

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Unit 4 *Roman Catholicism: Ethics*

Exemplar Scripts and Commentaries



Script 1

PART A

A1 World Poverty

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some countries suffer from extreme poverty. (2 marks)

1. Some countries have a collapsed economy leaving its citizens in poverty due to no money.

2. Some countries have corrupt leaders who are only interested in personal gain or military power leaving the people with nothing for themselves.

Commentary

2 valid points given.

(2 marks)

- (b) Describe how **either** CAFOD **or** Trocaire uses long term aid to help people in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (4 marks)

Trocaire does many things to help LEDCs for example: They sent out Trocaire boxes to the parish and use the money collected to build houses, buy medical appliances and even digging wells. Trocaire does its best to try and concentrate on giving long term development for the good of the people, they even build schools for education and buy animals and agricultural things to grow food etc.

Commentary

The answer starts at 'use the money', there is sound knowledge of how Trocaire delivers long term aid. Development of one of the points made might have enabled level 4 to be awarded.

(3 marks)

- (c) 'Helping the poor 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 personally believe that this is one of the most important things we do as Jesus tells us in the bible to give alms and also follows this with example in many different ways like when he healed blind bartimaeus or when he fed the five thousand. However I can see how some people still believe it is right to help the poor but not think it is the most important thing for a Christian to do. Others might dedicate their lives to helping out in youth groups and steering young people in the right direction which keeps them off the streets and that is also very important.

Commentary

The opinion stated is well supported with religious argument. Better examples could have been chosen to further develop the counter argument.

(4 marks)

A2 Reconciliation and Punishment

- (a) Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation important for Roman Catholics? (2 marks)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation first of all is a good way to show contrition to god (sorrow for sin) and also Jesus teaches us in the bible to repent and that it is an important of Christian life, our priests also tell us it is important to attend regular confession.

Commentary

A developed answer.

(2 marks)

- (b) What can Christians learn about reconciliation from the Parable of the Forgiving Father (Prodigal / Lost Son)? (2 marks)

In this parable the father forgives his son even before he confesses, this shows his unconditional love for his son and is the same as God's unconditional love and mercy for all of us. So what is important to learn about this is our forgiveness and mercy should important to all of us because in forgiving someone we are living as God wants us to.

Commentary

A developed answer.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain **one** situation in which some Christians might support the use of the death penalty (capital punishment). (2 marks)

Situation: A Nazi war criminal has been charged for the death of millions of Jews.

Explanation: Christians would support the death penalty in this situation as we believe every human being has a divine destiny that God has planned before they were born so only God can decide someone's fate and to intervene is an act of Satan.

Commentary

A developed answer.

(2 marks)

- (d) 'Forgiveness is more important than punishment.'

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

I believe myself that forgiveness is more important than punishment as Jesus teaches us that it is. So for example in "the adulterous woman" Jesus intervenes and says "he who is without sin may throw the first stone" and they all walked away, in this Jesus is showing us not everyone is perfect and that God's mercy can be limitless. However in situations like the example I gave on (c) I can see how people would not tolerate this life of heartless sin and go for punishment as in my opinion someone like that belongs in the fires of hell.

Commentary

The opinion stated in support of the statement is sound and religious in content. The counter view, though strongly expressed, lacks any informed insight or development.

(4 marks)

A3 War and Peace

- (a) Explain briefly why many Christians believe that nuclear war is wrong. (3 mark)

I believe that many Christians think this is wrong because so many innocent people are killed in this and that this again is totally wrong. We as Christians believe in peace not war as Jesus did when he rode in to Jerusalem on a donkey showing he was a messiah of peace not war.

Commentary

Insufficient attention is paid to nuclear war and development is very general.

(1 mark)

- (b) Explain briefly why some Christians are pacifists. (3 marks)

Some Christians believe that world should be at peace as Jesus wanted to and this turns them to dedicating their lives to a life of peace and not violence as this is believed to be a better way forward in their view. This is also how Jesus wanted it as he is quoted in the bible saying "If someone strikes you on the right cheek you offer them the other."

