

Examiners' Report
June 2018

GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 2A

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Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Religious Studies A Paper 2: Area of Study 3 – Catholic Christianity

The paper contributes to 25% of the overall award. The assessment consists of two questions, candidates must answer both sets of questions. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are to use this, rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

In some questions marks are awarded for correct spelling, punctuation and grammar – SPaG.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.1.

The Trinity: God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The question asked was :

'Outline **three** Catholic beliefs about the Holy Spirit.'

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)

Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to outline 3 Catholic beliefs.

1 (a) Outline **three** Catholic beliefs about the Holy Spirit.

(3)

They believe...
* The Holy spirit makes Jesus bodily present in the bread & wine during mass.

* The Holy Spirit came down after Jesus was ascended to heaven.

* The Holy spirit gives ~~Catholics~~ strength to those Catholics that receive him during ~~the~~ Confirmation.



This candidate was awarded 3 marks.

Three Catholic beliefs are outlined:

- makes Jesus present (1)
- came down after ascension (1)
- gives strength



Centres should teach from the specification and candidates should write in three full sentences to gain full marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** Catholic beliefs about the Holy Spirit.

(3)

- The holy spirit is the third person of the trinity
- The holy spirit descended as a dove at Jesus's Baptism



This candidate was awarded 2 marks.

The candidate writes two sentences outlining three beliefs.

- Third person of the Trinity (1)
- descended like a dove (1)

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.7, Catholic beliefs about salvation and grace including John 3:10–21 and Acts 4:8–12; the implications and significance of these events for Catholic practice today.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why salvation is important to Catholics.'

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.

Many candidates argued that the salvation was important to enter into heaven. A significant number detailed the death of Jesus allowing us salvation but did not link it to the importance.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why salvation is important to Catholics.

(4)

One reason why salvation is important is because it allows Christians to have a full relationship with God, as before they could only have a partial relationship due to their sins.

It is also important because it shows God's love for men; ~~Jesus~~^{God} loved men so much that he came in human form to save them from their sins.



This candidate was awarded 4 marks.

The candidate gives two developed ways

- It allows Christians to have a full relationship with God (1) developed by before they could only have partial (1)
- It shows God's love (1) developed by he came in human form (1)



Candidates should separate their ways, as in this example, because it makes it clear that two ways are given.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.5, The Incarnation: Jesus as incarnate Son

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why Catholics believe that Jesus was fully human.'

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

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 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 credited. 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 credited.*

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics believe that Jesus was fully human.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Christians (Catholics) believe that Jesus was fully human because in the Bible it says, "the word became flesh and dwelt among us." This means that God (the word) became human and lived among them to understand their temptations. The belief in Jesus being fully human is also important because it helps Catholics relate to God. Jesus was God, but also fully human which makes Catholics relatable to God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 2 marks.

The candidate gives two reasons but no development or source of wisdom or authority.

- Word becomes flesh (1)
- helps to relate to God (1)

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics believe that Jesus was fully human.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Catholics believe that Jesus was fully human incarnate god because he suffered when dying on the cross the most and if he wasn't fully god he wouldn't feel the same pain. *

Also they believe that Jesus was fully human because he 'was flesh and blood' and he went through usual things that human go through such as hunger, pain, sorrow etc.

*They believe that he is fully human as he was ascended later on and he could advise ~~them~~ disciples and speak to them fully.

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



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 4 marks.

The candidate gives two reasons with development

- he suffered (1) developed by he could feel physical pain (1)
- he was flesh and blood (1) developed by he could feel physical things (1)

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 1.1, The Trinity: the nature and significance of the Trinity.

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, which would not be a Christian viewpoint or teaching. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

The question asked was:

'Belief in the Trinity is essential to Catholic life.'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

Many candidates answered this question with good knowledge but limited appraisal of evidence; they gave reasons to support the existence of the Trinity and events that demonstrated the Trinity. However, they did not link this to the question or appraise the evidence given.

* (d) "Belief in the Trinity is essential to Catholic life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

The trinity is the belief that God is in three persons: the father, the son and Holy Spirit. It was decided in the Nicene Creed from the first Council of Nicaea.

Some Catholics would say that the trinity is essential to their lives as it helps them to understand God better in his three persons.

God as a father, Jesus as the son, and the Holy Spirit as their guide on Earth.

Other Christians would say that because of the Jewish origins of the religion, Jesus is just a prophet of God rather than God himself.

This goes against the trinity as it is believed that all three persons are God.

