



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2012

---

## Religious Studies

Paper 3

The Revelation of God and  
the Christian Church

[GRS31]

THURSDAY 17 MAY, AFTERNOON

---

# MARK SCHEME

## General Marking Instructions and Mark Grids

### Introduction

Mark schemes are intended to ensure that the GCSE examination is marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide markers with an indication of the nature and range of candidates' responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria that they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses. The mark schemes should be read in conjunction with these marking instructions.

### Assessment objectives

Below are the assessment objectives for GCSE Religious Studies.

Candidates must:

- describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding (AO1); and
- use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints (AO2).

AO1 and AO2 are interrelated and connections must be made.

### Quality of candidates' responses

In marking the examination papers, examiners should be looking for a quality response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their GCSE examinations.

### Flexibility in marking

Mark schemes are not intended to be totally prescriptive. No mark scheme can cover all the responses which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner.

### Positive marking

Examiners must be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for description, explanation and analysis, using knowledge and understanding and for the appropriate use of evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range of any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old GCSE candidate.

### Awarding zero marks

Marks should only be awarded for valid responses and no marks should be awarded for an answer which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

### Types of mark scheme

Mark schemes for questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

## Levels of response

Questions requiring candidates to respond in extended writing are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the “best fit” bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award to any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement. The following guidance is provided to assist examiners.

- **Threshold performance:** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.
- **Intermediate performance:** Response which clearly merits inclusion and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.
- **High performance:** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

## Quality of written communication

Quality of written communication is taken into account in assessing candidates’ responses to all tasks and questions that require them to respond in extended written form. These tasks and questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication. Where the quality of content is not matched by the quality of written communication, marks awarded will not exceed maximum for Level 2.

For conciseness, quality of written communication is distinguished within levels of response as follows:

Level 1: Quality of written response is limited.

Level 2: Quality of written response is satisfactory.

Level 3: Quality of written response is of a high standard.

In interpreting these level descriptions, examiners should refer to the more detailed guidance provided below:

### AO1: [5] marks

A [0] mark will be awarded if the answer is inappropriate.

#### Level 1 (Limited) ([1])

The candidate gives a basic answer with limited description, explanation and analysis using little knowledge and understanding. There is only a limited selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. The organisation of material may lack clarity and coherence. There is little use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

#### Level 2 (Satisfactory) ([2]–[3])

The candidate gives a satisfactory answer with appropriate description, explanation and analysis using some knowledge and understanding. There is a reasonable selection and use of an appropriate form of style and writing. Relevant material is organised with some clarity and coherence. There is some use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

### **Level 3 (High) ([4]–[5])**

The candidate gives a competent answer with very good description, explanation and analysis using knowledge and understanding throughout. The candidate successfully selects and uses an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with a high degree of clarity and coherence. There is widespread use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard to make meaning clear.

### **AO2: [5] marks**

A [0] mark will be awarded if the answer is inappropriate.

### **Level 1 (Limited) ([1])**

The candidate uses a basic selection of evidence and gives limited reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. There is a limited selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. The organisation of material may lack clarity and coherence. There is little use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

### **Level 2 (Satisfactory) ([2]–[3])**

The candidate uses a satisfactory selection of evidence and gives good reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. There is a reasonable selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with some clarity and coherence. There is some use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

### **Level 3 (High) ([4]–[5])**

The candidate uses a very good selection of evidence and gives well formed and reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. The candidate successfully selects and uses an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with a high degree of clarity and coherence. There is widespread use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard to make meaning clear.

### **AO2: [10] marks**

A [0] mark will be awarded if the answer is inappropriate.

### **Level 1 (Limited) ([1]–[3])**

The candidate uses a basic selection of evidence and gives limited reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. There is a limited selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. The organisation of material may lack clarity and coherence. There is little use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

**Level 2 (Satisfactory) ([4]–[7])**

The candidate uses a satisfactory selection of evidence and gives good reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. There is a reasonable selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with some clarity and coherence. There is some use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

**Level 3 (High) ([8]–[10])**

The candidate uses a very good selection of evidence and gives well formed and reasoned arguments to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints. The candidate successfully selects and uses of an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with a high degree of clarity and coherence. There is widespread use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard to make meaning clear.

## Section A

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

Answer **all** questions.