Commentary

Two simple points.

(2 marks)

- (c) 'The 'Just War' theory can never be applied to wars in the modern world.'

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)

I agree as there is a lot of corruption in the modern world and countries are going to war for the wrong reasons like for example America has gone to war and they say it's to fight the Taliban but most people know they mainly want the country's oil so war nowadays is mainly for greed. However I also believe that what Britain and America are doing in Afghanistan are for good reasons because the terrorist threat has become too great, so the just war theory works in that topic although knowing said all this if the world was at peace the way Jesus wanted it to be and everybody lived in harmony we would have no call for a Just War theory so again it's wrong in that way.

Commentary

There is a lack of any real religious argument to support opinion and the examples chosen do not help in developing the answer. Some reasoned working through of the conditions for Just War would have helped this candidate to structure his argument better.

(2 marks)

A4 Christian Vocation

- (a) Give **three** different ways in which a priest serves his community. (3 marks)

1. *The priest conducts our mass ceremony.*
2. *The priest gives us confessions.*
3. *The priest visits the old and the sick.*

Commentary

Three ways given.

(3 marks)

- (b) 'Roman Catholic priests should be allowed to marry.'

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

I disagree as when a priest takes his vows in doing this he is dedicating his life to god and showing he is willing to spend his life doing god's will. Becoming married would interfere with this in many ways like celibacy for example.

Commentary

A well developed answer.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain briefly the meaning of the vow of poverty taken by members of religious orders. (3 marks)

By taking this vow you serve the poor showing loyalty to god and the commandments, also we are showing god's love to others and living by example of how Jesus did. The vow of poverty involves providing the hungry and thirsty, these who have little clothes and helping the poor who are sick and need care.

Commentary

Simple points made.

(2 marks)

- (d) 'The Roman Catholic Church should allow women to be ordained.'

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

I disagree as Jesus says in the bible that woman produces man who will rid the world of Satan's evil. What I think Jesus means by this is that it is mankind's duty just like it was Jesus' and this apostles. For man to be ordained is following in Jesus' footsteps where as a woman must follow Mary's footsteps as she produced a saviour.

Commentary

There is nothing worthy of credit in this response.

(0 marks)

PART B

B5 Marriage

- (a)(i) Give **two** of the ten commandments which refer to family relationships. (2 marks)

*You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.*

These refer to family relationships.

Commentary

Two valid responses.

(2 marks)

- (a)(ii) Explain the meaning and importance of marriage in the Roman Catholic Church. (6 marks)

Through marriage you are taking a vow to commit yourself to one person and are dedicating your life to them, this means you are willing to be with the one that makes you happy helping them through hard times.

Marriage is a sign of gods love and that each marriage should last a lifetime. Also the bible teaches that you should love your partner in marriage as Christ loves the church.

Commentary

There is just sufficient development in the first paragraph for this answer to reach level 4 – the candidate explains what the vow of commitment means in married life. This is followed with three simple points. The response as a whole falls short of the level 5 criterion of a detailed answer and the life-giving and exclusive features are omitted.

(4 marks)

- (b) Explain why Roman Catholics support adoption and fostering. (4 marks)

Fostering – This involves you looking after a child to give them a stable life for a while and also it is only until the child is either reunited with its own family, is adopted or is of age to carry on in life independently. The Roman Catholic church supports this as it gives the child an education and a religious life also.

Adoption – This involves two partners taking on all the duties that are with children and making the child their own, with this the parents will bring the child to mass, give it an education and many more things as god wants us to do. The R. C. supports this as it can stop Abortion and euthanasia etc.

Commentary

The question asks for explanation and though this is attempted it is done very briefly and with some repetition of ideas such as education and going to Mass. Some reference to specific Roman Catholic teaching would improve the answer.

