



Examiners' Report

June 2018

GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 1B

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Introduction

Religious Studies A Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Option 1B – Christianity

The paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The assessment consists of four questions and candidates must answer all four questions. The detail of the assessment content is provided in the specification. Centres are to use this, rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Christianity as a lived religion in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

There are four sections:

- Beliefs and Teachings; Practices
- Sources of Wisdom and Authority
- Forms of Expression
- Ways of Life

Students had studied Christianity within the context of wider British society.

Note: In some questions, marks are given for correct spelling and grammar, indicated by SPaG

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.4, 'The last days of Jesus' life'.

The question asked was 'Outline three events of the last days of Jesus' life'

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

- The Last Supper
- The Triumphant Entry to Jerusalem.
- Transfiguration.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives a list of three events, however, the final one is incorrect.

The specification indicates that the last days of Jesus' life include 'the Last Supper', the betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

0 marks



Centres should teach from the specification

Students should write in three full sentences to gain full marks

One event of the last day of Jesus' life was Jesus had the Last Supper with the apostles. A second event is that Jesus got betrayed by Judas in the garden of Gethsemane. A third event is that Jesus was accused of blasphemy and sentenced to death.



The candidate writes three sentences outlining three events. The sentences are in paragraph form.

3 marks

Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross.
Palm Sunday, when Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem.
Maundy Thursday, the last supper.



The candidate writes three sentences outlining three events. The candidate links the 'events' to the days that celebrate the 'events'.

If the candidate had listed the days eg Palm Sunday, these would have been incorrect. The distinction here is to separate the beliefs about Jesus' life and what events happened in Holy Week, from the practices of Christians – which is a separate part of the specification.

If the candidate had listed the second part of the sentences, there would have been 1 mark for a correct list.

3 marks



Separate the beliefs about Jesus' life and what events happened in Holy Week, from the practices of Christians

- last supper
- betrayal
- crucifixion



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives a list of three events.

1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

All items on the list must be correct to gain the 1 mark

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.2, 'The creation of the universe and humanity: the divergent ways in which it may be understood by Christians'.

The question asked was 'Explain two ways the biblical creation account can be understood by Christians, including literal and metaphorical'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

This question differentiated between candidates who had knowledge of the interpretations and understandings of the biblical creation account in the modern world, and those who knew the story. Marks were awarded to candidates who chose an alternative understanding that could come from the creation account.

The creation of St. Mark gospel
The creation of the book of Genesis.
The creation of St. Mark gospel - The order of
creation in St. Mark gospel is not accordingly
The creation of the book of Genesis - The
book of Genesis states the creation story
accordingly.



There is no correct information given by the candidate.

0 marks

The biblical creation can be understood by christians literally, which is the literal word from the Bible.

It can be also understood metaphorically, not the actual words ~~by~~ but by interpreting



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one way the account could be understood, but it is not developed and then offers another developed way.

First way: 'literally' (1) – not developed

Second way: 'metaphorically' (1) developed by 'interpreting' (1)

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidate should separate their 'ways', as in this example: it is clear that two ways are given

The biblical account of the creation can be understood by some christians e.g. liberals as a metaphor that jesus is omnipotent and created all things, some christians e.g. fundamentalist would believe the account literally as everything written in the bible happened exactly as it says



The candidate gives two developed ways.

First way: 'as a metaphor' (1) this is developed by Jesus created the universe (1) – this is supported by Hebrews 11:2 and John 1

Second way: 'literally' (1) this is developed by 'exactly as it says' (1)

4 marks

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.3. 'The incarnation (...) and significance for Christians today.'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the Incarnation is important for Christians today.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.
- If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. Candidates are not held to 'verses' but they must refer to the correct book.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.
- If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Some candidates attempted to force a source of wisdom that they had learned into every answer. This often meant they did not answer the question at all.

Firstly, the incarnation shows that Jesus came to Earth to ~~show~~ reconcile the relationship between God and man. ~~Therefore~~ 'The word became flesh and made its dwelling among us' John 1:14. This shows that God loves the word and it is important for Christians to know that God loves them. Secondly, Jesus was born by Mary, this is important to Christians as it shows that anyone can be called by God



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one reason with development, further developed with the source of wisdom – a quote.

Reason one: 'Jesus came to earth' (1) developed by 'reconcile the relationship between God and man.' (1) This is developed by a source of wisdom 'the word flesh and made his dwelling among us' (1).

