

Examiners' Report
June 2019

GCSE Religious Studies 1RA0 3A

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Introduction

This paper contributes 25% towards the overall award. The assessment consists of two questions, candidates must answer both 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.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Arguments for the Existence of God, specifically bullet point 1.4 - Catholic attitudes towards religious experiences and its use as a philosophical argument for the existence of God: the nature of religious experience.

Candidates are asked to 'outline' on (a) questions and therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark. Any further development is not required.

Candidates are advised to write three different points, in three different sentences. One mark is awarded for each sentence identifying one correct piece of information.

Many candidates had an understanding of what a religious experience is, and as a result many simply outlined three religious experiences and therefore did not answer the question. Those who read the question correctly outlined three characteristics.

1 (a) Outline **three** characteristics of religious experiences.

(3)

~~revelation of God's power~~

miracles where they can't be explained.

visions where you see, hear or dream and

God reveals himself to you.

conversion when you go from no religion to a religion.



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This candidate is awarded 1 mark.

For God reveals himself to you (1).

The answer needed to be a characteristic not simply a definition or an effect.



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

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** characteristics of religious experiences.

(3)

Firstly, a religious experience may ~~create~~ reveal ultimate truths, such as in a mystical experience.
Secondly, a religious experience may give the person an overwhelming ~~sense~~ feeling of God's presence, such as in a numinous experience.
Thirdly, a religious experience may be audible, where the person hears God's words, such as in a conversion experience.



This candidate outlines characteristics:

May reveal truths (1).

Feeling of numinous (1).

Hear God's words (1).



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

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Arguments for the Existence of God, specifically bullet point 1.5, - Design argument: the classical design argument for the existence of God and its use by Catholics as a philosophical argument for the existence of God.

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

This question differentiated between candidates who had knowledge of religious experience and those who simply recalled a miracle in the New Testament.

Most candidates were able to give descriptions of the design arguments and how a Catholic believes it proves the existence of God. Some higher marks were awarded to those who were able to relate it to examples, such as the eye or the beauty of nature.

Some candidates mixed up design with causation and therefore, did not receive any marks.

This candidate is awarded 1 mark.

(b) Explain **two** ways that the design argument proves the existence of God for Catholics.

(4)

God is omnipotent and he is so powerful that he created everything out of nothing. This must prove the existence as everything has been made for a reason and purpose out of nothing.

God is the greatest designer and is so powerful you cannot hear, see and feel him. His power and knowledge is so vast that no one can explain the reason or purpose for everything in the world, thus, means that God created it all.



One correct way is given.

Reason: made for a reason and purpose (1).

The rest of the response does not answer the question and the beginning section relates to causation not design.



Candidates should be taught to develop reasons.

This candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways that the design argument proves the existence of God for Catholics.

(4)

The design argument is the view that god designed the world because it too complex for it to happen by accident for example if you were to find a watch you would know it was designed as it is too complex to appear from nothing. The because the world is so complex it must have a designer for example god. Another way this design argument point to the existence of God is that every part of society is working together to make things run smoothly

Two developed ways are provided:

Reason 1: Too complex to be an accident (1),
developed with the watch example (1).

Reason 2: Too complex to be from nothing (1),
developed with must have a designer, eg God (1).

This candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways that the design argument proves the existence of God for Catholics.

(4)

Firstly, the design argument proves the existence of God because the earth is just perfect for humans and animals to live on and for plants to grow. Meaning there must have been a designer, and that designer is God.

Secondly, the design argument proves the existence of God because things on earth are so carefully designed so that they work perfectly and that would definitely require a designer. For example, the watch analogy teaches that if one component was out of place, it wouldn't work. The designer is God.



Two developed reasons are provided:

Reason 1: Earth is too perfect (1), developed with must be a designer God (1).

Reason 2: Things on Earth too carefully designed to work (1), developed with the example of the watch (1).



Ensure you follow the requirements of the question, which in this case asks for two beliefs.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Arguments for the Existence of God, specifically bullet point 1.8 - The solutions offered to the problem of suffering and a loving and righteous God within Catholicism.

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information and must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

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.

The following is advice for centres as to what constitutes a source of wisdom:

Candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word. If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and 'Bible' or 'Christian teaching'.

If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. Candidates can give incorrect 'verses' and still be credited 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.