(2 marks)

- (c) 'There is no difference between divorce and annulment.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Roman Catholic teaching in your answer.

(6 marks)

I believe there is no difference as in doing either of them you are breaking your vows and not committing yourself to the other person in other words you are still being separated no matter what you get, although having said this the roman catholic teaching says that marriage is a life long sacrament and that divorce does not dissolve this meaning that person can never remarry also St Paul says husband and wife should not divorce. Where as in annulment the church can dissolve the matter on certain circumstances like if one or both did not freely choose to marry the other or if one does not show love to the other as Jesus wanted them to do. However having considered both points I will refer back to what St Paul said and end with it and that is "husband and wife should not get divorced".

Commentary

There is clear statement of opinion and reasons given for this. The answer would have been strengthened by some discussion of HOW divorce and annulment differ.

(4 marks)

- (d) 'Roman Catholic teaching on sexual relationships today is more important than ever.'

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

I agree as with today's technology there is forms of contraception and abortion which make people feel more safe having intercourse outside marriage. Which in my view is very wrong as the bible teaches us that sex outside of marriage is a sin (fornication). People nowadays do not realise that they must follow the teaching of the bible to live like Jesus, so people should do so and wait until they are married. As again it says in the bible that the best possible love is one that is permanent. However in some cases I think it is okay for example if a couple who have been faithful to each other for many years and just can't afford to marry or if one has been given time to live I think that it should be acceptable as it will still be a meaningful love like god would want.

Commentary

Again an opinion is stated and some supporting reasons given. The thread of the debate is lost when 'fornication' is mentioned and the candidate does not fully consider what the question is really asking.

(3 marks)

Script 2

PART A

A1 World Poverty

- (a) Give **two** reasons why some countries suffer from extreme poverty. (2 marks)

1. Conflict like war and civil unrest use up money and others' resources. It drives people from their homes and destroy livelihood.

2. Poor countries had borrow large sum of money from rich countries and now pay back the loan then spend money on necessities for their people.

Commentary

Two valid reasons given, although more was written than was needed.

(2 marks)

- (b) Describe how **either** CAFOD **or** Trocaire uses long term aid to help people in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (4 marks)

CAFOD helps people to help themselves, which means long term aid where it gives help to make the people start support themselves, e.g. giving them a work. CAFOD as well do so by bringing access to drinking water, sanitation, education and tools, and providing money to start up local businesses, e.g. farms. This gives people in need a sense of their own dignity.

Commentary

Sound knowledge and understanding.

(3 marks)

- (c) 'Helping the poor 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 agree with statement that helping the poor is the most important part of being a Christian. The best reason for it is to follow an example of Jesus where the most of his live he spent for poor and told his disciples to do so. Jesus as well said that "blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

However, on the other hand being Christian is to life in peace with others as Jesus wanted, to preach gospel to everyone and to forgive others as God forgives us. And by doing this we show God's love same way as helping poor.

Commentary

There is evidence of consideration of different views and opinion is supported by religious arguments.

(5 marks)

A2 Reconciliation and Punishment

- (a) Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation important for Roman Catholics? (2 marks)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is important for Roman Catholics because they can reconciled with God and Church by which the penitent recovers grace to release from punishment incurred by mortal sin and to increase of spiritual strength.

Commentary

A developed answer.

(2 marks)

- (b) What can Christians learn about reconciliation from the Parable of the Forgiving Father (Prodigal / Lost Son)? (2 marks)

The Parable of Forgiving Father teaches that God, like the father in the story, loves all his children and that his forgiveness is unconditional. It teaches Christians that with God it's never too late to be sorry, and there is no limit to his forgiveness.

Commentary

The marks are gained in the first sentence.

(2 marks)

- (c) Explain **one** situation in which some Christians might support the use of the death penalty (capital punishment). (2 marks)

Situation: Use death penalty for the worst criminals that feel no guilt or sorrow.