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The reference needs to be part of the answer

Firstly, a reason why the incarnation is important ~~is because~~ ~~it~~ because Christians believe God came in human flesh as Jesus of Nazareth to live on earth. This emphasises the belief that Jesus is truly the son of God and begotten of the father. "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" ^{it also allows Christians to have a relationship with God.}

Secondly, the incarnation is important today as the incarnation is celebrated through the festival of Christmas, one of the biggest celebrations.

~~Secondly~~, Furthermore, the incarnation is important because by Jesus coming to live among humans this means he understands and can resonate with humanity and their problems.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed ways, with reference to a source of wisdom

Reason one: 'God became human flesh.' (1) This is developed by 'as Jesus' (1) the reference to a source of wisdom is 'the word became flesh and dwelt among us' (1).

Reason two: 'means he can understand' (1) this is developed by 'and respond to their problems' (1).

5 marks



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Examiner Tip

The reference for the source of wisdom is not needed

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.7. 'The problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God'.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. The inconsistency triad does not support this question effectively because it demonstrates a reason for the non-existence of God. This would not be a Christian viewpoint or teaching. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

The question asked was: 'God cannot be all loving because suffering exists.'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

Candidates should not argue that the statement is true or false. They should say why the reasons 'for' can be disputed by the alternative opinion. They should consider why one group of Christians says one thing and another group says their argument is incorrect or weak.

Firstly, a reason why someone would agree with his statement and say that God cannot be all loving because suffering exists, is because of the belief in the inconsistent triad. If God was all loving he would want to remove evil from the world but he still allows for it to exist ^{exists}. Secondly another reason why God cannot be all loving is because horrific events in the bible ~~is~~ such as the story of Job cannot be justified with it is a test from ^{God} ~~the bible~~ in the bible it says 'save me, O God for the waters have come up to my neck'. Thirdly, a third reason why God cannot ~~exist~~ be all loving is because if ^{God} ~~Jesus~~ was all powerful ^{and loving why} ~~and called a deity~~ would God allow us humans to have free will in the world to cause evil or even let Satan ^{exists} ~~exist~~. However, some Christians ^{with} ~~disagree~~ disagree ^{with} this statement and say that God can be all loving because ^{suffering} ~~evil~~ exists because firstly, God created a perfect society and it is the fault of humans who brought evil and suffering in the world showing that

God is still all loving. Secondly, suffering in the world can be seen as a test from God as he loves us and wants us to learn to show compassion to others. Thirdly, a reason why God can be all loving and suffering can exist is because God wants us to learn from biblical stories such as Job that even when things in life go wrong ~~Jesus~~^{God} puts things right in the end. God wants us to learn to trust him which will develop our relationships. In conclusion,

(Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)

Some people may believe that God cannot be all loving if suffering exists in the world ~~as~~ because if he loved us he would ~~of~~ removed suffering. However, I believe and more convincingly that Jesus ~~is~~^{wants} us to learn to have ~~compassion~~^{compassion} and have trust ~~in~~ in him, ~~he has~~



This candidate reaches Level 3.

The candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning that addresses the issues raised by the statement.

This is presented in an accurate and coherent way. Logical chains of reasoning are identifiable on both sides of the argument.

The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence. This can be seen at the end the first page but does not continue and the conclusion lacks justification.

The candidate meets the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not meet the Level 3 requirements fully, and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the Level 3 mark range.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall
- The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms appropriately.

Response: 7 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 10 marks



Do not argue that the statement is true or false: say why the reasons given 'for' can be disputed by the alternative opinion

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.1, 'Christian worship: Liturgical and non-liturgical forms of worship, including activities that are informal and individual.'

Candidates were not awarded marks for stating the places where worship takes place. For example 'going to church' would not receive credit unless candidates commented on the way Christians worshipped when they were there.

A christian may worship individually through private prayer, liturgically through set group prayers and non-liturgically through feeling the holy spirit and singing & dancing.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three ways. The sentences are in paragraph form.

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Write three separate sentences, to outline three ways/reasons

The answers are given in a list, within a sentence, therefore can gain a maximum of 1 mark – either for the list, or for the one sentence.

christians may worship liturgically,
non-liturgically or individually



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate lists three correct ways, in one sentence.

1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

An outline must be more than one word, or item of knowledge

Firstly, a christian may follow liturgical worship.

Secondly, a christian may follow non-liturgical worship.

Thirdly, a christian may ~~follow~~^{complete} individual worship.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Three ways are outlined.

The outlines are simple but effective for gaining the marks available.

3 marks

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.6, "The future of the Christian Church the (...) the purpose of missionary (and evangelical) work.

The question asked was, 'Explain two purposes of missionary work.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

Missionary works is a form of help to the needy and helpless.
- Missionary work is also a charnel to winning souls for Christ.

