Judaism considers the death penalty acceptable. These crimes are murder, blasphemy, and adultery, for example. Also, some Jews will refer to the 'eye for an eye' passage to say that murderers should be killed as they killed someone. The Rabbis accepted there were instances when a criminal should be killed, but they made the laws so specific that the appropriate criteria for the criminal to be killed were virtually impossible.*

**Commentary**

Here the candidate has made a number of points: that life is sacred and God-given; that in some circumstances Judaism considers the death penalty acceptable with specific reference to the conditions that it might apply; reference to 'an eye for an eye'; as well as the Rabbinic interpretations of the law on the death penalty making it very difficult to apply the death penalty in reality. The candidate has attempted to balance the argument, but only really made one point on the side disagreeing with the statement. However, the religious content is very clear, and the candidate is aware of Jewish teachings and practices. There is evidence of reasoned consideration of two points of view, but the answer is not well constructed enough to class as a well argued response. Hence it achieves a level 5, 5 marks.

**(5 marks)**

### A3 Conflict and Suffering

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

*Reconciliation is coming to peace on agreement after a dispute between two or more people.*

**Commentary**

Here the candidate has some idea of the idea of reconciliation between groups, and makes a single point about the concept. To gain a further mark, the candidate needs to develop the idea further.

**(1 marks)**

- (b) 'Jews do not believe in pacifism.'

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

*Jews do not believe in pacifism. This is firstly because they believe that saving lives is important and if war is likely to save more lives than letting people invade, they will engage. Also, they believe in defending what is theirs. If people are threatening them of their religion, they will defend themselves in the name of God. However, they do wish to reconcile and keep deaths to a minimum, and peace to a maximum. Also, they believe killing is wrong, so war can't be ideal.*

**Commentary**

Here the candidate makes a number of separate points in agreement with the statement: that saving lives is an important concept in Judaism; that it is appropriate to react when under invasion; and it is right to defend property. The candidate offers two ideas in disagreement: that peace is an important concept and that killing is wrong. Clearly there is evidence of consideration of two different points of view with an understanding of religion, but the answer 'tails off' somewhat, and so it is a reasoned rather than well-argued response. Hence it achieves a level 5, 5 marks.

**(5 marks)**

- (c) Explain what actions might be taken by Jews or others to prevent anti-Semitism. (4 marks)

*Jews can do many things to prevent anti-Semitism. They can protest peacefully, and are even encouraged to do it. A Rabbinic teaching even says that a man who can protest but doesn't is negatively responsible.*

**Commentary**

Here the candidate offers protest as one response to anti-Semitism. The rest of the answer, which comments on the importance of protest can be credited as development, but really the answer needs to focus more fully on the actions that might be taken. Just level 2, 2 marks.

**(2 marks)**

## A4 Life and Death

- (a) What is meant by the 'sanctity of life'? (2 marks)

*The sanctity of life is the concept that life is sacred, a gift from God, and that is his decision when someone is born or alive, and how their life is.*

### Commentary

Again, this candidate was well prepared on this question, and has picked up full marks for learning key vocabulary and definitions.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) 'A Jew would never agree to euthanasia.'

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

*A Jew should, technically, never agree to euthanasia because it is God's decision when some dies, also because euthanasia could be considered murder, and one of the 10 commandments is "You shall not murder."*

### Commentary

Here the candidate offers three simple points in response to the question. Note that the candidate does not have to develop two sides of the argument as it is an AO2 question for 3 marks, as marks are not awarded for agreeing or disagreeing with the stimulus. This answer offers an opinion backed up with several simple reasons, and achieves a level 3, 3 marks.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Explain Jewish beliefs about the immortality of the soul. (4 marks)

*The beliefs that when a person dies, the soul is sparated from the body and keeps living. This cannot be confirmed, but many Jews will take this as a possibility as to what could happen after death.*

### Commentary

Here the candidate has given a definition of immortality of the soul, but struggles to extend the answer any further. The last sentence adds little to the answer. Had the candidate stated that there is no confirmation of this belief in the Tenakh, the second points would have been creditable. There is something relevant and worthy of credit in this answer, but it is not built upon. Hence level 1, 1 mark.

