



*Rewarding Learning*

**General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2015**

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**Religious Studies**

Paper 2(A)

The Christian Church with a Focus  
on the Catholic Church

**[GRS21]**

**MONDAY 11 MAY, MORNING**

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**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 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 Early Church

- (a) (i) Answers may include:  
Day of Pentecost or Whitsun.  
(AO1) [1]
- (ii) Answers may include any two of the following:  
Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy,  
ability to distinguish between spirits, speaking in tongues, interpret  
tongues.  
Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1) [2]
- (iii) Answers may include any two of the following:  
Community, miracles, prayer, breaking bread, preaching, teaching,  
hymn singing, sharing.  
Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1) [2]
- (b) Answers may include:
- When the word church is used in the bible it is referring to people not a building.
  - The human body has different parts, all of which are needed for the body to function.
  - Different people are needed in the church in order for it to function properly. They have different gifts which are of benefit to the Church as a whole.
  - All parts of the church are unique and have special functions just like parts of the human body.
- Accept valid alternatives  
Mark in levels  
(AO1) [5]
- (c) Answers may include:
- There was no division in the early church: they worshipped, prayed, shared together. Today the Christian church is split into different denominations.
  - They were very devoted to living a life of prayer. Today it seems we are living in a faithless society and overall church attendance is dropping. Some only pray when in desperate need.
  - They believed in using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Today people receive the Holy Spirit but often don't put the gifts into practice.
  - Sharing with others is a very important aspect of the early church. Today people can be very self centred and not willing to share. Many are sceptical of where their money is going.
  - Christians today find it hard to put Paul's teachings into practice, for example, forgiving others.

On the other hand:

- Today Christians continue to worship and praise God in fellowship/ communion with one another.
- A lot of work is carried out to bring Christians together.
- There is evidence of Christians today being loving, compassionate, generous, forgiving and selfless.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

15

## 2 St Patrick

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

- (a) (i) 17th March  
(AO1) [1]
- (ii) 16 years old  
(AO1) [1]
- (iii) Answers may include:  
The Confession/Confessio  
Letter to Coroticus  
(AO1) [1]
- (iv) The Holy Trinity/God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1) [1]
- (v) Through dreams or visions  
Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1) [1]
- (b) Answers may include:
- St Patrick was a man of faith and prayer – he showed total reliance on God, he repaid God by devoting his life to converting the people of Ireland.
  - Patrick was very honest, admits his failings and strives to please God, seeking forgiveness and shows a willingness to forgive others.
  - Patrick spoke out against injustice.
  - Patrick shows the importance of loving your neighbour.
  - Patrick was very humble and selfless, always putting the needs of others first.
- On the other hand:
- The life and teaching of Jesus is the best example of Christian living.
  - St Paul is the best example for Christian living as he wrote letters instructing Christians on how to live better Christian lives.
  - There are modern Christian figures that are inspirational and set good examples on how to live a Christ like life, e.g. Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King.
- Accept valid alternatives  
Mark in levels  
(AO2) [10]

15

**3 Church furniture and worship**

(a) Answers may include:

- Altar is the main focus of the building. It is very ornate made of either wood or marble. It is usually draped in linen cloths.
- It is usually at the front/centre of the church and can be seen by the whole congregation.
- In the Catholic Church the priest reads the words of the mass from the missal at the altar. It is also where transubstantiation takes place. Bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.
- The congregation form a queue in front of the altar to receive the Body of Christ.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- Preaching is a central part of a worship service, e.g. Mass – Liturgy of the Word is the first main part of the service followed by Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Most Christians believe that God communicates his Word through preaching. The bible is the Word of God and so the priest is inspired by the Holy Spirit to interpret and proclaim.
- The homily/sermon is the teaching based on the bible. Biblical preaching must be at the heart of true worship.
- Christians learn how to apply biblical teachings into their daily lives through the homily/sermons.
- Homily/sermons help to strengthen and deepen faith.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

- St Paul made it clear that the church is 'the people' and it is not necessary to worship or praise God in a specific building.
- God can be worshipped and praised anywhere and at all times.
- The first Christians gathered in each other's houses to worship God.
- Some Christians believe plain buildings are better than ornate, as ornate buildings may become a distraction when worshipping God.
- Other Christians believe ornate buildings are better as they symbolise God's grandeur and are a mark of respect.
- Some Christians believe that ornate decor, statues and other aids to prayer help them to focus when worshipping and praising God.