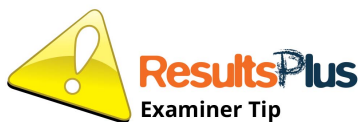


The candidate gives two purposes but does not develop them.

First purpose: 'to help the needy and helpless' (1)

Second purpose: 'winning souls for Christ' (1)

2 marks



Develop reasons, for extra marks

Missionary work spreads the gospel to all the world, this helps expand Christianity and bring more people into the faith. As Jesus taught us to do. Secondly, missionary work brings aid and charity support to those who don't have it, this is important as Christians should treat all as they would treat themselves.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives the purposes of missionary work and develops them.

First purpose: 'to spread the gospel' (1) developed by 'Jesus taught us to do' (1)

Second purpose 'to bring aid and charity support' (1) developed by 'as they would treat themselves' (1)

4 marks

Firstly, a purpose of missionary work is to go out and help others in need e.g. by building schools, relieving poverty and helping the sick. This allows people to show service to others in need. "for the son of man did not come to serve, but to serve"
secondly, a purpose of missionary work is to "spread the ~~good~~ gospel to all nations"
this allows people to preach the world and allow others to learn about God, doing as Jesus wanted



The candidate gives two purposes that are developed.

First purpose: 'help others in need' (1) developed by 'eg building schools' (1)

Second purpose: 'spread the gospel to all nations' (1) developed by 'doing as Jesus wanted' (1)

Reference to a source of wisdom is not required on the (b) items. However, if a candidate uses an appropriate source, it can be credited as a development.

4 marks



References to a teaching or scripture is a good way to develop a reason

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.3, 'The nature and purpose of prayer (...) set prayers'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why some Christians use set prayers.'

Answers must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Some candidates were not prepared for this question and confused answers with liturgical and non-liturgical worship.

Candidates must be prepared for the whole breadth and depth of the specification in order to achieve higher grades. It is best to check that materials used in school cover the specification.

Some christians use set prayers because of their belief. Some of the christians will say God is not deaf to hearing our prayers so instead of making mistake of repeating the same prayer points again and again, they use the set prayers and pray according to the list of prayer points.



This response does not answer the question set.

The candidate gives no relevant information.

0 marks

~~Christians~~ Some Christians prefer set prayer as they ~~know~~ are more comfortable with it as they know ~~what~~ what they are doing is right and another reason why some Christians prefer set prayer is because it is easy to remember as you have said them before and can pray at home.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed reasons but does not refer to a source of wisdom.

Reason one: 'more comfortable' (1) developed by 'they are doing it right' (1)

Reason two: 'easy to remember' (1) developed by 'can pray at home' (1)

4 marks

Sometimes, responses are difficult to separate into compartments and development may be given before the reason.

Some Christians use set prayers as they can be sure they are praying for all the needs of a human - Christians can use the Lord's Prayer to make sure they are doing this as Jesus taught it to the disciples ~~to~~ to show them the prayer that can cover all the needs a human could ~~have~~ ^{have}, such as 'forgive us our sins' and 'lead us not into temptation' to make sure we ~~are~~ ^{are} staying on the right path.

A second reason why some Christians use set prayer is because they can reflect and understand the prayer, it may be easier for them to have pre-planned words to say as they ~~can~~ can truly be sincere and reflect on the prayer if it's already ~~there~~ ^{there} for them and they don't have to create the words themselves which could be harder for them to know what they truly want to say.



The candidate gives two developed reasons and refers to a source of wisdom.

Reason one: 'praying for the needs of a human' (1) developed by 'Jesus taught it to his disciples' (1) 'forgive us our sins' and 'lead us not into temptation' (1)

Reason two: 'reflect and understand' (1) developed by 'easier to have pre-planned words' (1)

The source of wisdom referenced is the Lord's Prayer.

5 marks

Question 2 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Many candidates re-wrote this question to ask why a Christian needs a local church and what it offers for Christians, rather than the general community. This was accepted as an alternative approach.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response.

"Churches should only support their local community."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

There are no SPaG marks for Questions 2 or 4. SPaG marks are only assessed on the odd-numbered: Questions 1 and 3.

Churches should only support their local community. A local community is the area and group of people living within the environs. The church should only support their local community because they are the one who is closer to them, they majority of them will be a member of the church, so the way of extending their appreciation is by helping them.

Additionally, the church should only help their local community because it helps save from expenses. So many individuals believe in this notion and they say it is a form of church growth, because it attracts crowd into the church.

