

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification B)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 3 Religion and Morality

- Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life



There are 18 marks for each question.

1 Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life (Medical Ethics)

Look at the photograph of a human embryo below.



Source © Science Photo Library

- (a) What is Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID)? (2 marks)
- (b) Explain briefly **two** reasons why a religious believer might not agree with Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID). (4 marks)
- (c) 'Surrogate mothers should be allowed to keep their babies if they want to.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain religious attitudes to transplant surgery. (3 marks)
- (e) 'Medical technology has done more to help people than God has.'

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 3 *Religion and Morality*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

June series

Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life (Medical Ethics)

1 (a) What is Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID)?

Target: Definition of a key term

Candidates may include some of the following points:

When a woman is made pregnant by the sperm of a man other than her partner, but not through having sexual relations with him.

1 mark for superficial comment or single point.

2 marks for a developed answer or more than one point of view.

(2 marks) AO1

1 (b) Explain briefly two reasons why a religious believer might not agree with Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID).

Target: Knowledge of reasons why religious believer might not agree with AID

Candidates may include some of the following points:

It could be considered to be adultery / masturbation is involved which some religions disapprove of / it could have a harmful effect on the child's mental state / issues of family / everyone has the right to know his / her parents.

Allow one mark per reason given to maximum of two and one mark for development of each reason.

(4 marks) AO1

1 (c) **‘Surrogate mothers should be allowed to keep their babies if they want to.’**

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

Target: Evaluation of the idea that surrogate mothers should be allowed to choose to keep their babies

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 well developed reason or several simple reasons.	3 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

She is the biological mother / she has maternal attachment to the baby / no fee has been paid so the baby is hers / right to choose.

An agreement was reached and contract signed / father has rights to his child / mother would be seen as untrustworthy.

(3 marks) AO2

1 (d) Explain religious attitudes to transplant surgery.

Target: Knowledge of attitudes to transplant surgery and application of religious teachings that inform the attitudes

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:

It can save life / act of giving / God has inspired the development of it so we should use it / sanctity of life / stewardship of our body after death, etc.

Buddhism

Believe in relief of suffering but leave believers to make up their own mind according to their conscience / acts of compassion highly valued / expect links to the eightfold path and five precepts which are applied to topic / human life is rare so must be preserved at all costs / ideas of samsara (life, death, rebirth).

Christianity

Seen by most as gift of life from one person to another to better a human life / link to Jesus' teaching (love neighbour / enemy) / what you did for others you did for me / treat others how you would be to be treated, etc.)

Allow Jehovah's Witness "bloodless transplant" ideas as contrast / also, those who believe in physical resurrection after death might oppose it.

Hinduism

Allowed if it relieves the suffering of others / up to individual to decide. Life is valuable because Brahman is in every living creature and working his will through humans including scientists and doctors / Ahimsa (non-injury) and quest for Moksha (liberation) is important / transplant plays a part in some Hindu myths, e.g. Ganesha's elephant head.

Islam

Organs used must be freely given by donor's permission only / body parts must not be sold / animal organs can be used / "If anyone has saved a life, it would be as if he had saved the life of the whole of mankind" – (Qur'an) / some people are uneasy about taking organs from the dead but it is permitted for the greater good.

Judaism

Donation of organs is a duty to save life and is seen as Mitzvah (good deed) / link to teachings on sanctity of life, etc. / saving life is paramount / humans are gifts from God and precious to him / some uneasy with taking organs from the dead / problems in heart transplants with short time between death and removing the heart.

Sikhism

God creates life with a "divine spark" (soul) in us. This is part of God and will be reabsorbed into him / transfusion is acceptable as an act of kindness but no financial reward should be gained.

(3 marks) AO1

(e) **‘Medical technology has done more to help people than God has.’**

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 medical technology has done more for people than God has

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

Medical technology can create, improve and save life / God doesn’t help people anyway / God does not exist.

Other views

God created the earth without which there would be nothing / God inspires scientists to discover new medical technology which is God’s way of working / there are more important ways of helping people other than medical technology, e.g. provision of food which God does for us.

(6 marks) AO2