### 1 The Christian Church

- (a) (i) Christmas.  
(AO1) [1]
- (ii) The Resurrection of Jesus.  
(AO1) [1]
- (iii) Advent.  
(AO1) [1]
- (iv) Ash Wednesday.  
(AO1) [1]
- (v) Pentecost.  
(AO1) [1]
- (b) Answers may include:
- Lent is important as a period of preparation for Easter
  - for some Christians, Lent is a time for prayer; in Roman Catholic Churches, Mass is said daily
  - many Christians fast or give something up for Lent, to remember the period of 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness.
- Accept valid alternatives  
Mark in levels  
(AO1) [5]
- (c) Answers may include:
- Christmas – remembering how God sent his son into the world to be the saviour of humankind; without the first Christmas, there would be no Christian faith.
- Easter – remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus as God’s means of reconciling a sinful world to himself; without the resurrection there would be no hope of the afterlife.
- Accept valid alternatives  
Mark in levels  
(AO2) [5]

15

**2 The Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

- (a) (i) "This is my body".  
(AO1) [1]
- (ii) Judas.  
(AO1) [1]
- (iii) Pilate.  
(AO1) [1]
- (iv) "This is Jesus. The King of the Jews".  
(AO1) [1]
- (v) At dawn on Sunday morning; after the Sabbath.  
(AO1) [1]

**(b) Answers may include:**

- belief in the resurrection is central to Christianity as it shows that God is more powerful than sin and death
- the resurrection shows that Jesus was who he claimed to be, the Son of God and promised Messiah
- the resurrection gives hope to Christians as it proves that there is life after death.

## On the other hand:

- some people do claim to be Christians and follow the teachings of Jesus but find belief in the resurrection difficult
- what is most important is that Jesus died on the cross, paying the ultimate price for the sins of the world
- Jesus' resurrection could be thought of as happening in a spiritual, rather than in a physical way – Jesus lives on in the hearts and minds of his followers.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2) [10]

15

### 3 The Temptations

- (a) Candidates should select and describe the relevant features of Matthew 4:1–11.

Answers may include:

- “Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks”
- “Do not put the Lord your God to the test”
- “Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!”
- Jesus turned the devil down and refused to give in to temptation; he quoted scripture as his response to each one.

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (b) Answers may include:

- during his temptations, Jesus has the opportunity to consider some of the challenges he might have to face during his ministry; they gave him the opportunity to think how he will respond
- in the first temptation, Jesus faced up to the dilemma of whether to use his powers for himself or only for the good of others
- by refusing to throw himself from the top of the temple, Jesus is establishing that he will not perform miracles to prove his identity
- the third temptation shows that Jesus will not be a political Messiah, but will put God’s kingdom first.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) Answers may include:

- it is not wrong to be tempted, as even Jesus had to face temptation
- there are benefits to being tempted – it can make you stronger and less able to give in when facing similar temptations in the future
- resisting temptation can be a real struggle, but it is important to stick to what you know is right, as Jesus did
- Christians can follow Jesus’ example and look to the Bible for guidance when they are tempted.

On the other hand:

- some people may find following the example of Jesus too difficult and unrealistic; he is God’s Son, whereas ordinary people are weak and sinful
- some people may feel that the temptations faced by Jesus are not as great as some of the temptations people face today (for example, the temptation to abuse an addictive substance or steal because you are in debt).

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15



#### 4 The Christian Church

(a) Answers may include:

- hymns and choruses, whether traditional or modern, are used in worship to praise God and convey Christian teaching
- Psalms are songs of praise found in the Bible and are sometimes sung in Church worship
- many churches have a choir or praise band to lead the people in worship
- music played on the organ or piano can also play an important part in leading the congregation in worship.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- preaching is central to any worship service as through the words of the minister or priest, God is communicating with his people
- the Bible is the Word of God and the words of the sermon may be inspired by the Holy Spirit
- the sermon is often based on the Bible readings and can help people to understand them more fully
- through the sermon, Christians can learn how to apply Christian teaching to their everyday lives.

On the other hand:

- there are many other elements in a service of worship, so while a sermon or homily is necessary, it is not the most important part of worship
- Christ's sacrifice on the cross has to be the most important part of the Christian faith, so remembering this through Holy Communion is the most important part of worship
- prayer is when an individual communicates with God, so this is more important than the sermon.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

15

**Section A**

**60**

## Section B

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### 5 The Teaching of Jesus

- (a) Candidates should select and describe the main features of Jesus' teaching, for example Matthew 5:43–48.

You have heard that it was said, "Love your friends, hate your enemies." But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect!

(GNB)

Accept valid alternatives.

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (b) Answers may include:

- God is like the king in the parable, who showed great mercy and forgiveness, even though he was under no obligation to do so. The message of the parable is that God will always forgive
- people should always forgive each other, especially if they want to be shown forgiveness by God and others
- no matter how large or how small the offence – always forgive
- those who do not show forgiveness to others may end up suffering the most, like the unforgiving servant who was punished in the parable.