On the other hand:

- The focus should be on how we worship God rather than where.
- Some Christians prefer structured or liturgical worship as they know all the set prayers and can stay focused during worship.
- Others prefer spontaneous or non liturgical worship as anyone can contribute if they feel led to do so. It makes worship more exciting and interesting. It is also more lively and charismatic.
- Some find following a set liturgy boring.
- Some may believe both style and place of worship are of equal importance.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15



#### 4 The Eucharist

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Answers may include some of the following:

- The Eucharist is celebrated every day in a Catholic Church, most Catholics attend Mass every Sunday.
- Eucharist is a central act of worship in a Catholic Church.
- During the penitential rite Catholics recall their sins and seek God's forgiveness.
- They listen to the liturgy of the word – readings are read from the bible.
- They recite the creed and listen to prayer of the faithful.
- Offertory collection.
- The priest will read preface and Eucharistic prayer – central part of this is the consecration of the bread and wine.
- They then recite the 'Our Father' and 'Lamb of God'.
- They process to altar to receive the Body of Christ.
- The priest ends the mass with a final blessing encouraging them 'to love and serve the Lord'.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- Christians can take the Eucharist for granted if it becomes too common.
- The Eucharist has lost its meaning and is simply another part of the weekly act of worship.
- Too many people receive Communion today without ever stopping to think about its meaning.
- It could become a meaningless and empty ritual if received too often – some Protestant denominations receive it infrequent, e.g. Baptists and Methodists and some denominations do not receive the Eucharist at all, e.g. Salvation Army and Quakers.

On the other hand:

- Christians can feel the presence of God every time they receive Communion and be strengthened by it.
- The Eucharist is spiritual food for everyday life and therefore cannot be taken too often. They are receiving the Body of Christ which will enable them to try to live more like Christ.
- Jesus told Christians to "Do this in memory of me" they are obliged to regularly obey his command.
- It has been an important aspect of the life of the Roman Catholic Church for centuries to receive the Eucharist. It is the highlight and focal point of the celebration of Mass.
- People might only go to Church on these special occasions and neglect their faith if the Eucharist were not offered.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

15

**Section A**

**60**

## Section B

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### Assessment of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

If the answer does not address the question then no SPaG marks are available. If the candidate has attempted to answer the question but produced nothing of credit, SPaG marks may still be awarded.

#### Threshold performance [1]

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with reasonable accuracy in the context of the demands of the question. Any errors do not hinder meaning in the response. Where required, they use a limited range of specialist terms appropriately.

#### Intermediate performance [2]–[3]

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with considerable accuracy and general control of meaning in the context of the demands of the question. Where required, they use a good range of specialist terms with facility.

#### High performance [4]–[5]

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with consistent accuracy and effective control of meaning in the context of the demands of the question. Where required, they use a wide range of specialist terms adeptly and with precision.

### 5 The Role of Mary and the Saints

(a) Answers may include:

- We honour Saints to remember the life that they have led and the good works that they have done.
- To ask them to intercede to God on our behalf.
- To be a role model to Christians today so they can be more loving and faithful to God and others.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- Be obedient to the will of God – Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son. Mary accepted God's wishes and plans for her at great personal cost.
- To look out for other people's needs, e.g. the marriage feast of Cana.
- She told others to obey Jesus and we should do the same.
- To be people of prayer.
- To support the suffering and accept all things in faith. She stood at the foot of the cross and remained faithful to her son during the most difficult time of his life.
- She treasured what she had witnessed 'in her heart'.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

Agree:

- They can help Christians avoid external distractions to stay focussed.
- They remove the need to use new words, icons for example provokes thought.
- Icons for example can help the person praying to go beyond what is immediately present.
- The lighting of a candle in memory of a loved one may bring comfort to a person who is grieving.
- The presence of statues may bring peace and serenity to a person during prayer.