This question was generally well answered by candidates; the majority were able to explain how Catholics respond and develop the reasons given. Sources of wisdom and authority were not always woven into answers, with many simply adding on love thy neighbour.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.

(c) Explain **two** ways Catholics respond to the problem of suffering.

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

(5)

Catholics say that suffering isn't ~~of~~ God's fault but instead the free will of humans that cause the suffering as God in the Bible says to Adam "you have free will but must worship me".

They also say that God allows suffering as he feels it too and that it can make someone a better person so he doesn't get rid of it.



The candidate gives two ways with no development.

Reason 1: Free will (1).

Reason 2: Make them a better person (1).

There is no wisdom and authority that answers the question. The Adam and Eve reference is about worshipping God not suffering.



Do not attempt to 'shoehorn' in random quotes as sources of wisdom. You must use them appropriately.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.

(c) Explain **two** ways Catholics respond to the problem of suffering.

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

(5)

One way Catholics respond to suffering is by praying. We pray to God to ask him for help to help people to get better.

The Hail Mary and the Lord's prayer are two common prayers used.

Another way Catholics respond to suffering is by speaking to God. We say sorry for our sins so that we can be prepared for life after death in heaven.



The candidate gives a developed reason.

By praying (1), developed with asking God to help people to get better (1).

This candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(c) Explain **two** ways Catholics respond to the problem of suffering.

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

(5)

One way Catholics respond to suffering is through donating through charitable organisations such as CAFOD which aims to aid those less fortunate in less developed countries when they need help. By donating, they respond directly to the problem and help people in need.

Another way Catholics respond to suffering is through prayer. By praying for those suffering they can ask for God's help who will listen and respond.



The candidate gives two developed ways but there is no wisdom and authority.

Reason 1: The development is reversed – they respond directly to the problem and help people in need (1), through donating to charitable organisations (1).

Reason 2: Through prayer (1), ask God who will listen and respond (1).

This candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** ways Catholics respond to the problem of suffering.

- Opportunity
- Faith

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

(5)

Catholics respond to suffering by saying that it is a test of faith. For example, Job in the Bible was tested by God all his life ~~to~~ went through a lot of suffering. However, God gave him strength to get through it. ~~and~~ Catholics say that without suffering, God wouldn't be able to stop it and also it tests if a person is faithful.

Another way is that suffering gives Catholics an opportunity to help others and do charity work. Jesus said in the Bible, 'What you do to the poorest of my people, you do to me'. Therefore, by helping those suffering, Catholics are worshipping God and following his command.



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

Reason 1: A test of faith (1), developed with example of Job (1).

Reason 2: Help through charity work (1), when you help the poorest (relevant wisdom and authority) (1), developed with we are doing what God commands (1).



Candidates should separate their 'ways', as in this example, so it is clear that two ways are given.

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. 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 considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – therefore, there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Many candidates gave 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, which then restricted candidate's progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Arguments for the Existence of God, specifically bullet point 1.4 - Miracles as proof of the existence of God...(including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that miracles can be scientifically explained and provide no proof that God exists.

Many candidates answered this question with good knowledge of miracles and why some people do not believe in them, but offered a limited appraisal of the evidence; they gave reasons to support or disprove miracles but many failed to link their reasons to prove the existence of God.

This candidate has reached level 1 and was awarded 2 marks and 3 spelling, punctuation and grammar marks.

*d) "Miracles prove the existence of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

Miracles prove the existence of God because there is no scientific explanation to prove otherwise. For example, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, ~~is~~ ~~so~~ this is a miracle which science can't provide an explanation to how this happened.

Miracles don't necessarily mean God exist, because in the world things happen simply because of a coincidence also there's ~~to~~ a lot of ~~stuff~~ things in the world that science still can't prove therefore it doesn't mean that God exist just because there's things that are undiscovered and humans don't understand.

Some Catholics consider revelations as miracles because an religious experience for an individual leads them to believe God exist through revelations.

There is no evidence to prove someone didn't have a religious experience but there's also no proof ~~to~~ to support someone did have one, also a significant factor is people who are ~~not~~ under the influence of drugs have hallucinations resulting in them believing they've experienced a religious experience.

To conclude if a miracle has happened that someone has woken up from a 6 month coma and the chances of them waking up is minimal and the wake up if science can't prove that then God exist



The candidate gained level 1 because the knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). There is a simple for and against given and the judgements made are unsupported and generic.