**(1 marks)**

- (d) 'Jews should allow a baby to be conceived to save the life of an older brother or sister.'

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

*Jews should be allowed to have a child to save another child's life because they believe that Pihuah Nefesh is immensely important, and a saviour sibling does that. However, if the saviour sibling is unwilling to give up more parts of their body, they should have the right to say so, and their parents to listen to them.*

**Commentary**

Here the candidate has an idea of the importance of preserving life in Judaism, offering the Jewish concept of **Pikuah / Pihuah** Nefesh but without explanation. Given this is very specifically Jewish religious content, and it is relevant to the question, the candidate has been given the benefit of the doubt and some credit is awarded for this idea. The candidate then goes on to explore the rights of the saviour sibling in comparison. Although this is quite an unexpected response to the question, there are two clear relevant reasons here in response to the target, hence level 2, 2 marks.

**(2 marks)**

## PART B

### B5 Wealth and Poverty

- (a) Explain one way in which tzedaka (charity) may be practised. (2 marks)

*Tzedakah may be practised by donating money to charities.*

#### Commentary

Here the candidate gives one single point in response to the question, hence 1 mark.

**(1 marks)**

- (b) 'Jews have a duty to support people in their own country – not those living abroad.'

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

*I believe that Jews, as everyone else, have a duty to support people in need-whether or not they are in this country. For example, if Haiti had not received all the aid from abroad that they did, they would not be at all able to survive, and there would be even more dead than there already were. Also some countries are too poor, which is why they need support, and therefore people should support them, no matter where they are from. However, if people in your country are in as much need as people abroad, then they might be a priority.*

#### Commentary

Here the candidate lists a number of reasons why Jews should support those in need, but as there is no religious content, the answer is capped at level three, 3 marks.

**(3 marks)**

- (c)(i) Explain the work of World Jewish Relief. (6 marks)

*World Jewish Relief is an organization founded by Jews to help Jews all around the world experiencing conflict. One of the countries it has, and is helping is, Georgia. When the conflict happened, WJR quickly went to help the many innocents who were caught up in it. Even when the conflict ended, they continued to support the victims needed. They set up schools, and temporary accommodation, whilst also bringing the food they needed. They also helped the victims to survive a harsh winter. Lastly, they pledged to support Georgia until it no longer needed it. It started as organization that helped refugees in WWII get to safer places and now it is a huge charity which helps both Jewish and non-Jewish people.*

#### Commentary

The candidate has clearly been taught all about one specific project that World Jewish Relief has worked on in recent times. Something further is added with the mention of helping refugees. The candidate has missed an opportunity to demonstrate a breadth of knowledge about the work of the charity, and although there is clear knowledge and understanding with some development, it isn't as detailed as a level 5 response.

**(4 marks)**



- (c)(ii) 'Why do Jews support organisations which work to relieve poverty?  
Refer to religious teaching in your answer. (4 marks)

*Jews support organizations which work to relieve poverty because, from a young age, Jewish children are taught to give tzedakah. Some families have a pushke to increase money giving. There is a teaching in Proverbs which explains that if one makes no effort, one will be poor. Also, in Leviticus it says that one must only harvest once, and leave the leftovers to the poor. This tells us that we mustn't be stingy, and we have an obligation towards the needy.*

**Commentary**

The candidate clearly understands the reasons why Jews give to those in need. There is application of Jewish concepts and teachings in this answer, clear knowledge and understanding with some development is evident here, worthy of level 4, 4 marks.

**(4 marks)**

- (d) 'People should help themselves and not rely on long term aid.'

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)

*I disagree because if we have the means to give the less privileged, there is nothing stopping us from giving to them. If they cannot afford to receive aid, are we in too critical a condition to call for official help, we should be ready to help. However, in Judaism to highest form of tzedakah is helping someone to become self-reliant. I agree. So, if you give people short term aid, but teach them the skills and give them the tools to become self-reliant, that is an even greater mitzvah.*

**Commentary**

The candidate balances this argument well, giving two points to back up each side of the argument, with reference to religion. There is evidence of reasoned consideration of two points of view, but as the argument, particularly in the first two sentences, is not very coherent, the answer is more of a level 5 response than level 6.