Some would say that the trinity is essential because it is indicated in the Bible in parts such as: Jesus' baptism where God the

Father's voice comes from Heaven, Jesus is the son and God's spirit descends like a dove (Holy spirit).

Others would say that because the Trinity is

not mentioned in the Bible textually or directly, it is not essential in belief.

In conclusion, the trinity is essential to Catholic life because it helps to understand God's nature and helps in their own lives.

This candidate was awarded 4 marks for response and 3 marks for SPaG = total 7 marks.

The candidate reaches Level 2 because:

- The candidate then provides reasons for and against the statement making brief (superficial) arguments on both sides.
- The candidate demonstrates a limited, rather than isolated as in Level 1, understanding of the beliefs surrounding this statement.
- The candidate does not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the argument.
- The conclusion offers an attempt at making a judgment, 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.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms appropriately.

***d) "Belief in the Trinity is essential to Catholic life."**

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

The belief in the trinity is essential to catholic life, many christians agree they believe that the trinity ~~is~~ is what ~~the~~ their father is made of, the ^{father} god, holy spirit and son, 'in the name of father son god and holy spirit' these are mentioned in the Nicene creed. The Nicene creed is the declaration of faith which shows that it testifies the catholic's faith. The trinity is essential to catholics because it helps them live a better spiritual life the christians believe that the father is outside them meaning that he is the creator of all, the son is beside them recounting that jesus was the saviour and he took all their sins and also the holy spirit is inside them this shows that the words of god are in their hearts as he is still active today. ~~The trinity is essential~~

On the other hand some christians disagree they believe that the trinity is not essential because it is just a belief about god. They would argue that the trinity is a declaration as it doesn't help you in your life, you just need to be aware of it. Most christians would say that the trinity doesn't really play a part in their lives because the son he is not present nor is the father. Christians would say that the trinity is not essential in life

as it doesn't ^{help you} spiritually grow towards god, christians would say that as long as you believe in the trinity it does not effect your life. To conclude, many christians have different views on the trinity but they all believe that god is shown in three forms. Some catholics say the trinity is essential as it is a declaration of faith and is seravely remembered on mass and feast. But others say the trinity is not essential in life because it does not is a declaration of faith which doesn't effect lives. I believe that the trinity is essential for catholics as it is their main belief about god.



This candidate was awarded 6 marks for response and 3 marks for SPaG = Total 9 marks

The candidate reaches Level 2 because:

- The candidate then provides reasons for and against the statement making brief (superficial) arguments on both sides.
- The candidate demonstrates a limited understanding of the beliefs surrounding this statement.
- The candidate does not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the argument.

The conclusion offers an attempt at making a judgment, but this is not fully justified and builds on a limited range of elements in the answer.

The candidate is awarded marks at the top of the mark range because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

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

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.



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 2.7, Catholic Social Teaching; the work of CAFOD, what it does and why.

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** ways CAFOD helps the poor.'

CAFOD: Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Many candidates answered this well, giving clear ways.

2 (a) Outline three ways CAFOD helps the poor.

(3)

CAFOD helps the poor by feeding them poor, visiting the sick and old also giving education to young children and teaching them what is included in the Gospels.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 2 marks.

The candidate writes two sentences outlining the ways CAFOD helps the poor.

- visiting the sick (1)
- giving education to young children (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

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

2 (a) Outline **three** ways CAFOD helps the poor.

(3)

CAFOD helps the poor by distributing food and water to them.

CAFOD helps the poor in times such as floods, by helping them find a shelter.

CAFOD provides the poor with basic necessities such as clothes.



This candidate was awarded 3 marks.

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three correct ways.

- distributes food and water
- helps in times such as floods
- provides basic necessities

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.6, Pilgrimage: the nature, history and purpose of Catholic pilgrimage.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why pilgrimage is important for Catholics.'

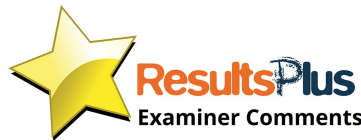
Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes, or examples. The development must be of the reason given and for the question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

Many candidates answered this question with good knowledge. They gave reasons why people visited places, e.g. to be healed etc.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why pilgrimage is important for Catholics.

(4)

pilgrimage is important to catholics as it is a way of
thanking God and showing appreciation.
pilgrimage is important to catholics as
it brings them closer to God.



This candidate was awarded 2 marks.

The candidate give two simple ways:

- a way of thanking God (1)
- brings them closer to God (1)

Candidates should be taught to develop reasons.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why pilgrimage is important for Catholics.