The candidate is awarded 2 marks at the middle of the mark range because some of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar was awarded 3 marks because:

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



When marking part (d) answers it is important not to point mark. Answers should be read completely and then assessed against the level descriptors to find a best fit.

This candidate has reached level 2 and was awarded 5 marks and 3 spelling, punctuation and grammar marks.

*(d) "Miracles prove the existence of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

A Catholic would believe this is true; this is because miracles defy the laws of nature and cannot be explained by today's science, one such instance was with a deathly sick lady, who couldn't be saved, going to the statue of Mary being blessed and the getting miraculously cured. This proves proves his existence as only he has the power to do this.

However an Atheist may say that miracles are just science we can't explain yet or that it was geological change that our causes it because you can't just fill in the gaps with God since to an Atheist he isn't real.

Although a Catholic may then say that through the years many miracles dating back to Jesus still haven't been explained so God must've done it and that he's the only one powerful enough to do it.

Overall I believe the statement's incorrect as God can't always be the answer to an unexplained question.

Also I believe that even though a miracle defies the laws of nature and science, that at some point in the future we will explain it; and ~~proving~~ proving it wasn't God.



The candidate gained level 2 because:

- Some superficial connections are made. There are some reasons and development but not for all elements in the question.
- This is underpinned by a limited understanding of religion and belief which may include some inaccuracies or be one sided.
- The candidate starts to make judgements about the arguments given.
- Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence; the evidence is the reasoning they have given for or against the statement – attempt at appraisal may be throughout the answer or as part of the conclusion, much of which may be superficial leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified or not attempted.

This candidate has reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks and 3 spelling, punctuation and grammar marks.

*(d) "Miracles prove the existence of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

Catholics may agree with the statement because they believe it can either strengthen or regain your faith. They believe that miracles prove the existence of God as they defy the laws of nature and science. Considering this it means that there is only one person who can perform miracles - God, an omnipotent being. ~~When someone~~ The fact that it defies science means that, in some cases, people regain their faith in God because there is no other explanation for the event occurring. This makes it a strong argument because it means that people regain their faith because there is only one person - God who can perform miracles.

~~Whilst~~ Whilst it is a strong argument, atheists may disagree because they believe that because there is no God, there are no miracles. As there is no evidence behind the miracle happening, many atheists believe that it isn't God and it is in fact blind faith that made them think that the miracle has occurred. However, this is a weak argument because many atheists regain their belief in God after witnessing a miracle.

However, some Catholics may also disagree because they believe that visions ~~are~~ prove the existence of God. This is because when Saint Joan of Arc witnessed a vision of Mary, she not only fought but she lead an army, meaning that visions can help people believe in their potential because of a vision. A vision can also help people regain or strengthen their faith because it is personal to them. This makes it a strong argument as many people believe that they are special because they received a vision helping them build or strengthen their relationship with God. However it is also a weak argument because it is personal meaning some people can lie.

Overall, I ~~disagree~~ agree with the statement because multiple people witness it, meaning it can't be a lie, and it isn't evidenced by science meaning it must be God.



The candidate 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.

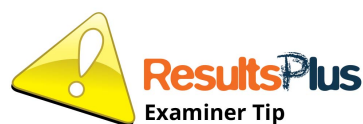
The candidate does not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the argument.

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 6 marks at the top of the mark range, because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar was awarded 3 marks because:

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



The appraisal of evidence required for the higher marks can come at any point in the answer. Those who provide the best answers use one side of the argument and then use the opposing viewpoint to clearly indicate the weaknesses of the first side.

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century, specifically bullet point 2.5, Catholic teaching on family planning and the regulation of births: Catholic teaching about artificial contraception and natural family planning... divergent Christian attitudes to family planning.

Candidates are asked to 'outline' on (a) questions and therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark. Any further development is not required.

Candidates are advised to write three different points, in three different sentences. One mark is awarded for each sentence identifying one correct piece of information.

Most candidates were able to state the Catholic view against artificial contraception and how other Christians allowed the use of contraception. Many recognised the difference between family planning and contraception. A small percentage confused contraception with abortion.

This candidate is awarded 1 mark.

2 (a) Outline **three** Christian attitudes towards contraception.

