

## **GCSE Religious Studies (Specification B)**

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 6 *Worship and Key Beliefs*

- Practices and Belonging

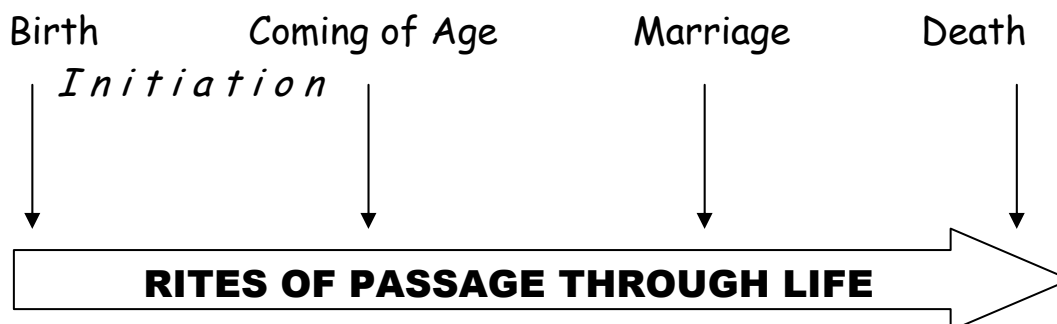


There are 18 marks for each question.

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## 5 Practices and Belonging

Look at the diagram below.



- (a) Describe initiation ceremonies in **two** different religions. (6 marks)
- (b) Explain differences that belonging to a religion might make to the life of a young person. (3 marks)
- (c) 'Getting married in a religious ceremony should only be for people who belong to that religion by initiation.'
- What do you think? Give your opinion. (3 marks)
- (d) 'Rites of passage are more important in a religion than celebrating religious festivals.'

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 6**      *Worship and Key Beliefs*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme  
Practices and Belonging

*June series*

## 5 Practices and Belonging

### (a) Describe initiation ceremonies in TWO different religions.

**Target: Knowledge of initiation ceremonies in two religions**

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
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

<b>Buddhism</b>	Entering the monastery at around 11 years old / full ordination as a bhikkhu or bhikkhuni at 20 / taking refuge in the three Jewels.
<b>Christianity</b>	Infant baptism or christening / adult or believers' baptism / first communion / confirmation.
<b>Hinduism</b>	Birth samskar / naming samskar / ear piercing and head shaving (there are nine samskars associated with a new baby) / sacred thread ceremony.
<b>Islam</b>	Whispering the Adhan and the Iqamah at birth / Tahneek when the baby comes home / Aqiqah (head shaving) after seven days / Khitan (circumcision) up to the age of ten.
<b>Judaism</b>	Brit Milah (circumcision) at 8 days for boys / naming of girls in the synagogue after a week / Bar and Bat Mitzvah at 13 and 12 respectively.
<b>Sikhism</b>	Whispering the Mool Mantar at birth / naming ceremony at the gurdwara / amrit ceremony after the age of 16.

Accept the answer that there is no initiation ceremony in Islam and award up to 3 marks if the reason is explained: being Muslim consists of believing the Shahadah and submitting to Allah.

Award a maximum of 4 marks if an initiation ceremony in only one religion is described.

**(6 marks) AO1**

- 5 (b) **Explain differences that belonging to a religion might make to the life of a young person.**

**Target: Understanding of implications of belonging to 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:

Following religion's behaviour code / keeping dietary rules / giving a certain amount of money to charity / spending time in prayer or meditation / attending a place of worship / celebrating religious festivals / being prepared to marry someone from the same religion, perhaps chosen for them.

**(3 marks) AO1**

- 5 (c) **'Getting married in a religious ceremony should only be for people who belong to that religion by initiation.'**

**What do you think? Give your opinion.**

**Target: Personal opinion on appropriateness of observing one rite of passage without observing an earlier one**

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

This will be a personal response to the issue.

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Couple more likely to be committed to their religion if they have been through an initiation ceremony / marriage and initiation are both rites of passage so should go together / someone who has not been initiated into a religion may not be a believer so religious marriage won't mean much.

Buddhists do not have religious marriage ceremony / everyone who wants to marry should be allowed to do so how they want / people from different religions should be allowed to marry each other / whether couple love each other is more important than whether they belong to the religion.

**(3 marks) AO2**

- 5 (d) 'Rites of passage are more important in a religion than celebrating religious festivals.'

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 importance of rites of passage compared to that of festivals**

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. <b>N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.</b>	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

Rites of passage (except funerals) involve commitment to living a religious life whereas celebrating festivals does not / funerals comfort people after death when they do not feel like celebrating a festival / many non-religious people join in festivals so it is harder to tell who is serious about their religion.

### Other views

The whole community joins in a festival whereas rites of passage involve a smaller group / the beliefs and teachings of a religion are shown just as clearly in a festival / festivals involve just as much prayer and worship / some festivals have a much more obvious link to the founders of the religion than rites of passage do.

**(6 marks) AO2**