

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification B)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 5 *Religious Expression in Society*

- Religion in Contemporary Society



There are 18 marks for each question.

6 Religion in Contemporary Society

Look at the photograph below.



(a) Give **two** ways in which people might belong to a religion. (2 marks)

(b)(i) Name **two** religious symbols; and

(b)(ii) Explain briefly what each of the **two** symbols represents. (4 marks)

(c) 'Worship is not important.'

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

(d) Explain why some religious people choose to become members of a religion. (3 marks)

(e) 'Belonging to a monastery shows the greatest religious commitment.'

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 5 *Religious Expression in Society*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Religion in Contemporary Society

June series

6 Religion in Contemporary Society

- (a) Give two ways in which people might belong to a religion.

Target: Knowledge of some ways in which people belong to a religion

Candidates may include some of the following points:

By going through an initiation ceremony / by taking vows / by following a lifestyle and set of rules / by attending worship / by witnessing to others.

N.B. This question is not specifically asking for how people become card-carrying members, it allows for an answer which demonstrates a personal sense of belonging on the behalf of the believer.

Award one mark per appropriate way offered, up to two marks.

(2 marks) AO1

(b)(i) Name two religious symbols.

Target: knowledge of two religious symbols from one or two religions

Award one mark per symbol. Accept any religious symbol from any religion.

(b)(ii) Explain briefly what each of the two symbols represents.

Target: Understanding of meaning of symbols stated

Award one mark for correct statement for each religion. There **MUST** be one statement per symbol stated in previous part.

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Buddhism



Dharmachakra Wheel with eight spokes (Noble Eight Fold Path); represents cycle of birth / death / rebirth. Wheel of dharma.
Lotus flower – symbol of enlightenment.
Any of these symbols representing eight – Noble Eightfold Path.

Christianity



Cross Jesus rose from the dead. Victory of life over death.
Crucifix – Jesus died as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

Hinduism



Aum – sound of the universe. Trimurti.
Swastika – good fortune.

Islam



Star and Crescent Moon – guidance given by Allah. Five pointed star = Five Pillars.

Judaism



Star of David. Six points represent north / south / east / west / up / down (God is everywhere); Magen David (Shield of David) showing God gave David his authority and power.
Menorah – seven branched candlestick – seven days of creation.

Sikhism



Khanda circle = God (no beginning, no end); swords – truth and justice.

N.B. This is not an exhaustive list.

(4 marks)

AO1

(c) 'Worship is not important.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

Target: Evaluation of the value of worship

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:

Deeds not worship are what count / intention is everything / depends what you count as worship – anything and everything could be if done in right frame of mind / depends what it needs to be important for; totally unimportant to a non-believer.

Alternately, it could be argued that, without worship, there is no religion / worship is cornerstone of anyone's faith / well-being is brought through act of worship / important to connect to God.

(3 marks) AO2

(d) Explain why some religious people choose to become members of a religion.

Target: Understanding of why some people become members of a religion

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:

Family upbringing / belief in that faith / revelation / marriage / sense that this is right / wanting to have a more formal part in the faith / for extra privileges (e.g. communion).

(3 marks) AO1

(e) 'Belonging to a monastery shows the greatest religious commitment.'

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 monastic life shows greatest commitment to a religion

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

Have to give everything up / follow strict rules and routine / total commitment of life and behaviour to God and God's will / lose sense of individuality to be part of community / lifelong commitment / purest form of religious commitment.

Other views

Being in a monastery means being with others the same – no challenge to faith or commitment / religious demand to 'be fruitful and multiply', so monastic life turns back on a fundamental duty / more difficult to juggle many roles than to focus entirely on one, therefore more commitment in staying within society / challenges of society show commitment is stronger.

(6 marks) AO2