

Examiners' Report  
June 2019

GCSE Religious Studies 1RA0 2A

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# Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Religious Studies A Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Catholic Christianity

The paper contributes to 25% of the overall award.

The assessment consists of two questions, candidates must answer both sets of questions.

Section 1: Beliefs and Teaching

Section 2: Practices

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.

AO stands for Assessment Objective

## **Question 1 (a)**

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.6: The events in the Paschal Mystery

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** events in the Paschal Mystery'

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)

Candidates responded well to this question and were able outline 3 events.

1 (a) Outline **three** events in the Paschal Mystery.

(3)

One event of the Paschal Mystery is the death of Jesus.  
Another event is the resurrection of Jesus. Another event  
is the ascension of Jesus.



The candidate writes three sentences outlining three events:

- Death of Jesus (1)
- Resurrection of Jesus (1)
- Ascension of Jesus (1)

3 marks



Centres should teach from the specification.

Candidates should write in three full sentences, to gain full marks.

one event of the Paschal Mystery is the holy Spirit came down during confirmation.

Another event of the Paschal Mystery is Jesus gave his last sermon to his ~~disc~~ disciples.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The events are not part of the Paschal Mystery.

0 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Read the question carefully.

## **Question 1 (b)**

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.1: The Trinity: the nature and significance of each of the Persons individually: God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why believing in God as the Holy Spirit 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 to the question asked.

Many candidates were able to give at least one developed reason linking to God's presence on earth. A small number of responses detailed events in the Bible that included the Holy Spirit and therefore did not answer the question.

Note that the candidate has separated the two ways clearly into two paragraphs, even though the first paragraph does not receive any credit because it does not answer the question.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why believing in God as the Holy Spirit is important to Catholics.

(4)

One reason why believing in God as the holy spirit is important is because in the baptism of Jesus<sup>there was</sup> the presence of the holy spirit which came in the form of a dove. This shows the importance as it ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> all three forms of God who were present.

Another reason it is important is because Catholics believe the holy spirit lies within everyone. This ensures them that everything written in the bible is correct, and so are their teachings as the holy spirit guided the people who wrote it.



This response has one developed reason:

- The Holy Spirit is in everyone (1) developed with it inspiring the Bible (1)

2 marks



Candidates should separate their 'ways' into two paragraphs.



One reason why believing god as the holy spirit is important because catholics know whatever they are taught in the church is according to the will of god, because the holy spirit guides the church to the truth.

Another reason why it is important because it allows catholics to bear witness to their faith, & during the sacrament of confirmation because they receive the holy spirit, whom they believe is god.



Two developed reasons:

Reason 1

- Ensure what they are taught is correct (1)
- developed with Holy Spirit guides (1)

Reason 2

- Allows them to witness faith (1)
- developed with receive the Holy Spirit who is God (1)

4 marks

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.8: Catholic beliefs about eschatology: life after death; why belief in life after death is important for Catholics today

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why belief in life after death is important to Catholics. 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 and authority:

- 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.

Candidates demonstrated a clear knowledge of how belief in life after death can influence a person's actions on earth. Some candidates then developed this to gain the marks for development.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why belief in life after death is important to Catholics.

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

(5)

Firstly, belief in life after death is important to Catholics as they believe that they will be judged by Jesus on the day of Judgement. They believe they are held accountable for things like <sup>caring</sup> ~~causing~~ for mankind. This is mentioned in the parable of the sheep <sup>and goats:</sup> 'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'. Hence, Catholics are encouraged to live a good christian life.

Secondly, Catholics believe that after death, they will be united with Jesus and their loved ones. This is important as it provides hope for people who have lost a their close ones.



The candidate gives two developed ways with a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

Reason 1:

- Judged by Jesus on judgement (1)
- developed with held accountable (1)
- when I was thirsty (relevant wisdom and authority) (1)

Reason 2:

- united with Jesus and loved ones (1)
- developed with gives hope (1)

5 marks



The reference needs to be part of the answer, as shown in the example.

## Question 1 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.3: Creation: the nature and significance of the biblical account of Creation including Genesis 1–3; and how it may be understood in divergent ways in Christianity, including reference to literal and metaphorical interpretations

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

The question asked was:

'The Creation happened exactly as described in the Bible.'

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.

Many candidates answered this question with good knowledge of the different interpretations but limited appraisal of evidence. Some responses did not answer the question and compared the differences in the Genesis accounts.

