

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification B)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 4 *Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions*

- Miracles



There are 18 marks for each question.

5 Miracles

Read the statement below.

Doctors told me my son was dying of cancer. There was no cure. I prayed. Then a miracle happened, and my son's cancer disappeared.

- (a) Why might some people say that this event was a miracle? (2 marks)
- (b) Explain what miracles might teach believers about God. (3 marks)
- (c) 'Only God can make miracles happen.'
What do you think? Explain your answer. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain **two** of the problems caused by calling this event a miracle. (4 marks)
- (e) 'Miracles are proof that God only loves some people.'

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 4 *Religious Philosophy and
Ultimate Questions*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Miracles

June series

5 Miracles

5 (a) Why might some people say that this event was a miracle?

Target: Knowledge of characteristics of events labelled as 'miracles'

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Believe God intervened in nature / doctors had said there was no hope / complete cure from a terminal, untreatable disease / science cannot explain this recovery / recovery goes against natural and scientific law / because they are religious, so 'miracle' is the obvious explanation to them / response to prayer.

1 mark for a superficial comment or a single point.
2 marks for a developed answer or more than one point.

(2 marks) AO1

5 (b) Explain what miracles might teach believers about God.

Target: Understanding of what miracles teach believers about God

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:

God is good / all-loving (benevolent) / cares for his creation / will act in the world for good (immanent) / listens to prayers / is a personal God / builds relationships with his creation / all powerful (omnipotent) in that he can break the laws of nature / science / all-knowing (omniscient) for the same reason / God is alive.

(3 marks) AO1

5 (c) ‘Only God can make miracles happen.’

What do you think? Explain your answer.

Target: Personal opinion regarding whether only God can make miracles happen

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:

Holy books give much evidence that God performs miracles / miracles are always good events / so must be done by God (a benevolent ‘super-power’) / people believe God has caused miracles / belief has strength / only God is powerful enough to command nature / these events are beyond the capacity of any human.

People can perform miracles, e.g. Mother Teresa, Pope / even ordinary people (e.g. woman who lifted car off her toddler) / many miracles can be reinterpreted, e.g. words in fruit, or images in toast, etc. / miracles don’t happen / we just don’t understand the science behind them yet, so it isn’t God / there is no God, so God doesn’t make them happen.

(3 marks) AO2

5 (d) Explain two of the problems caused by calling this event a miracle.

Target: Understanding of the problems raised by labeling events as miracles

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 or analysis.	4 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Why did God perform this miracle, and not other ones? / Why perform this miracle once, and not for all cancer sufferers at that time, for example? / Why help this family, and not another? / Is God just? / Does God love everyone equally? / Where is the proof this was God? / the woman was religious, so was biased – we can’t accept her judgement / If God can perform a miracle on this occasion of cancer, why not get rid of the disease altogether? / Is God really powerful, if this is the scale he does miracles on?

(4 marks) AO1

5 (e) 'Miracles are proof that God only loves some people.'

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 the idea that miracles provide proof of God's lack of benevolence

Level	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

Small events which help few / miracles of revelation instead of helping / undeserved miracles received by 'bad' people contrasting lack of miracles for 'good' or religious people / God seems to ignore really needy cases (e.g. flood victims in very religious areas, such as Bangladesh) / this all means God randomly performs miracles, so isn't focusing loving energy in any way – hence, not loving.

Other views

People cannot understand God's intentions, so should not question them / people can not see the whole context of the world, or of a miracle, so can not judge God on any miracle / religious books tell us God does love everyone, so people have to believe that / part of having faith / miracles are good events, and even when not healing, they benefit the recipient / so are examples of love (e.g. a person's sense of well-being on receiving a miracle is raised, even if it is God's name in a vegetable).

(6 marks) AO2