(4)

pilgrimage is important for Catholics as it is a time where a Catholic can experience a spiritual, religious journey to feel closer to God, and may feel like praying constantly.

pilgrimage is important for Catholics as it is a time where they can repent to God for all their sins and can change themselves as a person.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 3 marks.

The candidate gives one simple way and another developed way.

- a time they can feel closer to God (1)
- time they can repent (1) developed by they can change as a person (1)

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.2, Liturgical worship within Catholic Christianity: the nature and significance of the Mass for Catholics

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why the Mass is important to Catholics.'

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Many candidates answered this question well, giving reasons why Mass is important. They were able to use the words of the Last Supper as relevant wisdom and authority.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Mass is important to Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Jesus becomes in the body of the people present during the mass and Catholics also believe the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.

Candidates must be prepared for the whole breadth and depth of the specification in order to achieve higher marks.

Materials used in school cover the entire specification.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 1 mark.

The candidate gives one reason:

- the bread and wine actually become the body (1)

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Mass is important to Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

The mass is important for Catholics because they believe the mass is the central belief and is "the source and Summit of Christian life" as mentioned in CCC 1030, because it ^{is} the making present again of the last supper. Another reason as to why the mass is important for Catholics is because they believe they receive the body and blood of Jesus through the consecrated bread and wine. Jesus said ^{in the bible} "those who do not drink my blood or eat my flesh have no life in them". This shows the importance of mass for Catholics.



This candidate was awarded 5 marks.

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

- Mass is a central belief (1) developed with wisdom and authority 'source and summit...' (1) making present the last supper (1)
- Bread and wine become the body and blood (1) developed with the quote who do not drink... (1)

Question 2 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.5, The role and importance of forms of popular piety: divergent Christian attitudes to these forms of piety.

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.

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

"Popular piety is an important part of worship."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Some candidates were not prepared for this question and had very little knowledge of what popular piety was and confused answers with liturgical and non-liturgical worship.

(d) "Popular piety is an important part of worship."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Catholics believe popular piety is important because it brings them closer to God through prayer as if it is a direct conversation with God.

They believe there are different parts of popular piety including Rosary, which is a moving of beads reciting "Our Hail Mary".

However, other Christian denominations don't say popular piety and say that they are created in God's image so why do they have to do some extra worship when it doesn't mean anything.

Anglicans, for example, don't believe ~~is~~ popular piety is

important but they consider some of the acts within popular pretty but don't give them the same importance as catholics.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 1 mark.

The candidate provides evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the levels because they give a simple reason.

They reach Level 1 because they:

- make superficial connections e.g. reason and development linked to statement, either for or against the statement or both
- present a limited range of elements in the question e.g. they have only met one or two of the requirements of the question
- demonstrate isolated elements of understanding
- make judgements that are generic with no reasons or weak reasons not supported or justified with any evidence
- give a conclusion that is not fully justified or not attempted.

(d) "Popular piety is an important part of worship."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Catholic

(12)

Some Christians may argue that popular piety is an important part of worship because it helps them to gain reward and become closer to God as well as Jesus. For example, the use of Rosary beads helps Catholics to remember Mary, by saying "Hail Mary" and "Glory Be". In addition, another significant form of popular piety is ~~that~~ the Stations of the Cross, where Catholics remember Jesus' life in pictures (17 stations). Lastly, Catholics perform Eucharist Adoration which is important because it helps Christians to build a stronger relationship with God.

On the other hand, some Protestant Christians may argue that popular piety is not an important part of worship. One reason for this is because they believe that using Rosary beads places too much emphasis on Mary, and thus makes them feel uncomfortable because they would rather

focus more on God and Jesus. Also, some ~~Evangelical~~ Anglican Christians may ~~also~~ believe that ~~the~~ transubstantiation in the Eucharist Adoration is confusing, as they do not believe in bread and wine as the body of Jesus.

Overall, having taken in both arguments, I think that the argument opposing the statement is stronger, (Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)

as there are different forms of worship for all denominations of Christianity, instead of popular piety, which some Christians do not agree with. Also, even though popular piety ~~may~~ ^{may} help a Catholic strengthen their relationship with God, it does not place much emphasis on God, which should be the soul purpose of worship.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 51 MARKS



This candidate was awarded 6 marks.

The candidate reaches Level 2 because:

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

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 booklet 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 ask for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reason 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 credited in the answer
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked fully.

Grade Boundaries

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