On the other hand, a church is not laid down only to be a source of help to its local community, it is built to win souls for Christ both far and near, He said in His word, "Go into the world and preach the gospel, go tell the people about me, far and near in Jerusalem,

Samaritans and all over the world". It is very important to ~~es~~ support all local communities because, it helps win more souls for Christ.

In conclusion, the Lord says we should help those who are in need. Therefore, help/support should be rendered to everyone who is in need of support/help.



The candidate reaches Level 1 because:

- the knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial)
- the arguments for the statement are not underpinned by religious beliefs or teachings
- there is a simple 'for and against' argument given
- there are no judgements made
- the conclusion is not justified
- most of the demands of the levels descriptors for Level 1 are met

3 marks

Firstly, a reason why Christians should only support their local community is because they can offer advice to the people of their community, visit the sick, ^{having a shelter for the homeless.} this allows the church to embody the teaching of service in the Bible "for the son of man did not come to serve but to serve"

secondly, the church should only support their local community because it can be used as a basic form of evangelism where the church spread the word of God and invite the local community to join their church. ~~Jesus~~ Jesus taught for his people to do this.

thirdly, a reason why the church should only support the local community is because it allows the church to hold ~~service~~ services for the community e.g. weddings, funerals ^{conformational} etc. This allows the church to perform sacraments, showing a devotion to God.

~~propose~~ on the other hand, the church should not only support their local community, they should also support other churches and denominations, encouraging ~~ecumenism~~ ecumenism and reconciliation. ~~this~~

~~bringson~~ Secondly, the church should not only support the local community but should also support churches world wide, even places where ~~the church~~

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)

Christianity is not the state religion, this allows Christians to support on a wider scale, showing a positive light to the faith, ~~and~~ the church can also "preach the gospel to all nations" also encouraging evangelism.

Finally, the church should not only support their local community but projects in other communities e.g. raising money for charity, partaking in campaigns and even helping those Christians who are being persecuted around the world.

In conclusion, some may agree with this statement, because it can bring the local community together and help those within it, either through homeless shelters, food banks, visiting the sick ~~one~~ or elderly. This allows the church to embody the teaching of service which is important. However and more convincingly, ~~the~~ churches should take responsibility in bringing together and supporting other churches, even of a different denomination, providing unity within the faith and helping all those on a wider scale as well.



The candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- they give logical chains of reasoning for both sides of the arguments
- these are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- they are beginning to show evidence of Level 3 characteristics

However, the candidate does not attempt to appraise the arguments given, or evaluate the arguments.

The conclusion offers an attempt at making a judgment, but this is not fully justified.

The candidate meets the demands of the Level 2 descriptors but does not meet fully the Level 3 requirements. Marks are awarded at the lower end of the Level 3 mark range.

7 marks



The candidate makes good use of the extra space: this is much wiser than attaching extra pages

I disagree with the view in the question.

In Peter 4, Jesus explains that the clergy, like shepherds, should guide the members of their congregation, like sheep. Some would interpret this to ~~explain~~ explain that members of the clergy ~~should~~ should only support those, physically, in their congregation, and therefore in their local community. Others may explain that Jesus only ever provided support to those who were in Israel at that time, more specifically Jerusalem and Galilee, thus explaining that he only ever supported his local community. Some churches may not have the monetary or physical ability to support more outside of their local parish.

However, some interpret the same passage from Peter ~~different~~ differently. They would say that Jesus is not referring to the congregation and clergy, ~~as~~ in a small, physical sense, but is instead referring to the clergy all across the world, and the congregation as all people, thus implying that churches have a responsibility for all. Also, in Matthew 25, Jesus explains that doing charity work for anyone, whether they are Christian or not, is the equivalent of doing charity work for God. This shows that Jesus is urging members of the clergy to support all people, no matter how far away they are. Also, Jesus' main message was to share love and kindness with all - that should start with the churches.

In conclusion, I disagree with the view in the question, because churches should attempt to support all people, to the best of their ability, of course.



The candidate reaches Level 3 because:

- The candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning, which addresses the issues raised by the statement
- This is presented in an accurate and coherent way. Logical chains of reasoning are identifiable on both sides of the argument
- The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence, the arguments given, although the conclusion lacks justification
- The candidate meets the all the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not fully meet the Level 3 requirements and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the mark range

8 marks

Level 3



The answers do not have to be long! They need to 'consider the arguments', and say if the statement holds any truth or value in a justified conclusion

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.1, 'The development and structure of the Bible (...) law, history, prophets, writings (...) gospels, letters'

The question asked candidates to 'Outline three forms of writings found in the Bible.' Again, this mirrors the specification exactly.