Explanation: To protect people's safety from aggression.

Commentary

Point made and developed.

(2 marks)

- (d) 'Forgiveness is more important than punishment.'

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)

I agree with statement that forgiveness is more important than punishment. One reason for it, is that forgiveness is one of the most important part for Christians. Because forgiving others was central to Jesus' life, he ask God to forgive as he was dying on cross, rather than revenge. People should forgive others as God forgives them. As well, only God can judge people for their sin in heaven an no one also, so only option should be forgiveness as "blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy". However, Old Testament states that if person is going injure other person, it must be done to him. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As well, it might be too hard for many of people to forgive someone, for example killing of the closes person, friend.

Commentary

Arguments used to support the opinion stated are well expressed and religious in content. The counter argument could have been more fully developed. The answer as a whole does not have the coherence needed for level 6.

(5 marks)

A3 War and Peace

- (a) Explain briefly why many Christians believe that nuclear war is wrong. (3 marks)

Christian teaching opposes nuclear war because it can easily destroy life on earth, it could not be justly used as an instrument of war and destroying of whole cities or vast areas with inhabitants is crime against God and man. Jesus didn't teach people to kill but how to live in peace with others and God.

Commentary

Sound knowledge and understanding.

(3 marks)

- (b) Explain briefly why some Christians are pacifists. (3 marks)

Some Christians are pacifists because they believe that violent acts are wrong and only peaceful, non-violent solutions should ever be used, and they do so because they are inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus and teachings of church, for e.g. Quakers.

Commentary

There is just enough here for level 3.

(3 marks)

- (c) 'The 'Just War' theory can never be applied to wars in the modern world.'

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)

I agree that 'Just War' theory can never be applied to wars in the modern world. It is because in today's time countries are not fighting in traditional way as a conflict between two powers but there are many others examples of conflict which fit to the Just War theory, don't fight for self defence. For example, war in Iraq where American soldiers are not only fighting against terrorism but also because of the fossil fuel. Also civil wars, where some people are fighting against each other because of their disagreement and ideology. However, I think the 'Just War theory can still be applied, if (as Catholic teaching says) the war is a last option and only in cause of self defence (like terrorism), not because of the wealth, like fossil fuel.

Commentary

The argument which is strongly stated would have been improved by specific reference to the conditions required for Just War. Introducing the examples chosen had the effect of diluting the religious content of the answer and the point being argued in the second sentence was not clear. The counter argument does refer to the theory but does not develop this knowledge to any advantage.

(4 marks)

A4 Christian Vocation

- (a) Give **three** different ways in which a priest serves his community. (3 marks)

1. *Leading the Parish council.*
2. *Proclaiming the word.*
3. *Christian initiation and conducting funerals.*

Commentary

Three valid ways.

(3 marks)

- (b) 'Roman Catholic priests should be allowed to marry.'

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

I disagree with opinion that Catholic priests should be allowed to marry because they should remain focused on Christ and his church giving an example of Jesus, as well because of other reasons like travelling. However, I also think that married priest would have better knowledge, understanding and experience from having family difficulties and if it would be allowed priest to marry there would be increased number of priests.

Commentary

Opinion supported by developed reasons.

(3 marks)

- (c) Explain briefly the meaning of the vow of poverty taken by members of religious orders. (3 marks)

The vows of poverty means living simply and sharing wealth, like money or material goods as well talents to support community. The Acts of Apostles records what vow of poverty is. They showing it by doing different works of church, like education of young people, supplying health care, serving poor and assisting parishes or other church organisations.

Commentary

Sound knowledge and understanding.

(3 marks)

- (d) 'The Roman Catholic Church should allow women to be ordained.'

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

I think that women shouldn't be allow to be ordained. Main reason for it is that man is much more likely to become leader of parish, were people feel more respect, as well because of long tradition that shouldn't change and women may serve God in many different way which is as well good as being priest. However, the womens from Jesus society position was different then it is today.

