

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

Exemplar Scripts and Commentaries



Script 1

PART A

A1 Worship

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some Roman Catholics use a rosary when they pray. (2 marks)

1. So they can remember how many prayers they have said by counting on beads.
2. So they can be more focused on their prayers.

Commentary

Two correct answers.

(2 marks)

- (b) 'The altar is the most important feature of a Roman Catholic church.'

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

I agree with this because the altar is where you pray and focus your prayers. Also it where the priest changes the bread and wine to the body and blood of Christ which is the main focus of a Roman Catholic Mass.

Commentary

Development of first two sentences would have pushed this up to level 3.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain briefly how Christians use the Bible in public and in private worship. (4 marks)

Public worship: At church the priest reads from it spreading the word of God to the congregation.

Private worship: Christians can read the Bible alone which helps them to concentrate on God and ask God to help them with their problems.

Commentary

Development of what is read from Bible needed e. g Psalms, Gospels.

(3 marks)

- (d) 'Structured worship is more meaningful than spontaneous worship.'

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

I disagree with this because some people don't have time to go to church where there is structured worship so they pray alone at home. They can still be close to God and put their own needs to God. When they are alone and there are less distractions.

Commentary

This just makes level 2. Spontaneous worship is meant to refer to non-liturgical public worship; the candidate has interpreted 'spontaneous worship' to refer to private prayer. Some credit has been given, but insufficient understanding of the term has led to an incomplete and not wholly relevant response.

(2 marks)

A2 Pilgrimage

- (a) Give **two** reasons why many Christians go on pilgrimage. (2 marks)

1. *To strengthen their faith.*
2. *To get physical or spiritual healing.*

Commentary

Correct answers.

(2 marks)

- (b) Explain what happens at **one** place of Christian pilgrimage. (4 marks)

Lourdes is in South France. It is a big place of pilgrimage because its where Bernadette got a vision of Mary. Some people go to ask for healing and some people go to help the old or sick to go. This is part of their pilgrimage, to help other people who wouldn't otherwise be able to go. Thousands of Christians go every year.

Commentary

Too much on why people go on a pilgrimage not what happens – marks given for prayer for healing/ and naming Lourdes. Outline of the ceremonies and/or of the role of the Brancardiers would have improved the response.

(2 marks)

- (c) 'All Christians should go on pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.'

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

I disagree with this because some people don't have the time or money to be able to go and yet are still good Christians. Some people will agree with this because they believe that you need to go on a pilgrimage to strengthen your faith and you should make the sacrifice from other things to go. The Bible teaches you to go on pilgrimages so you can come closer to God and find God. But I still disagree because people should get the choice and can be a good Christian without going on a pilgrimage.

Commentary

Two viewpoints but needs development; weak on second viewpoint. Not 'reasoned consideration'.

(4 marks)

A3 Baptism and Confirmation

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

There are 7 sacraments and they are outward signs of inward grace.

Commentary

Outward sign/inward grace.

(2 marks)

- (b) Give a symbol used in the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Baptism and explain what it means. (2 marks)

Symbol: Water

Explanation: Cleansing you from sin and making you pure to join God's family.

Commentary

Water/cleansing from sin. The rest of the answer was not necessary.

(2 marks)

- (c) Give two reasons why Confirmation is an important sacrament for Roman Catholics. (2 marks)

- 1. It makes them a full member of the church / strengthens faith.*
- 2. It renews the vows your God parents took for you when you were baptised .*

Commentary

Any two answers correct / full member of church/strengthens faith/vows. Again, more was written than necessary.

(2 marks)

- (d) 'Baptism should only be for adults.'

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

I disagree because a young child / baby shouldn't be denied the chance to be close to God and guided by God from a young age. Some people will agree because they feel a young baby won't understand and won't know what they have been signed up for. The Bible teaches you that God likes young children and wants them to be in his family. So I disagree because the baby should grow up to be a strong Catholic.

Commentary

Just three simple points/lacks development.

(3 marks)

A4 The Eucharist

- (a) Give another name for the Eucharist used in a Protestant tradition. (1 mark)

Holy Communion.

Commentary

Correct point.

(1 mark)

- (b) What does a priest say as he consecrates the wine during the Mass? (2 marks)

"This is my blood poured out for you. Drink it in memory of me."