In the bible there are letters,
there are poems and there
are first hand accounts of events.



The candidate outlines three forms in one sentence. The 'there are' makes it more than a list and therefore three marks are awarded.

3 marks

The candidate was awarded 2 marks.

In the bible there are letters, poems
and biographies written by the
disciples



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one example and writes 'There are letters' (1) lists Psalms, and goes on to say 'biographies written by the disciples' (1)

There are two 'sentence parts' to the answer and they are credited.

2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Three separate sentences is a good rule!

^{Some}
~~Three~~ forms of writings in the bible are
old testament, ~~and new testament psalms~~
the gospels, the creation



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives three examples, only one of which, 'gospels', is a form of writing.

Because they are written as a list, they could have gained 1 mark if all three had been correct.

0 marks

Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.4, 'Jesus as the Word of God (...) Jesus' example of showing love for others'

The question asked was 'Explain two ways Jesus showed Christians how to love others.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

- Jesus said in his word, if your neighbour is in need and you have more than two coats give to your neighbour the best out of it and the Lord will reward you.
- He also said we should love our neighbour as ourselves, we should treat them the way we will treat ourselves whenever we are in need of something.



The candidate gives one developed way: Jesus' teachings.

First way: 'he said it in his word' (1) developed by 'love your neighbour is all you need' (1)

The candidate then develops 'his word' or his teachings by giving more teachings, which is not another 'way' but rather is development.

2 marks

One way Jesus showed Christians how to love others was through him practising equality, throughout the New Testament there were ~~many~~ numerous occasions in which he showed there was no difference between ~~the~~ men and women and therefore showed us that we must love everyone equally.

A second way was through his telling of ~~a~~ parables, such as The Good Samaritan in which we are taught that we must show love and care for everyone ~~at~~ around us even if we don't agree with their ~~views~~ or where they're from.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed ways.

First way: 'practising equality' (1) this is developed by 'must love everyone equally' (1)

Second way: 'telling parables' (1) developed by 'care for everyone around us.' (1)

4 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This candidate clearly indicates to the examiner that there are two different ways given

This is good practice

Jesus served others and treated everyone equally, 'You are all one in christ'. He saved everyone from sin and restored the relationship between God and humanity. He brought them together and preached parables to guide them.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two ways.

First way: 'Jesus served others' (1)

Second way 'He treated people equally' (1)

The 'saved everyone from sin and restored the relationship with God' is not linked to showing love to others.

'He preached parables to guide them' is another reason, not development of previous points.

The candidate gives four ways and no development therefore can be awarded 2 marks for two ways.

2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates must understand the difference between a reason/way and development

One way he showed Christians how to love others is by preaching. The most significant is when he gave the command to 'love thy neighbour' and then proceeded himself to love those who wanted or needed it.

Another way Jesus show Christians how to love others is by his actions. Jesus helped anyone who needed it even if they were looked down upon by society such as women, just as we should do today.



The candidate gives two developed ways.

First way: 'preaching' (1) this is developed by 'love your neighbour' (1)

Second way: 'helped everyone who needed it' (1) developed by 'even if they were looked down on by society.' (1)

4 marks

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority.

Bullet point 3.7 'Leaders and Leadership in the Church (...) bishops and popes: the roles and significance of each.'

The question asked was 'Explain two different attitudes to the importance of the Pope today'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom'. This must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word-for-word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. Candidates are not held to 'verses' but they must refer to the correct book.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase will be credited and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa, and the quote is not accredited to them, credit is not awarded.*

Candidates answered this question well.

In catholic tradition the Pope is seen as a descendent of the apostles. Christians therefore have faith in him as a leader of the church who are in charge of representing the church on a local scale as well as a worldwide scale. Secondly, some Christians see the Pope as a gateway to God. Sinners often go to the Pope in hopes that he will ask God for forgiveness. 'Go and get the elders so they can pray over him.' James 5:14



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed reason with reference to a source of wisdom.

Attitude one: 'a descendant of the apostles' developed by 'faith in him as a leader' referring to, and paraphrasing, James 5:14 (1)

The candidate only gives one attitude.

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates must quote or paraphrase the source of wisdom to gain the mark

They are not expected to know chapter and verse

The pope is a leader that leads services of the sacraments for example funeral. They are important because the bible says leaders are appointed by God. Also the pope is important as they do the blessings among the church and visit / pray for the sick.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate is writing about a priest, not the Pope.