*In the Bible there are two genesis as to how the world was created. Some one can easily pick one genesis and say this one is ~~more~~ is the right one in how the world was created. someone can say both the genesis ~~are~~ are true and that the world was created using both genesis. ~~However~~ The 1st genesis ~~descri~~ tells us about how the world was created in 7 days and ~~the 2nd genesis~~ how men and woman were last thing to be created. Genesis two ~~is~~ is about the*

Story of Adam and Eve. someone could disagree and say this isnt right and that its impossible to ~~create~~ have 2 seperate genesis ~~or created~~<sup>created</sup>. And that there are 2 different genesis of how the world was created in the BIBLE so how did the creation happen exactly as described in the Bible? TO conclude I ~~agree that the world~~

disagree because there are 2 different genesis as to how the world was created you cant really say that it happened the same because then it wont make sense.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response does not receive any credit.

As a consequence, the candidate is unable to obtain any SPaG marks.

0 marks

"The creation happened exactly as described in the Bible." I think some Christians such as literalists believe the creation happened exactly as it describes in the Bible, others may disagree and say it is a metaphor for how the creation story took place.

Catholics are considered literalists and usually believe everything which is said in the Bible or at least the creation story:

CCC 243 shows how the creation first began:

Catholics also believe this as the heavens and the earth were first created in accordance to the Bible:

In conclusion I think Catholic

Christians believe the creation happened exactly the same way it has been described in the Bible. This is also because they are usually strict in terms of faith and believe that which is

said in the Bible to be taken literally with no set changes. Although some Christians may disagree, this is what I think Catholic Christians believe.



The candidate gains Level 1 because:

- The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). There is a simple for and against argument given.
- The judgements made are unsupported and generic, no reasons or weak reasons, not supported or justified.

The candidate is awarded marks at the top of the Level 1 mark range because most of the demands of the level descriptors are met.

The response has many incorrect/non-catholic teachings and these cannot be credited because they are not a requirement of the question.

The candidate receives 3 marks for SPaG 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.

Level 1

3 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 6 marks



- Answer the question asked
- Evaluate this statement considering the arguments for and against
- To reach the higher level, appraise or consider the value of the arguments



The creation story is recited differently by different denominations. In Genesis 1, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. In Genesis 2, Adam and Eve were created first then the world.

Creationist Christians take the story of creation in the Bible literally and believe the world was actually created in six days. However, liberal Christians think otherwise.

Some may agree with this statement as in the Bible God says he created the animals first then humans. This can be seen as animals such as dinosaurs roamed the Earth before humans existed. Creationists believe the Bible creation story literally and don't believe in scientific explanations/theories. This may be due to the story being told from God, so it must be true. They may believe ~~that~~ <sup>it as</sup> Jesus ~~may~~ believed it as well. For example in ~~Genesis 1:1~~ Genesis 1:1 God says how ~~he created the~~ creation came about. However, some may disagree with this statement as they may believe in scientific theories as they

correlate with the bible. Literal liberals are an example of this. Other Christian denominations such as Methodists believe the creation story to be more metaphorical, to convey God's omnipotence. By believing it to be more metaphorical, they may believe in the theory of evolution and believe that man evolved from apes.

In conclusion, there are more points ~~to support~~ that go against this statement. There are many Christian denominations and liberals that agree with scientific theories as they can be explained and proved. They believe the creation story told in the bible to be metaphorical. Whereas some may believe it literally, as times progress there seems to be more scientific explanations that contradict the <sup>biblical beliefs</sup> bible. Although people still believe the creation story.

The candidate gains 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 descriptors are met.

Level 2

6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.7: Catholic Social Teaching: how Catholic Social Teaching reflects the teaching to show love of neighbour

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** ways Catholics can show love of neighbour.'

Many candidates answered this well, giving clear ways.

Firstly, Catholics can show love of neighbour through giving charity towards the poor and needy.

Secondly, Catholics can show love of neighbour through helping their community.

Thirdly, Catholics can show love of neighbour through giving support to the elderly in their local areas.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three ways.

- Charity towards the needy (1)
- Helping the community (1)
- Care for elders (1)

3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

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

- helping them when needed
- feed them
- interact with them.



Although all 3 ways are correct this is a list and not an outline – maximum mark of 1 awarded.

1 mark

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.3: The funeral rite as a liturgical celebration of the Church: the aims of the funeral rite including communion with the deceased; the communion of the community and the proclamation of eternal life to the community and its significance for Catholics

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why the funeral rite is significant 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 to the question asked.

Candidates answered this question with varying knowledge; most could liken the funeral rite to its role in supporting the bereaved. A significant number of candidates simply outlined the features of a funeral and therefore did not answer the question.

✱ Because there paying their respects and it gives them a moment to reflect upon their life and so they can become a better person.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

No marks are awarded for this response.

0 marks

The funeral rite is significant to Catholics as it helps the mourners ~~of the~~ ~~to~~ connect with the deceased person through the church. Also gives them assurance they will meet with their loved ones again in the next life.