Commentary

Two correct points.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain briefly how receiving the Eucharist can help Roman Catholics in their everyday lives. (3 marks)

It strengthens their faith and when they eat / drink it they believe they are taking in God / Jesus so it makes them stronger and makes him a part of them so they can go out and spread the good news.

Commentary

Sufficient development for full marks. The belief that receiving the Eucharist means that they are 'taking in God/Jesus' strengthens Roman Catholics' faith and enables them to spread the gospel.

(3 marks)

- (d) 'Receiving the Eucharist is the most important part of being a Christian.'

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

I disagree with this because there are other things more important than that. You could be a really good Christian and pray and help others but not always receive Eucharist. Some people may agree with it because receiving the Eucharist is like receiving God so it is important and it is the focus of Catholic Mass. The Bible teaches us to receive Eucharist in memory of Jesus and to strengthen us and our faith but I believe you can be a good Christian without it and being good to people is more important than receiving Eucharist.

Commentary

Two viewpoints expressed but second viewpoint lacks development with just sufficient development for level 4, but neither views contains 'reasoned consideration' (one of the criteria for level 5).

(4marks)

PART B

B5 Festivals

- (a) Explain why the season of Advent is important for Roman Catholics. (4 marks)

The season of advent is important to Roman Catholics because it is the time that they prepare for the coming of Jesus. They prepare spiritually by going to mass and praying to themselves. In churches they light advent wreaths where they light a candle weekly. Advent lasts for a month. Roman Catholics believe Jesus will come again and they use advent as a time to clear their mind and get ready for the coming of Jesus.

Commentary

Sound knowledge and understanding. Had the candidate explained why Advent wreaths are used in churches or developed the point about 'clearing the mind', the answer might have made level 4. As it is, there is little more than the idea of spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus, the belief in the Second Coming and the clearing of the mind. The 3rd and 4th sentences are about 'how' not 'why'.

(3 marks)

- (b)(i) Explain some of the ways in which Roman Catholics observe the season of Lent. (4 marks)

Lent is the period of time leading up to Easter. It lasts 40 days to represent the 40 days and 40 nights that Jesus spent in the desert. It starts on Ash Wednesday where Roman Catholics go to church and receive ashes. These are the ashes that were made when the palms from last years Palm Sunday were burnt. Many Catholics give something up over Lent to make a sacrifice as Jesus sacrificed his life for everyone. Also they make an extra effort to go to church at least once a week to pray and prepare for Easter.

Commentary

Clear knowledge and understanding.

(4 marks)

- (b)(ii) Explain how these ways of observing the season of Lent might make a difference in the life of a Roman Catholic. (4 marks)

Giving something up over Lent helps Catholics to appreciate what they have and appreciate how hard it must have been for Jesus. Also they can appreciate what they have in comparison to someone who doesn't have anything. This makes them grateful for everything they have and makes them a stronger Catholic. Because when they give something up they realise how much they have and how little other people have they give arms which means they give donations to poorer people. This makes a difference to their lives because it brings them closer to God because they don't have as much money to think about. Being close to God is an important thing at such a holy time.

Commentary

Clear knowledge and understanding.

(4 marks)

- (c) 'Easter is more important than Christmas for Christians.'

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 Easter is when a major event happened. At Easter Jesus was crucified and raised again which was when everything changed. The crucifiers realised that Jesus really was the son of God. Christmas is an important time because it was when Jesus was born and he wouldn't have been able to die and rise again if he hadn't been born. But everyone has been born and what made Jesus special is that he died and rised again. When God sent Jesus to earth he knew that he would be crucified and he sacrificed his son so that we could be free from sin and live.

Other people may disagree because Christmas is when Jesus was born and so it is very important. Also in the modern world Christmas is celebrated more than Easter in general but for Christians Easter is still more important. The Bible teaches us that Easter is more important because it was God's plan and a miracle happened when Jesus rose again and in my opinion Easter is more important.

Commentary

Two viewpoints expressed and developed / last paragraph repetitive. Just achieves level 5.

(5 marks)

- (d) 'Christians do not need special festivals; every day should be a celebration of their love for God.'

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

I disagree with this because although everyday should be a celebration at special festivals the whole day is dedicated to God which is something that can't happen on every other day. On every other day you might say a prayer but for most of the day your not thinking about God. But on special festivals Christians have the whole day to concentrate on God and become close to God.

Other people might agree with the statement because they think that if your a true Christian you should dedicate your life to God and you should celebrate your love of God daily and not need a special day where you are close to God.