0 marks

Question 3 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.8, 'The role of women in the church.' Candidates are required to give two different Christian points of view in order to cover all the elements of the question. The specification bullet points indicate which questions which might require different Christian points of view – this bullet point says, 'divergent approaches to the role of women in different denominations.'

"All Christians should accept women as leaders in the Church."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion

All Christians should accept women as leaders in the church. This is not acceptable because women are not supposed to head the church when there are so many men available and ready to head the church.

Women are only considered to be of assistance to the men because of their nature. There are so many women who are not strong and able to face so many temptations that will come their way, whilst men are always prepared for any challenges ahead of them.

In contrast to this idea, some other Christians do not consider this notion a bad idea because serving the Lord is not a gender-based specialisation. It is even believed that what a man can do a woman can do better. Let's take a look at some of these women in the Bible, Deborah, Esther etc.

Deborah was a woman, prophetess after the death of her husband Lappidoth. She headed the church well and ever gave courage to the warrior who was afraid to go alone to the battle, she did this by giving him a sign that the enemy shall be given to the hand of a woman. Esther was also wise and brave enough to release her people from bondage giving them freedom.

God doesn't look at gender before he hears/ answers our prayers.



The candidate reaches Level 2 because they:

- provide reasons for and against the statement making brief (superficial) arguments on both sides
- demonstrate a limited, rather than isolated – as in Level 1– understanding of the beliefs surrounding this statement
- do not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the argument
- offer an attempt at making a judgment in the conclusion, but this is not fully justified and builds on a limited range of elements in the answer

The candidate meets the demands of the Level 1 descriptor but does not fully meet the Level 2 requirements and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the mark-range.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall
- uses a good range of specialist terms appropriately

Response: 4 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 7 marks



Marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar are given on Q3d

These are worth 3 marks

Candidates should be aware of these marks and take care with spellings of key words, paragraphs and punctuation

The appraisal of evidence required for the higher marks can come at any point in the answer.

The best answers give one side of the argument and then use the opposing viewpoint to indicate the weaknesses of the first side.

Catholic Christians would disagree with this statement. This is because the leaders in the church are men. For example, Bishops and Priests represent the 12 disciples. And none of the disciples were female, therefore there is no reason why any of the leaders should be female since they have to keep the tradition.

Another reason why orthodox Christians may disagree with this statement is because they would argue that in traditional views, the ~~role of~~ women in the Christian household are meant to give birth to and to raise children, teach them about Christianity and obey to their husbands - their lords. Therefore by accepting women as leaders in churches would go against scripture which goes against God's message.

However, some Christians - Protestants would agree with this statement because they would have more liberal views and ~~would see~~ ^{would see} that both men and women are equal and

Therefore should be equally allowed to be leaders of a Churches. This is emphasised in the Genesis story when man and woman were created equally.

Another reason why some protestants may disagree with this statement is because Luke emphasises the importance of women in Jesus' ministry in the Gospel. When Jesus was found to be gone, it was the women who first found out and saw the appearance of angel Gabriel. This shows that women were acknowledged to be important by God + Jesus.

(Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)

Overall I agree with this statement because women should ~~be~~ be allowed equal rights as men when they all share the same faith in Jesus. And also ~~be~~ by making sure it is accepted by all Christians despite denominations reinforces ecumenism. - uniting all Christians despite denominations

This candidate reaches Level 4 because:

- they deconstruct the religious information given critically, which is accurate and shows understanding throughout
- connections are made amongst the full range of elements in the question
- the elements of the question are linked together and are shown to be part of the argument, leading to coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question
- judgements are supported by the appraisal of some of the evidence, which is **superficial**, leading to a partially-justified conclusion

Therefore, the response is awarded a mark at the lower end of the level.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall
- uses a good range of specialist terms appropriately

Response: 10 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 13 marks

Level 4

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: 'Forms of Expression and Ways of life' bullet point 4.6 'The purpose of literature in Christian life: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry'

The question asked was 'Outline three types of literature used to express belief'

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- **God is creator** (1 mark)
- **God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- **God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

Religious Art is used to express belief.

Music is used non-liturgically and liturgically to express the belief in God

lastly, Drama and media.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Unfortunately, this answer is not about literature.

0 marks



Candidates must study the breadth and depth of the content from the specification

christians use the bible, christian fiction and poems/songs to express belief



The candidate lists three types of literature in a sentence.

The Bible is not a type of literature.

1 mark

Firstly, three different types of literature used to express belief is books such as 'the great divorce', secondly, another type of literature to express belief is poems. Thirdly, a type of literature used to express belief is ~~and new~~ ^{newspapers} and articles about faith.