**(5 marks)**

## Script 2

### PART A

#### A1 The Law and The Environment

- (a) Give **two** of the Ten Commandments which refer to how people should respect God.  
(2 marks)

1. "You should not misuse the name of the Lord"
2. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

#### **Commentary**

An excellent response, gaining full marks.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) What is stewardship? (2 marks)

The belief that mankind has the responsibility to look after, conserve and protect the world that God created for them.

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate has a good awareness of the concept of stewardship, clearly linking humanity's responsibility to care for the world to the concept of God. This is a developed answer, and worthy of the full 2 marks.

**(2 marks)**

- (c) 'It is never right to experiment on animals.'

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)

*I agree because Jews believe in stewardship which means we have to look after and protect all of Gods creations including animals. Also animals are forbidden to be treated inhumanely and exploited for human greed. Equally the teaching of Tzair means the suffering of animals and teaches that Jews must take proper care of animals. Despite that, the sancity of life teaches that humans are more important than animals and if experiments will stop cancer or cure a disease, it is permitted. Besides in exodus it says "on the seventh day rest so your ox and your donkey may rest implying that the animals cannot rest unless the humans want them to. In addition to that after the flood, God told Noah that Jews could now eat animals.*

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate starts off with the concept of stewardship, but quickly adds something new by linking the idea with the treatment of animals. Examiners would expect the potential for candidates to repeat some material over the span of questions 1 (b) and (c). There is further development in the addition of non exploitation of animals and Tza'ar a specifically Jewish concept about the proper care for animals. The other side of the argument is less well developed, two points are offered: sanctity of human life over animal life and the need for medical research. The last two sentences add little to the answer, as the teaching from Exodus referred to is all about the need to care for animals, and the final sentence is about eating meat, rather than animal experimentation. There is evidence of reasoned consideration of two points of view here, but given that the candidate moves away from the target of the question towards the end of the answer, the response is reasoned consideration of two points of view rather than well-argued.

**(5 marks)**

## A2 Crime and Punishment

- (a) Choose **two** of the five aims of punishment and explain their meaning. (4 marks)

*1<sup>st</sup> aim - Deterrence*

*Meaning - If you punish people who commit crimes it will make other people scared to commit crimes.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> aim - Protection*

*Meaning - It stops the criminals hurting anyone in society if they are locked away.*

### **Commentary**

Obviously this candidate was well prepared on this question, and has picked up full marks for learning key vocabulary and definitions.

**(4 marks)**

- (b) Explain ways in which the following punishments are designed to help the offender. (4 marks)

*community service - to show people who have possibly harmed the community, the work that goes into it and what their selfish actions have done.*

*a fine - by taking the money that the offender could have used to buy a new pair of shoes etc. it has given the message that crime equals less for the offender.*

### **Commentary**

Here the candidate makes two slightly different points, there is oblique reference to appreciating society as well as the idea of reparation.

The idea of a fine is less developed. Overall, the answer is more than 2 simple points, but not enough for a level 4 showing some development of both ideas. Therefore this is a level 3, 3 mark response.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) 'The death penalty (capital punishment) is supported by Jews.'

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

*Yes because in the torah there are thirty six witnesses where people are punishable by death, the state of Israel banned it but still kept it going for Nazi War Criminals and one of the main focuses of the Torah is giving punishments to all of those who break Gods law.*

*However, the Torah was written two thousand years ago and could be seen as a religion of the times, not of Gods law. Furthermore the sanctity of life is against capital punishment and according to the seventh commandment "thou shalt not murder" the person who executes the criminal is only as good as the criminal after the execution has taken place.*

### **Commentary**

A beautifully answered question. The candidate demonstrates a clear understanding of Jewish teachings, as well as application in practice. There are three clear points on each side of the argument, and it reads as a well argued response, worthy of level 6, 6 marks.

**(6 marks)**

### A3 Conflict and Suffering

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

*When two people, or groups of people who have previously fought or disagreed with each other decided to make up.*

#### **Commentary**

Here the candidate has some idea of the idea of reconciliation between groups, and makes a single point about the concept. To gain a further mark, they need to develop the idea further.