Another reason why the funeral rite is important is because the community celebrate the death of the deceased as they see they are starting a new and better life and will be able to meet god.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed reasons:

Reason 1

- Helps the mourners connect with deceased (1)
- developed with will meet loved ones again (1)

Reason 2

- celebrate the death and life (1)
- developed with start new life with God (1)

4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Make sure you answer all parts of the question.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.7: Catholic Social Teaching: Catholic teaching on justice

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Catholic teachings about justice.'

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

Many candidates answered about judgement and not justice.

- Catholic teachings show God is very just. As God treats everyone well, he is All-forgiving and forgives anyone no matter who you are.
- He is also very just as he feels you compassionate towards everyone and is willing to accept all of your wishes no matter what.



The candidate gives one reason, without development.

Reason 1

- God treats everyone well (1)

1 mark



One teaching about Justice Catholics follow is that God is Just. In a source of wisdom it says "God is just towards everyone." This therefore reminds Catholics that even if they suffer from many trials and tribulations, then God will reward them in the afterlife.

Another Catholic teaching about Justice is Christ's Kingdom is filled with love, peace and Justice. Therefore all Catholics will try to embody this in their society and own lives, in order to strengthen their relationship with God or Jesus.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response has two developed reasons.

Reason 1

- God is just (1)
- developed with if they suffer God will reward them (1)

Reason 2

- God's kingdom is full of justice (1)
- developed with we act more justly (1)

There is no rewardable or identifiable wisdom nor authority.

4 marks

## **Question 2 (d)**

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.8: Catholic mission and evangelism: the history and significance of mission and evangelism for Catholics

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are 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.

The question asked was:

'The call of mission and evangelisation is needed today more than ever.'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Many candidates provided examples of how to evangelise and why it should or should not be done. This was not what the question asked. Some candidates were not prepared for this question and had very little knowledge of what evangelism was and confused answers with liturgical worship.

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.

Mission and evangelisation is to spread good news. It's a Catholics way of spreading information about Jesus, Bible, God etc. to those who don't have that knowledge.

Catholics are very passionate and keen to spread information about their religion therefore some may disagree that it is required in today's age and society. Catholics may say that every Catholic in the community should unite with one another to form a community, the heart of church and symbolise Jesus. This way God's grace and the love for God will be extremely powerful. If someone doesn't have sufficient knowledge, it wouldn't work.

Furthermore, Catholics believe mission and evangelisation came from Jesus. Catholics today have the responsibility of allowing that work to continue. Catholics believe it is needed more than ever to allow the spread of

Knowledge to be successful since it works through Jesus. Others may say it creates more role models like Jesus.

Overall, I believe evangelisation and the call of missionaries needed to strengthen the Catholic community. This way information can be spread faster.

On the other hand, some Christians may disagree as there are certain people who don't want to learn about Catholicism. It would irritate people, offend those with different beliefs and leave a bad impression on Catholics.

This candidate gains 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.

Level 2

4 marks

A lot of people are being led astray and are needed to be put on the right path. more suffering is increasing around the world. A catholic teachings teaches us that we ~~shou~~ have free will and its up to us to decide ~~want~~ what we want to do. A catholic teachings teaches us we should help and pray ~~##~~ catholic's believe...



The candidate gains Level 1 because:

- The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial).
- There is a simple for argument with no against given.
- The judgements made are unsupported and generic.

The candidate is awarded 1 mark at the bottom end of the mark range because not all of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

Level 1

1 mark



Always read through your answers.

It can be strongly argued that the call of mission and evangelisation is needed today more than ever as people are turning away from faith as science is now coming up with theories on how the world came to be, this weakens a person's faith as they question whether God is true or not. This can be weakened as Christianity is the most followed religion in the world so this shows that people have belief in God. Also they believe that God is the cause of everything as he has ultimate authority. This can be further weakened as the popularity of Christianity is increasing although the pope does advise everyone to go and spread their religion as Jesus was sent to do the same thing. Before Jesus was taken up to the heavens, he said 'baptise all nations' which shows that the people were told by God's only begotten son to spread God's word and unify the religion with more people. This makes Christian

believe that they have the responsibility to spread their religion as they were commanded to by their role model Jesus whom brought salvation on all of mankind.

In conclusion the stronger argument is that the call of mission and evangelisation is needed as Jesus who is God's son was sent with the purpose of spreading his faith. This gives Catholics a strong sense of responsibility as they see they must follow in Jesus' footsteps if they want to be like him.

However it might not be needed as Christianity is a majority religion in the world but people still need to be taught the correct things so that they can be unified.





The candidate gains Level 2.

- 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 descriptors are met.

Level 2

6 marks

## Paper Summary

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

- Candidates should not attach extra sheets to their examination paper: they should use the blank spaces, if necessary
- Ensure that all aspects of the specification are covered
- Ensure that candidates understand subject-specific language
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked, fully
- When answering the (a) items candidates should 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
- On (d) items the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be credited in the answer
- 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

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