(3)

Christians are against contraception as they believe sex is to procreate and that is its job. They believe that it is against God's gift and that sex should be for after marriage. SEX is for creating life and to create a family, not for pleasure and to stop a creation of God.



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The candidate outlines one attitude.

Christians believe sex is to procreate (1).

The rest of the answer is about sex and not about contraception.



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

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Christian attitudes towards contraception.

(3)

one christian attitude towards contraception is that it's negative as the purpose of humans living is for reproduction.
Another christian attitude towards contraception is that it's a positive thing due over population and some couples may not be financially stable to look after a baby. Another christian attitude towards contraception is that you shouldn't be having sex until marriage and when you are ready for a family.



The candidate writes three sentences outlining three attitudes.

Negative as purpose is reproduction (1).

Stop overpopulation (1).

May not be stable enough for a baby (1).



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

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Christian attitudes towards contraception.

(3)

One christian attitude towards contraception is that it should not be used as it stops the growth of a family which will not help to carry on the christian faith. A second is that they believe it is unethical to stop the life of a person on purpose and a third is that only natural contraception may be used.



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The candidate outlines characteristics.

Stops the growth of family (1).

Stops the life on purpose (1).

Only natural should be used (1).

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century, specifically bullet point 2.2 - Catholic teaching about the importance of sexual relationships: Catholic teaching on sexual relationships outside of marriage and homosexuality.

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

This question revealed that many candidates had incorrect knowledge; a significant amount of candidates detailed that Catholics believe homosexuality is a sin and homosexuals are sinners. They failed to distinguish between homosexual feelings and the act of homosexual intercourse.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic teachings on homosexuality.

(4)

Pope Francis stated in a letter that homo marriages will not be the same as a male and female's marriage as it is not ~~the~~ what God intended. In Genesis 1 God made a male and woman and they are the example of God's plan for marriages. Secondly, a homosexual and a woman or man will not be able to procreate children, this means that the main reason for marriage is invalid. As according to the catechism ~~the~~ the purpose of marriage is for the procreation of children.



A developed reason.

The first sentence about the Pope is incorrect.

Reason 1: Procreate to have children (1), marriage is invalid (1).



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

This candidate is awarded zero marks.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic teachings on homosexuality.

(4)

one catholic teaching about homosexuals is that it is a sinful matter, the bible states this and orthodox christians fully back this as it is stated in black and white in the bible.

Another catholic view is that when homosexuals want to go to heaven, god would say "Ah, you good" and simply ~~not~~ not allow them into the glorious kingdom of heaven. so basically god ~~don't~~ doesn't like homosexuals



The question is about the attitudes towards homosexuality.

The answer does not explain a Catholic attitude as it does not link to the attitude towards homosexual acts.

This candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Catholic teachings on homosexuality.

(4)

One teaching on homosexuality is that a man and a man should not be married. This is because it is stopping God's sacraments as they are for a man and women. Another teaching is that the Catholic Church disagrees with it because it can not perform God's plan. This is important as they can not procreate and bring life to the world.



Two correct reasons developed:

Reason 1: Man and man should not be married (1), developed with sacrament is for man and women (1).

Reason 2: Can not perform God's plan (1), developed with they can't procreate and bring life (1).



The (b) questions are awarded marks for four points; two marks for reasons and two marks for the development of each reason. It helps for candidates to write answers which are divided into two paragraphs, each containing a reason and a development.

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century, specifically bullet point 2.2 - Catholic teaching about the importance of sexual relationships: Catholic teaching on sexual relationships outside of marriage.

Many candidates had a sound understanding of one teaching of divorce and could develop it and link relevant wisdom and authority to the reason. However, when giving the second reason many gave incorrect information such as the Catholic Church allows divorce for adultery. Many candidates wrote about annulment and this was not credited as annulment is not a divorce.

This candidate is awarded zero marks.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about divorce. ^{didn't mean views annulment}
In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Catholics believe marriage is a sacrament with God that cannot be broken unless your partners views weren't true which is when an annulment is allowed where the marriage is no longer true. For example if ~~some~~ your partner said they were homosexual once you were married an annulment is allowed. Another Catholic teaching on divorce is that if someone was forced into the marriage, it does not count and is null, therefore divorce is allowed.



The response is about annulment and all points link to annulment - this is incorrect and so is not credited.

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about divorce.

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

(5)

Catholics are against divorce because they break the wedding vows: "to death do we part." This is important as the wedding vows are a covenant with God so to break them would be going against God.