**(1 mark)**

- (b) 'Jews do not believe in pacifism.'

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

*I agree because the torah makes it clear that there are times when its necessary to fight, also, in Israel, there is compulsory military service from the age of eighteen. Equally pacifism is not a religious belief but a moral principle.*

*Having said that Judaism also says that pacifism is a far better choice than going to war, lots of Jews, including famous ones, such as Albert Einstein and Amy Goodman were/are pacifist and there are many principles of peace and justice in the torah that Jewish people already follow.*

#### **Commentary**

The candidate makes a good attempt at agreeing with the statement giving three clear ideas in response. The other side of the argument is less well developed. In this answer we can see reference to Jewish teachings as well as practice too. It is a reasoned, rather than well-argued response.

**(5 marks)**

- (c) Explain what actions might be taken by Jews or others to prevent anti-Semitism. (4 marks)

*To give talks and more information at schools and other public places because I think people are afraid of what they do not know, the stop telling anti-semitic jokes, to encourage people of all religions to interect and inspire people to be tolerant.*

#### **Commentary**

In this question examiners are looking for actions that a person might take, rather than an explanation of why people might be anti-Semitic. The comment 'I think people are afraid about what they do not know' is perhaps an attempt to develop the first point, implying that being informed will remove fear, which is a major cause of anti-Semitism. But this might be reading more into the answer than the candidate intended. There are then two further points: not tell anti-Semitic jokes and to encourage multi-faith tolerance. There is not quite enough material to consider this answer developed. Hence it is a level 3, 3 marks response.

**(3 marks)**

## A4 Life and Death

- (a) What is meant by the 'sanctity of life'? (2 marks)

*The belief that life is sacred and a gift from God therefore it does not belong to us and we must take care of it.*

### Commentary

Again, this candidate was well prepared on this question, and has picked up full marks for learning key vocabulary and definitions. An oblique reference to stewardship makes its third appearance in this paper, but it is relevant in relation to the stimulus.

**(2 marks)**

- (b) 'A Jew would never agree to euthanasia.'

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

*I think a Jew would agree to Euthanasia, as no matter how strong their belief's are, the pain they are in could be more than enough for them to agree to it. However according to the sanctity of life, it is forbidden to end a life before God has intended and the talmud makes it clear that helping some to kill themselves would be breaking the commandment "thou shalt not kill".*

### Commentary

Here the candidate tries to balance the argument, which is not necessary as this is an AO2 3 mark question, which looks ideally for a one-sided response. However, there are some good points in this answer: that it might be more humane to agree to euthanasia; the concept of the sanctity of life is mentioned (again, examiners will be expecting some degree of overlap between A4 (a) and (b)) and the mention of the Commandment not to kill. There are more than two simple reasons here, so this answer is comfortably a level 3 response.

**(3 marks)**

- (c) Explain Jewish beliefs about the immortality of the soul. (4 marks)

*This is the idea of the fact that when a person's body dies, the soul gets cut off from it and lives on. It is highly doubted as theres not many teachings in the Tenahah to support this but many Jews, especially those from the reform tradionally strongly do.*

### Commentary

Here the candidate has given a definition of immortality of the soul, and then goes on to mention that there aren't many teachings in the Tenakh. There are two simple points here, worthy of two marks.

**(2 marks)**

- (d) 'Jews should allow a baby to be conceived to save the life of an older brother or sister.'

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

*I think they should as God allowed us to be able to research genetic engineering, besides, the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment says that Jews are forbidden to murder and if people sit back and do nothing and let the child die, this would be breaking it. However if something was taken from the baby that would kill it or seriously injure it or the family did not have the means to support or look after it they should not be allowed to conceive the baby.*

**Commentary**

Again the candidate tries to balance the argument, which is not necessary as this is an AO2 3 mark question (see comment on 4b). The candidate makes two clear points agreeing with the statement and then attempts to balance the argument by looking at the rights of the saviour sibling. The idea that the saviour sibling's life should be respected is creditable, but the final sentence about the parents being able to afford the new child adds little to the argument. Altogether there are three simple reasons here, which is more than a level 2 response, and would get the full three marks.