Three types of literature are outlined.

3 marks

* Non fiction such as letters

* fiction such as novels and stories

* poetry to express their praise of God



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Three types of literature are outlined.

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

If bullet points help candidates to remember to give three answers, they are acceptable if followed by a full sentence

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: Forms of Expression and Ways of life'. Bullet point, 4.7 'The nature and use of traditional styles of music in worship'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why some Christians believe music used in worship should be traditional'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

Very few students considered examples of Gregorian Chant. Many candidates did not answer why music should be traditional, but why modern music should not be used in worship in churches today.

Some may believe music should be traditional
as it can create an atmosphere that helps
you focus on your prayer also some people
have always worshiped with traditional music and
find it easy to worship with as a change will be
much harder



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two reasons.

Reason one: 'focus on prayer' (1)

Reason two: 'easy to worship with' (1)

2 marks

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

Firstly, a reason why some Christians believe music ^{in worship} should be traditional is because ~~many~~ ^{many} of the hymns ~~are~~ sung in traditional worship include ~~verses~~ verses from the ~~peop~~ ^{bible} which allow Christians to express their love towards God, ~~extale~~ ^{elevating} the truth. Secondly, another reason why some Christians believe music should be traditional is because it gives people a sense of comfort and the hymns have been sung for decades and it gives people the sense of what they ~~believe~~ they are singing is true.



The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason one: 'include verses from the Bible' (1) 'elevating the truth' (1)

Reason two: 'sense of comfort' (1) 'sung for decades' (1)

4 marks

Christians believe traditional

^ Music such as Gregorian Chant is music that was first used by Christians and the monotone sound symbolises Christian unity. Traditional music should be used in worship as it has been used for hundreds of years and therefore holds significance due to its age.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed reasons.

Reason one: 'first used by Christians' (1) 'symbolises Christian unity' (1)

Reason two: 'used for hundreds of years' (1) 'due to its age' (1)

4 marks

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: 'Forms of Expression and Ways of life'

The question asked was 'Explain two ways drama is used to express Christian beliefs.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom': this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- *The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.*
- *If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.*
- *If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.*
- *If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.*

drama is used to express christian beliefs
as it tells a story of what happened
in the bible



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one way: 'tells the story of what happened in the Bible'.

1 mark

One way drama is used is to ~~express~~ depict a moral message, people can act out parables to help us to understand the metaphors used by Jesus more easily and understand how we can adapt the moral message in our everyday life.

Secondly, it can be used to express Christian beliefs by ~~expressing~~ illustrating events such as Jesus' crucifixion through which we can empathise more with Bible characters and truly understand the stories and the beliefs being expressed.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed ways.

First way: 'act out parables' (1) developed by 'to depict a moral message' (1) (backwards development)

Second way: 'illustrating events such as Jesus crucifixion' (1) developed by 'truly understand the beliefs being expressed.' (1)

4 marks

Firstly, drama is used to express christian beliefs through passion plays. It allows christians to express their love and devotion by preaching the word through the talents given to them by god "created in his image"

secondly, a way drama is used to express christian beliefs is that the plays re-create stories from the bible, perform and showing key beliefs. Drama is also used within churches e.g. The Nativity play done by children, teaching them about Jesus.



The candidate gives two developed ways.

First way: 'through the passion plays' (1) developed by 'preaching the word' (1)

Second way: 're-create stories from the Bible' (1) developed by 'e.g. the nativity plays'

The reference to a source of wisdom does not relate to the way given.

4 marks

Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**': this statement requires **considering the arguments for and against** and reaching a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments: appraise the arguments to reach the higher levels in the mark scheme.

This type of question is marked from a levels-based mark scheme: marks are awarded according to levels descriptors.

Many candidates provided excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments and thereby limited candidates' progression to the higher levels.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: 'Forms of Expression and Ways of life'. Bullet point, 'The divergent meaning, significance and purpose of icons within Christianity'

The specification bullet points indicate which questions might require different Christian points of view – the bullet point says, 'specific reference to the use of icons within Orthodox Christianity and in denominations that may reject their use.'

Many students did not know what an icon was, and therefore did not answer the question well.

The question asked was:

"Christians should use icons to worship God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion

Christians should use icons to worship God. A Christian worship God in his sanctuary. Icons simply means musical instruments. Musical instrument produces sound but some Christian beliefs are against the use of icons to worship God because they feel it is a form of noise or disturbance because they believe our God is a calm God, that detests noise.

They also believe that the things of the world can easily be spread through music, because some of the beats been introduced in the church are from secular musics of the world.