Catholics would also say that marriage is a gift from God so shouldn't be broken: "marriage is not only good, but beautiful." (Pope Francis). They believe this as marriage is a sacrament and ~~is~~ if you break it, you will no longer receive God's grace.



A developed reason with wisdom and authority.

Reason: Breaks the wedding vows (1), death do us part (wisdom and authority) (1), developed with the covenant with God (1).

The second paragraph is about marriage not divorce.

This candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic teachings about divorce.

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

(5)

Catholics are against divorce as the two people have vowed and promised to be together forever, "Till death do us part." This shows God that only the thing that could break them from the sacrament of marriage is death. Also we ~~can~~ don't have the power to break apart the sacrament and only God does. 'What God has joined together man can't break apart' Therefore showing it is out of our power and hands to ~~do~~ the divorce.



Two developed reasons with a wisdom and authority.

Reason 1: Vowed to be together forever (1), wisdom and authority death do us part (1), so only death ends a marriage (1).

Reason 2: Only God can end a sacraments (1), developed with that God has joined together (1).



The source must be relevant and used as part of your reasoning.

Question 2 (d)

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Many candidates provide excellent answers giving reasons for and against but do not then analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted student's progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century, specifically bullet point 2.8.

Many candidates discussed equal rights in general, for example, in the family or in the work place, rather than answering the questions itself.

Please note that in the bullet point candidates were required to give different Christian points of view.

This candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 4 marks.

(d) "Women should have equal rights in religion."

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)

Woman should have equal rights in religion because it is fair to treat everyone equally and women no less capable of being priest or other member liturgy. On the other hand St Paul says "women should not talk in church" St Paul talks that women can't speak in church which shows that they should not change what has been said, from these points I believe women should get equal time because there are many famous female saint and Mothers which have proven that they are capable.

Women are different yet equal is what we are also taught this shows that even though they are not treated the same they are treated equally which is only fair as they are not the same. In the protestant church women are now allowed to be priest which shows that there is a shift in equality this is good as they are capable.

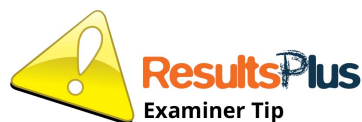
from them two you learn that they don't need equal right but they need to have different right as they are different

In conclusion I believe that women should be treated equally to men as they are both capable they might just have a few differences.



The candidate gained level 2 because:

- Some superficial connections are made among many (eg some reason and development), but not for all elements within the question.
- Underpinned by a limited understanding of religion and belief which may include some inaccuracies or be one sided.
- Starting to make judgements about the arguments given.
- Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence; the evidence is the reasoning they have given for or against the statement – attempt at appraisal may be throughout the answer or as part of the conclusion, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified or not attempted.



When marking part (d) answers, it is important not to point mark. Answers should be read completely and then assessed against the level descriptors to find a best fit.

This candidate has reached level 1 and was awarded 1 mark.

(d) "Women should have equal rights in religion."

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 would agree with this statement as they believe that men and women are equal except physically as they can carry a child. ~~but other~~ This shows that within religion, when God is there to guide you without judging for your gender.

Different Christians would disagree as they would say that women shouldn't be equal since they are the reason why Adam and Eve took 'The Fall' - showing that they are looked down ^{upon} more by God as ~~they~~ they take after Eve.

Catholics would argue that women are a vital part of the religion as they are able to carry on the faith through their children, which men are unable to do, which gives them a large role within the faith. This means they are equal to men.

Different Christians would say that women aren't as important as men as they are unable to become priests or take part in the Apostolic succession as the main figures of the religion are men - showing they are inferior.

Catholics would say that women have a role model of Mother Mary who accepted Jesus as God's with so she is just as important as all of the men as the first apostle so women are just as equal in the eyes of Jesus.

Different Christians would say that ~~the women~~ shouldn't have equal rights as the

religion has continued for thousands of years without their role being significant in the religion so why should they suddenly become equal if they were accepted to be unequal in the eyes of God for many years without any rights saying otherwise.

the catholic argument

In conclusion, I believe ^{the catholic argument} ~~that~~ ^{since} women should have equal rights in religion as ^{we} they are all human and we share ~~the~~ similar beliefs as we should all be equal.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

They have missed many points of the question.