In the Bible it tell you to love God every day but during festivals you should pay extra attention to God and offer your whole day. But in my opinion festivals are still important so you can have a whole day not worrying about anything else and celebrating your love for God.

Commentary

Several simple points made/ repetitive responses with some confusion.

(3 marks)

Script 2

PART A

A1 Worship

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some Roman Catholics use a rosary when they pray. (2 marks)

1. *To pray to the mother of God.*
2. *Help them guide to say the Lord's prayer.*

Commentary

Nothing worthy of credit.

(0 marks)

- (b) 'The altar is the most important feature of a Roman Catholic church.'

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

In the altar is where the bread turns to body and the wine in to blood. It is a sacred place and I think the only place a priest allowed to use the power to change. It is where all the people focus on in mass so it is a important feature.

Commentary

Several simple points made but makes an overall level 3

- Bread and wine/body and blood of Jesus
- Sacred place
- Focus on during Mass.

(3 marks)

- (c) Explain briefly how Christians use the Bible in public and in private worship. (4 marks)

Public worship: They use public worship in churches on religious seminars. Bible is read out and there is a teaching behind it for all the Christians to learn. As a whole group, they use this teaching in life.

Private worship: Private worship is as a individual. People use the bible to help them to praise God. When read the bible, it is like a conversation between you and God.

Commentary

Public Worship Clear understanding

- Church worship/seminars
- Bible read out/teaching behind it
- Use that teaching in life

Private Worship Clear understanding

- As an individual to praise God
- Reading the Bible – like a conversation with God.

(4 marks)

- (d) 'Structured worship is more meaningful than spontaneous worship.'

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

I think this is wrong. Worshipping is not a competition. It does have to be meaningful. You just have to think it is for God and God only. Whatever ship you do, it is for God, even it just a small word that doesn't mean a lot but to the God, at least you have done it in his name.

Commentary

Misunderstanding of question but something worthy of credit – one simple point - whatever worship you do/for God/even if just a small word.

(1 mark)

A2 Pilgrimage

- (a) Give **two** reasons why many Christians go on pilgrimage. (2 marks)

1. *They go to have a spiritual healing.*
2. *Sometimes, for miracles to happen which can help them but they are still happy if they don't receive a miracle.*

Commentary

Two correct answers.

(2 marks)

- (b) Explain what happens at **one** place of Christian pilgrimage. (4 marks)

Walsingham is a shrine in Norfolk, England. It was built after a woman received a dream from Jesus. It is a replica of where Jesus used to live. Lots of people visit Walsingham. One of the reasons they don't have to travel the world to get to pilgrimage. And a lot of people have felt the presence of the Lord and there are claims that it healed their hearts.

Commentary

Candidate does not answer the question. Candidate talks about **why** people go on pilgrimage rather than **what** happens at a place of pilgrimage. 1 mark for naming Walsingham.

(1 mark)

- (c) 'All Christians should go on pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.'

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

Christians go to pilgrimage so they can feel the love of the Lord. Pilgrimage is like a taste of the heaven on earth. The Christians know why they are working hard to live a religious life. But some people cannot travel to these pilgrimages because of expenses and health problems. I personally think people should go to pilgrimage once in their life but people cannot go it is ok. If they still have faith in the Lord, even if you don't go you can earn his precious love.

Commentary

2 developed reasons – although there are two points of view there is not enough for Level 5.

(4 marks)

A3 Baptism and Confirmation

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

Sacraments are stages in the Christian life where they are invited in to the family of God and to strengthen the relationship with God. An outward sign of an inward grace.

Commentary

Correct answer outward sign/inner grace.

(2 marks)

- (b) Give a symbol used in the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Baptism and explain what it means. (2 marks)

Symbol: Cleanse with water and do a cross on the forehead using chrism.

Explanation: Cleanse with water means cleaning the original sin and the chrism means strengthen the relationship and the start of the relationship.

Commentary

Correct answer - water/cleansing from sin.

(2 marks)

- (c) Give two reasons why Confirmation is an important sacrament for Roman Catholics. (2 marks)

1. To say your vows personally that you want confirmation from your own choice.

2. Strengthen the relationship with God.

Commentary

Renewing baptismal vows/strengthening your relationship with God. NB strengthening your relationship with God mentioned in (a), (b), (c) but only credited in (c).

(2 marks)

- (d) 'Baptism should only be for adults.'