Accept valid alternatives.

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) Answers may include:

- showing forgiveness can be a good witness to others
- being forgiving can help people to move on and cope with loss or grief
- revenge can lead to a cycle of self-destruction and does not produce closure
- God will forgive those who repent, so Christians should also forgive others. This is summed up in the Lord's Prayer "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us"
- Jesus taught forgiveness (e.g. in the Sermon on the Mount) and also gave people an example to follow when he forgave those who had crucified him.

On the other hand:

- the Bible does stress the need for repentance and a genuine desire to change. Some Christians may not feel inclined to forgive if they feel a person is not sorry for what they have done
- some acts are so horrendous, it is not realistic to expect victims to forgive
- “Turning the other cheek” may be interpreted as a sign of weakness.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

## 6 The Deeds of Jesus

- (a) Candidates should select and describe the main features of Mark 14:3–9.

Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a dreaded skin disease. While Jesus was eating, a woman came in with an alabaster jar full of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. Some of the people there became angry and said to one another, "What was the use of wasting the perfume? It could have been sold for more than three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor!" And they criticised her harshly. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a fine and beautiful thing for me. You will always have poor people with you, and any time you want to, you can help them. But you will not always have me. She did what she could, she poured perfume on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. Now, I assure you that wherever the Gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

(GNB)

Mark in levels  
(AO1)

[5]

- (b) Answers may include:

- God can satisfy people's needs in both a physical and spiritual way
- the woman recognises that Jesus is a prophet as he knows about her lifestyle
- Jesus has different attitudes as he is prepared to talk to her and accept a drink from her, a woman who is both a social outcast and a Samaritan
- the time has arrived when God will send salvation to all people – both Jews and Samaritans
- this salvation will come through the promised Messiah – and this person is Jesus.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

- in Jesus' day, women were sometimes regarded as being less important than men, especially when it came to teaching and religious matters; Jesus debated with the Canaanite woman and praised the understanding of the woman who anointed him at Bethany
- the Canaanite woman was a Gentile and the woman at the well a Samaritan; Jesus crosses social and religious barriers in speaking to them and does not treat either of them as "outcasts"
- some groups of people might be marginalised and treated as "outcasts" today – perhaps because they are unemployed, new citizens or homeless. The example of Jesus teaches that this is wrong

On the other hand:

- Jesus associated with a Gentile and a Samaritan; it could be argued that this situation is no longer relevant today
- the society we live in today is multi-religious. Many people do not accept the Christian message so they would not see the teaching of Jesus as having any particular importance
- society could learn as much from a secular view, or the teaching of another religion
- some might argue that the church is often sexist and does not follow the example of Jesus.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

## 7 The Christian Church

(a) Candidates may refer to any Christian denomination.

### Believers' Baptism

Answers may include:

- congregation will sing a hymn together
- minister/pastor will give a short talk on the meaning of baptism
- the person being baptised will give a short testimony
- the person along with the minister/pastor will enter the baptismal tank
- the pastor/minister says the words, "On your profession of faith, I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"
- the candidate will be immersed then will leave the water to get changed.

### Infant Baptism

Answers may include:

- the role of the priest/minister
- where and when the baptism takes place
- the role of parents and godparents/sponsors
- what the font is used for
- how baptism takes place
- prayers that are said.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- in the Roman Catholic Church, water is the central symbol of baptism. Human beings are born sinful and the pouring of the water on the baby's head symbolises the washing away of original sin
- in believer's baptism, the immersion under the water identifies with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It signifies the end of the old life and the start of a new life as a Christian believer. This is in accordance with the words of St Paul in Romans 6:3–4
- in the Church of Ireland and Methodist churches, water is poured or sprinkled on the baby's head. This symbolises cleansing from sin and the beginning of new life
- in the Presbyterian Church, there is the belief that water makes a person clean. This idea comes from the Old Testament as pouring or sprinkling water on a person was the main way they were purified for worship.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

- Jesus did not baptise anyone
- Jesus spent most of his ministry giving practical help to the needy
- Jesus emphasised moral behaviour and the need for people to treat each other with respect and decency. Christians should follow this example
- being baptised does not make a person become a Christian; it is a person's faith which is important.

On the other hand:

- at the Great Commission, Jesus commanded his disciples to go out and preach, baptising those who believed
- from the earliest time, baptism has been the rite of entry into the church
- being baptised as a baby shows cleansing and the entry into God's family, the church
- believers' baptism is the public declaration of the faith which a person has come to hold for themselves.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

**Section B**

**40**

**Total**

**100**