

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification B)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 2 *Religion and Life Issues*

- Religion and Animal Rights



There are 18 marks for each question.

1 Religion and Animal Rights

Look at the photograph, below.



- (a) Give **two** ways in which animals and humans are different. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Explain why some religious believers are vegetarians. *(4 marks)*
- (c) 'Religious believers should not keep animals as pets.'
- What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- (d) Explain the attitudes of religious people towards the cloning of animals. Refer to religious teaching in your answer. *(3 marks)*
- (e) 'Religious believers should do more to protect animal rights.'

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



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification B

Unit 2 *Religion and Life Issues*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Religion and Animal Rights

June series

1 Religion and Animal Rights

- 1 (a) Give two ways in which animals and humans are different.

Target: Knowledge of two ways in which animals differ from humans

Candidates may include any of the following points:

Humans can talk (can communicate at a higher level with each other), can reason, are self-aware, are able to create more advanced societies / architecture / music / the arts, have culture, philosophy, religion, morality / some would argue that humans have souls, animals do not / animals behave instinctively, humans can control their instincts.

Give one mark for each of the two ways given. There are no marks for development.

(2 marks) AO1

- 1 (b) Explain why some religious believers are vegetarians.

Target: Understanding of religious reasons for vegetarianism

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Killing animals is cruel / Buddhist principle of not harming living creatures / Hindu principle of cycle of reincarnation / meat-production wastes land that could be used to feed far more people / health reasons; fear of disease like BSE / do not like meat; parents are vegetarians / method of farming, transporting and slaughtering animals are cruel / personal choice.

(4 marks) AO1

1 (c) ‘Religious believers should not keep animals as pets.’

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

Target: Evaluation of whether religious believers should keep animals as pets

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons.	3 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Keeping animals as pets requires keeping them captive, restricting their freedom to roam and mate as they would do in the wild / it reduces their status to possessions / loss of dignity / wild animals / dangerous animals should not be kept as pets in case of danger to others / inappropriate habitat / Muslims oppose keeping animals in confined spaces and training them to do tricks but accept keeping domestic animals as long as well treated.

Animals are good companions for people / family pets can teach children about care and compassion / use of guide dogs for blind or disabled / adopting an animal that would be destroyed are morally good / religious beliefs about animals as part of God’s creation / stewardship / living in harmony with all living creatures.

(3 marks) AO2

1 (d) Explain the attitudes of religious people towards the cloning of animals. Refer to religious teaching in your answer.

Target: Understanding of religious attitudes towards the cloning of animals

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Selective breeding of animals to improve variety / quality, etc. is generally accepted but cloning is the deliberate creation of a new identical animal, e.g. Dolly the sheep, raises concerns, e.g. ‘playing God’ / tampering with God’s creation / unnatural / suffering of animal / long term harm to human health in the food chain, may produce deformities, disrespect for nature / God’s creatures, motivated by profit / treating animals as commodities / acceptable if intentions are therapeutic, for saving human lives / produce animals that are resistant to disease, cattle without horns / ‘dominion’ over animals justifies using them to improve human life / religious teachings about animals.

(3 marks) AO1

1 (e) 'Religious believers should do more to protect animal rights.'

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

Target: Evaluation of whether religious believers should do more to protect animal rights

Levels	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Most animal welfare pressure groups are secular / not religious / religious people may support these as individuals but rarely campaign in public specifically for animal rights / stewardship / should do more / animals are God's creation / parallel status of animals in some faiths.

Other views

Religious leaders have spoken out about protecting the environment / including animals, e.g. Assisi and Ohito Declarations which called for nature to be treated with respect and compassion / religions teach about the rights of animals, e.g. stewardship, care for nature, non-harming, value, integrity of creation / St Francis of Assisi, St Phillip Neri and other saints give examples of treating animals with respect and gentleness / many religious charities consider human rights more important than animal rights / human suffering is more important to alleviate than animal suffering / preservation of animals / Roman Catholic view that it is 'unwise to spend money on them that should as a priority go to the relief of human misery'. (Catechism)

(6 marks) AO2