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

Most people get baptised in their childhood. This is good because you can have relationship with God at an early start of life. But the people who are being baptised do not have an opinion. I agree with the statement because people should be able to choose themselves if they want to be in the family of God. If they are baptised and they don't want to love God, what is the point? It is better to save trouble and the disappointment.

Commentary

Only several single points – not enough development for Level 4.

(Level 3)

A4 The Eucharist

- (a) Give another name for the Eucharist used in a Protestant tradition. (1 mark)

Holy Communion.

Commentary
Correct answer. (1 mark)

- (b) What does a priest say as he consecrates the wine during the Mass? (2 marks)

"This is my blood drink it in the name of our father."

Commentary
Only one relevant point made. (1 mark)

- (c) Explain briefly how receiving the Eucharist can help Roman Catholics in their everyday lives. (3 marks)

The Eucharist is believed to be the body and blood of Christ. Christians believe by receiving this, part of their body has the goodness of Jesus Christ in them. This might help the Christian not to sin in their daily life and to be a good Christian.

Commentary
Sound knowledge and understanding – one point well developed. (3 marks)

- (d) 'Receiving the Eucharist is the most important part of being a Christian.'

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

The Eucharist is good way to give you strength for your every day life but it is not the important part. There are other parts to being a Christian like the ten commandments. It think it is important but all the others are important as well. If you one part really good and the other part badly, your not a good Christian. You need to do every part to fullest ability to prove yourself your a proper Christian.

Commentary
Elementary knowledge. Only 2 simple points made
-strength for your everyday life
-like the ten Commandments. (2 marks)

PART B

B6 Sources of Authority

- (a)(i) Explain what the Apostles' Creed teaches about Jesus. (4 marks)

It teaches about the holy trinity. It teaches us how he was virgin mary through the power of the holy. How he died for the people and on the third he rose again, seated the right hand. It talks about the judgment day where Jesus will come again for the living and the dead. It talks about people believe the church and the apostles. It is like a list of beliefs which Christians believe.

Commentary

A number of relevant points are made, but the first, the penultimate and the final sentences are irrelevant. The question is focussed on the Apostles' Creed's statements about Jesus. Had the second sentence been stated clearly, the answer would have made level 4. As it stands, it is very confused.

(3 marks)

- (a)(ii) Explain how the Apostles' Creed might make a difference in the life of a Roman Catholic. (4 marks)

It is a list of beliefs Christians should believe it. People can use this check list when they are in doubt of their Christianity. If people question their Christianity, they can use this to stand up for themselves. No one can doubt your faith if you know the Apostles' Creed.

Commentary

Little to credit here- list of beliefs that acts as a check list.

(1 mark)

- (b) 'The Our Father is more important than the Apostles' Creed.'

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

Our Faith was said by Jesus Christ to the people. It is important prayer because it is stated in the bible as a prayer from God to worship him but the Apostles' Creed is a check list for Christianity. It can help them to understand the beliefs and what you should believe. I think they are both very important prayers as they both help a Christian in different. Apostles' Creed was written by bishop but they have must been inspired by God. In both ways they come from God and they are both important in a Christian life.

Commentary

Although there are two points of view there is not quite enough development for level 4 – just simple points made.

(3 marks)

- (c) Why is Peter an important figure of authority in the Roman Catholic Church? (4 marks)

Peter was the Apostle that recognised Jesus as the Son of God. For this, Jesus rewarded him with the keys to Heaven. He was the first pope of the Catholic and he died as a martyr for God. He was crucified upside down because of his last request. He said he doesn't have dignity to die as the same way as Jesus Christ.

Commentary

Clear knowledge and understanding with development.

(4 marks)

- (d) 'Roman Catholics should always do what the Pope says.'

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

The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church. Everything he does and says are for the Christians who are living in this world. He helps the Christians to become closer to God but in every country there are different cultures. If the Pope tells the church to do something, some church might not do the task because of the area they live in has rules and regulations. I think Roman Catholics should do what the Pope says as it is for their own good, but it is your personal choice to carry out the task for e.g. 'This year is the year of the priests and all the churches must read prayer out but not all churches do this pray as their small people who come to church.'

Commentary

It argues on the one hand that the Pope is the Head of the Church, helps Christians to become closer to God and that his teaching is for the Christians' own good. On the other hand, the candidate argues that a country's rules might prevent Roman Catholics living in that country from obeying the Pope's directives. None of the points are sufficiently developed for level 4 and the final point is confused.

(3 marks)