Commentary

Opinion supported by developed reasons.

(3 marks)

PART B

B6 Respect for Human Life

- (a)(i) Give two of the Ten Commandments which refer to respecting others. (2 marks)

1. You shall not bear false witness against neighbour.
2. You shall not covet your neighbour's possessions.

Commentary

Two valid responses given.

(2 marks)

- (a)(ii) Explain the arguments for and against euthanasia. (6 marks)

Euthanasia is mainly used for reasons like mercy, where human suffering becomes too great, freedom which means that human should have a right to choose time and nature of their death or person do not wish to make their family suffer, seeing pain of closest person. However, Catholic teaching says that every life is sacred and valuable, and should not be taken because God should be only one to take away life. As well biblical teaching states that there should be no exceptions in commandment "don't kill" and Jesus came to heal not kill people.

Commentary

A detailed answer with some development.

(5 marks)

- (b) Explain why Roman Catholic teaching opposes the use of in vitro fertilisation (IVF). (4 marks)

Roman Catholic teaching opposes IVF because many of reasons. It can lead to destruction of new life were frozen embryos, which are never used are destroyed and there are many situations where couples for example may have twins but wanted only one child and uses abortion. This is total disrespect of human life and God's will. It separates creation of life from intimate act of sex and encourages idea that there is a right to have children forgetting they are a gift. There are other ways of having children, like having children in need from...

Commentary

Clear knowledge and understanding shown of reasons for the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to IVF.

(4 marks)

- (c) 'Abortion is the greatest evil.'

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

I agree that abortion is the greatest evil and I can give a reason for this. It shouldn't occur mainly because God had been create a human and give him a soul and unique genetic information from beginning of intimate act of sex between couple, and only God have a right to take this person life away, no one also have it. Mothers by choosing an abortion directly take life away from child and she break important

commandment "Do not kill". Roman Catholic think of abortion as murder and it is a grave sin. There are different ways than abortion, like giving child to adoption or getting help from Church and Parish is much better than death. There are many couples that wish to have and love a child. No child need to be unwanted child, even if its conceived out of rape or born disable as it is wrong to punish a child for sin and it's not for human to pass judgement on quality of live, just like Nazis did.

However, there are acceptable reasons for abortion. Most acceptable reason is when pregnancy might risks mothers life or unborn when unborn children is already death. Another reason, is when teenage girl is emotionally or as well physically be ready to give birth and be responsible for her baby. Or woman don't want to cope with product of rape growing inside her.

Commentary

This answer was well written and contained some relevant information. However, the question required some comparison of abortion with other evils and failure to do this limited the level awarded.

(4 marks)

- (d) 'Christians are right to believe in life after death.'

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

I totally agree that there is a life after death and Christians are right to believe so because of many reasons. Best explanation for this, is Jesus' example. In bible Jesus said and promised that there is life after death. Accordingly, as bible states in Mark's gospel, Jesus has explained to Jewish scriptures that life after death is different from life on earth and that death is not the end. Jesus had not only said but showed that there is life after death by his resurrection after 3 days of death. As well, Jesus said in John's gospel that "those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone also, will live again." This makes Christians believe in resurrection and life with God after death and explains that the way you live before death and as people remember you decides, do you join into heaven or hell. Mainly people like literalists believe in every word of the bible. Believe in life after death as well helps people to make sense of life, provides purpose to life and gives support.

However, there are people like liberals that believe that writers of bible were humans and could make mistakes or there are people who think of Christian teaching as ambiguous or even incorrect. They believe that there is nothing beyond life and because there is no scientific proof, person is depressed or simple people have lack of faith.

Commentary

An opinion is stated and supported with some sound religious arguments. There is a glimpse of a counter argument but this lacks the thought and development needed for the higher levels.

(4 marks)