On the other hand:

- Aids used in prayer, for example, statues could turn into idolatry which is against the first commandment.
- They can interfere with the mind reaching out to God and distracting people.
- Some people buy expensive aids to prayer, e.g. crosses, beads. This money could be used to help the poor or needy.
- Jesus never used aids to prayer. He simply went off to a lonely place free from distractions.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

## 6 Baptism

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Answers may include:

A description of infant baptism in the Catholic Church

- Sign of welcoming/admission to the Christian Church at the door.
- The priest asks for the name and outline the responsibility of the parents and godparents.
- Scripture readings.
- Anointing of oils.
- The use of water and other symbols or signs.
- Vows made on behalf of the child in order to affirm faith to Jesus.
- Recite the 'Our Father'.
- Role of parents and god parents.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- Water is a central symbol of baptism. It symbolises the washing away of original sin.
- Oils symbolise that the child is given strength to fight against evil and do good. It also symbolises they have been chosen to carry out the work of Christ.
- Candle symbolises Christ the light of the world overcoming the darkness of sin.
- White garment symbolises the child becoming clothed in Christ. A sign of happiness, new life and innocence.
- Sign of the cross symbolises ownership – child belongs to God the father.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

- Some only get baptised because it is a tradition in the family.
- Some spend so much time organising an after party that they don't put enough time or thought into the actual ceremony.
- Some people are baptised as infants not through personal choice.

On the other hand:

- Many Christians take Baptism very seriously and commit to Christian living.
- Parents of infants usually go on a course prior to baptism to ensure they fully understand the commitment they are about to make.
- Private baptisms tend to be less social and more intimate with a great emphasis placed on God's grace and the Holy Spirit.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

## 7 Festivals

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Easter is the most important festival.

- Easter = Easter Sunday to Pentecost (50 days).
- Holy week is the last week of Lent. Catholics recall the last events in the life of Jesus.
- Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil Service. The lighting of an Easter fire to light the New Pascal Candle to symbolise Jesus, the light of the world.
- Easter Sunday remembers the Risen Jesus. Special services begin from dawn to remember when Jesus rose from the dead. Joyful hymns are sung and the Church is decorated with flowers. Eggs are a popular symbol of Easter symbolising the new life of Christ.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Answers may include:

- Advent means “coming” – it’s a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus.
- Christians prepare themselves during advent for the second coming through Sunday worship: There is a focus on the coming of the Messiah.
- Catholics reflect on their lives through prayer during Advent.
- Some Catholics seek forgiveness during the month of Advent.
- It allows Catholics to focus on making a fresh start.
- It is a time of waiting, preparation, hope and joy.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) Answers may include:

- Churches could do more by encouraging members to take part in the advent services in the lead up to Christmas.
- Churches through bible study should try to focus Christians on the coming of the Messiah rather than the buying of gifts.
- Churches should sell religious Christmas cards and encourage members to purchase them to send to friends and family.
- They could encourage members to buy Trocaire or Oxfam gifts for friends and family and to contribute to Christian charities, for example, Saint Vincent de Paul.
- Church leaders could go into schools to encourage young people to take part in carol singing and charity work during Advent and Christmas.

On the other hand:

- The Church does try as they seem to be the only ones who focus on the religious significance of Christmas. The rest of society is overcome by commercialism.
- Churches provide Sunday worship during Advent which focuses on the significance of Christmas. Advent wreaths, Advent calendars and Jesse Trees are constant reminders.
- Church provides carol singing, a nativity play, a nativity scene all of which are reminders of the religious significance of Christmas.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

**Section B**

**SPaG**

**Total**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

20

**40**

**5**

**105**