However, David in the book of Psalms said Be joyful in the Lord, bring to his store heart a joyful praise, come with the cymbals, bass and tambourine to praise His Holy name. This simply implies you can add the instruments with your dancing and singing to worship God.

Furthermore, some Christians believe everything is not about praying although the Bible says, we should pray without ceasing, the Bible also says "enter his gate with thanksgiving enter his court with praise". The Lord inhabits in the praise of his children.

In conclusion our God is all knowing, using icons to worship Him doesn't mean he wouldn't hear us - even the angels in heaven are praising him every second and not using icons means he will answer the prayers quickly. God sees the heart of men.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gains no marks because the information given does not answer the question sufficiently well.

The candidate does not know what an icon is.

0 marks

A catholic may agree with this statement because in catholicism 2502 it supports the use of icons as it says it helps to strengthen the relationship with God.

Another christian may argue that icons used to be used to help illiterate people understand God and that now that most people can read and write there is no ^{need} ~~use~~ for icons anymore.

In the bible it says 'for God so loved the world that he gave his only son'. So a christian may say that they can demonstrate the love they have for God through their use of icons.

Icons help people to reflect and to focus during private prayer so a christian may argue that as long

as it strengthens their relationship with God it is justifiable.

however a fundamentalist may say that Jesus doesn't say that we have to therefore it shouldn't be a necessary part of worship.

In conclusion I think that ~~an~~ icons should not be **(Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)**

necessary but as long as they don't distract from worship they can be used. **TOTAL FOR PAPER = 102 MARKS**



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gains Level 1 because:

- the candidate starts well with a correct reference to the catechism 2502. The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial)
- there is a simple 'for and against' given
- judgements made are unsupported and generic: no reasons or only weak reasons are given, which are not supported or justified
- the conclusion is a repetition of a point made earlier

The candidate's mark is at the top of the mark-range because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

3 marks

Level 1

One reason to agree is because icons can make it easier for Christians to worship God, an icon can clearly illustrate a symbolic snapshot of a much greater event in which Christians can use this to aid them in their worship and praise through reflecting on a certain event.

Secondly, a reason to agree is that icons can help us to understand God more, the colours of red and blue are often used in icons of Jesus as his clothing to signify his humanity and divinity, this can help Christians to worship as they can really study into the icon and see how the icon can help them. In ~~the~~ iconography, icons are described as 'the window to heaven', showing icons are an essential part of worship to get you to connect deeply with God.

On the other hand, icons can be impractical in helping you worship

as they are very metaphorical, some Christians find it hard to understand the deeper ~~meanings~~ meanings of icons and therefore won't find the essential in worship.

Another reason against it is that not all Christians connect with artwork and some may find it easier to worship through the art of music or through reading the Bible.

In conclusion, I feel

(Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)

as though not all Christians should use icons to worship as for some Christians it isn't practical for them and it doesn't inspire worship, however some Christians find icons inspiring and extremely helpful so as a Christian you should make your own decision as to whether they are helpful for worship or not.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 102 MARKS

The candidate reaches Level 3 because they:

- use an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning, which addresses the issues raised by the statement
- present their argument in an accurate and coherent way
- demonstrate logical chains of reasoning that are identifiable on both sides of the argument
- start to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence, although the conclusion lacks justification

The candidate meets the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not fully meet the Level 3 requirements and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the Level 3 mark range.

8 marks

Level 3

I disagree with this statement because in the 10 commandments it says not to worship false idols and some people might feel that if people use icons to worship God they might actually end up worshipping that physical thing rather than what it represents and therefore they would be worshipping false idols which is considered a sin.

I agree with this statement because icons can help people worship and feel close to God and if more people use icons to worship means more people become Christians and feel closer to God then surely it should be encouraged.

However if the church could need money to pay for icons such as statues and paintings and this money could be used to help people who are poor or struggling the bible teaches to put others before yourself & so if this money was used for icons rather than helping other people it could be considered going against what the bible teaches.



The candidate reaches Level 2 because they:

- provide reasons for and against the statement, making brief (superficial) arguments on both sides
- demonstrate a limited understanding of the beliefs surrounding this statement
- do not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the argument
- do not attempt a conclusion

The candidate is awarded a mark at the lower end of the mark-range because only some of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

4 marks

Level 2

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper: write within the scannable pages, using the blank spaces
- When answering the (a) items use three full sentences
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) items must be relevant to the question and support the reason given
- The (d) items asks for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reasons given is 'considered' or appraised for its value as an argument as part of deciding the evaluation
- On (d) items the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked, fully

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