They reach level one and gain 1 mark because they make:

- Superficial connections (eg reason and development linked to a statement), either for or against the statement or both.
- Limited range of elements in the question (eg they have only met one or two of the requirements of the question).
- Isolated elements of understanding.
- Judgements generic, no reasons or weak reasons not supported or justified.
- Conclusion not fully justified or not attempted.

This candidate has reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks.

(d) "Women should have equal rights in religion."

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)

Some Orthodox teachings would disagree with the statement and argue that because God had 12 'male' disciples, ^{that} men should ultimately have a higher power and importance in the religion as a whole.

In Galatians it states - "Women should keep silent in churches"

This source only further reiterates this idea ~~to~~ that men should solely lead in churches.

However there are other Catholic teachings that states: ~~(Catholicism)~~ (Bible)

"~~He~~ ~~are~~ There is neither male, nor female, we are all one in Jesus Christ"

Through there are many who would say that both genders have important roles through all aspects of religion, whether this be through Mass, homelife, ~~same~~ ^{sacred} meals etc. Therefore, ~~women~~ ^{without} women the male gender & cannot operate and worship without the other.

There are some Catholics who believe only male Catholics can be ordained. This could be down to historical and biblical references as they were all men up until ^{the} modern day.

Although, many Catholics do see the importance of a women's wish to become ordained and accept it openly as it will only strengthen ~~the~~ religion and unite us all as one, like God would have commanded.

Overall, I agree that women should have equal rights, because it will help ^{us} unite and end prejudice in the world.



The candidate gained level 2 because:

- The candidate 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 judgement, but this is not fully justified and builds on a limited range of elements in the answer.
- The candidate is awarded 6 marks at the top of the mark range because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.



Do not argue that the statement is true or false: say why the reasons given 'for' can be disputed by the alternative opinion. For example, why does one group of Christians say one thing and the other group say their argument is incorrect?

This candidate achieves level 3 and gains 8 marks.

(d) "Women should have equal rights in religion."

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 that as Pope John VI said 'men and women are equal but separate' and as such they deserve respect and equality, however, they should follow set gender roles given by God therefore have equal rights but separate responsibilities. This is a strong argument as it relies on a Papal dispensation and is still Church canon. However, some liberal Protestants may disagree believing that the Catholic Church isn't equal as they refuse to allow female priests unlike some Protestant and African churches. This is a weak argument because 'Mass is a Drama' CCC and as such the Eucharistic Adoration is a role that must be filled by a man as they are representing a man (Jesus) through the Mass and as such there are other roles in the Church for women. Some Evangelical Christians would disagree as both Jesus and St. Paul said 'A woman should be subservient to a man' and in Genesis women are created out of men ^{hence} ~~therefore~~ their need to be subservient.

This is a weak argument because it relies on outdated translations of the Bible and goes against Jesus' great commandment 'love your neighbour as you love yourself'. Some may add to this saying that if the 'mass is a drama' and Christ is '100% human' should humanity be put above gender. This is the view of the liberal faction of the Catholic Church and with ~~Pope~~ ^{Pope} Francis in charge they have gained more traction due to Francis' personal views as a more liberal Pope. This is a weak argument as until changed by Apostolic Succession the Church won't change their view on that issue however when discussing equality the Church has made steps towards a more equal system since Vatican II.

The conclusion to agree with the statement because if the Church is one therefore all faithful Christians whether male or female should be able to serve the Church. However, 'equal but separate' is true as shown by last year's pollster numbers with 80% of voters saying female priests should stay as is. The disagree argument from Evangelical Christians is outdated and reflects their inability to adapt to the modern age or reinterpret scripture.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The candidate is able to critically deconstruct religious information.

They used coherent and logical chains of reasoning that considered different viewpoints.

They made use of sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.

There were connections made among the full range of elements in the question.

They then made some judgements fully supported by appraisal of evidence. The candidate could have provided a comprehensive appraisal of all the evidence provided.

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) questions use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) questions must be relevant to the question and support the reasons given.
- The (d) questions ask for an evaluation after considering the evidence. Higher marks are achieved if the evidence/reasons given, is/are 'considered' or appraised for their value as an argument.
- On (d) questions the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that will be credited in the answer, so candidates must respond to all aspects of the question.
- Candidates should read the questions carefully in order to ensure that their answer fully responds to the question being asked.

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>