**(3 marks)**

## PART B

### B6 Relationships.

- (a)(i) Give **two** of the Ten Commandments which refer to family relationships (2 marks)

*Do not commit adultery.  
Honour your father and mother.*

#### **Commentary**

Full marks.

**(2 marks)**

- (a)(ii) 'Parents should expect their children to look after them in their old ages.'

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)

*I agree that parents should expect their children to look after them in their old age because one of the ten commandments is honour your father and mother, it is also mentioned in the Torah "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth", this implies not only revenge and justice but the fact that the parents have supported their children for eighteen years, payed for them and looked after them and in return their children should give something back.*

*However if the parents did not bring up the child and put it up for adoption, or alternatively abuse or neglect them in anyway the child should not necessarily look after them unless they decide to forgive them an forgiveness is a sign of strength but the parents should repent first at a festival such as Yam Kipur if this was the case.*

*In conclusion I that if the parents brought up their children as well as they possibly could then they should expect their children to look after them in their old age because, after all, they would not exist without their parent.*

#### **Commentary**

The candidate begins well, and gives two solid reasons why children have a responsibility to look after their parents. The answer then moves on to the other side of the argument, giving adoption, abuse and neglect as reasons why children might not have a responsibility to look after their parents. Then the candidate moves off target by discussing forgiveness, which does not gain any credit, before concluding. There are two sides of the argument here, with reference to religion, but it is a weak level 5 response, rather than something well-argued.

**(5 marks)**

- (b) Explain the purpose of Jewish marriage. (4 marks)

*The purpose of Jewish marriage are to show love and commitment to each other for life, to be friends and support each other in their old age, to provide a secure home to raise children in and to involve and grow closer to God together in their marraiges.*

#### **Commentary**

Although this answer feels quite brief, there is a lot of content in it. The candidate makes a number of valid points about the purposes of a Jewish marriage: it's for love, companionship, the basis of the family unit, and to grow closer to God. This is clear knowledge and understanding, worthy of level 4, 4 marks.

**(4 marks)**

- (c) Explain the procedure which Jews follow when divorcing. (6 marks)

*The procedure that Jews follow when divorcing is to first have the man to divorce his wife, only after they have tried in every way to make their marriage work and only men can start the divorce process in Judaism. Next, in traditional orthodox marriages, the man writes the woman a 'Get' which is the will of the divorce. The 'Get' is very important because it means that the woman is free to marry again if she chooses and to not have all her children and future descendants declared illegitimate. Because this used to create problems because a man could divorce his wife for a silly reason Jewish couples now apply to a Jewish court called the Beit Din where the husband hands the Get to his soon-to-be-ex wife in front of witnesses, this makes the divorce formally ended.*

**Commentary**

The candidate has clearly responded to the question by trying to write down everything that they know about Jewish divorce, including the circumstances that might apply to a divorcing couple, rather than the procedure itself. The candidate starts to pick up marks when the Get is mentioned; the implications of the Get for the woman's and existing children's future; the fact that the couple need to apply to the Bet Din; and mentions that the Get is handed over in front of witnesses. Overall, this answer has a lot of detail in it, without fully developing all of the ideas present. For this reason it achieves a level 5, 5 marks.

**(5 marks)**

- (d) 'Jews should never divorce'

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 the statement that, "Jews should never divorce" as it says in Malachi that God hates divorce, marriage is also meant to be a lifelong willing agreement and it is intended by God.*

*However Judaism accepts the fact that marriages don't work out sometimes, otherwise why would it have a document and various procedures for it. Also, it is made clear that the laws of the land should be accepted by Jews and it is the law of Britain that divorce is legal. Furthermore it is Jewish law that if adultery is committed the couple have no choice but to divorce, no matter the circumstances.*

**Commentary**

Again, the candidate has made a good attempt to balance both sides of the argument, the argument in agreement is strong and presents religious arguments. The alternative view offers two points, before reference to a less-used Jewish teaching which is about adultery being seen in the community making divorce inevitable. This answer achieves level 5, but the answer requires more explanation to get to level 6.

**(5 marks)**