

Examiners' Report

June 2022

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2B

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.



Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit www.edexcel.com/resultsplus. Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk.

June 2022

Publications Code 1RB0_2B_2206_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2022

Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies 2022

Religious Studies B — Beliefs in Action

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 — Religion, Peace and Conflict

Option 2B — Christianity

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall GCSE award when combined with another area of study. This paper is most frequently combined with Option 1C — Islam. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions: there is no element of choice on the paper.

The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is set from the specification.

In this year's paper Advance Information was shared for 50% of the paper (Sections 1 and 3): this was aimed at reducing the effects of COVID on grades.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict. This unit engages the interest of young people, because it addresses many Christian beliefs and teachings in addition to some of the issues affecting young people today.

Note:

AO stands for Assessment Objective(s)

SPaG: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Marks are available for SPaG in Sections 1 and 3

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.4 – The last days of Jesus' life.

This question worked well: it showed that candidates knew three events and the majority of candidates gained all 3 marks.

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** events that took place in the last days of Jesus' life.'

The candidates needed to provide events in the last days – according to the specification bullet point these events include the ascension and resurrection.

1 (a) Outline **three** events that took place in the last days of Jesus' life.

(3)

One event that took place in the last days of Jesus' life is the Last Supper, where Jesus had a meal with His disciples. Another event that took place in the last days of Jesus' life is Jesus' the betrayal, where Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss on the cheek. One more event that took place in the last days of Jesus' life is Jesus' arrest, where he healed a soldier's



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three events.

- One event ...is the Last Supper (1)
- Another event...is the betrayal (1)
- One more event...is Jesus' arrest (1)

The candidate's work extends beyond the lines provided but this is because they wrote too much.

Three short sentences are required: development is not required.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should make sure they write three distinct sentences

1 (a) Outline **three** events that took place in the last days of Jesus' life.

(3)

The first event that took place was the last supper.

The second event that took place was ~~Monday~~ Easter Sunday.

The last event that took place was Monday Tuesday.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences, however only one is an event in the life of Jesus – the others are celebrations that take place today.

- The first event that took place was the last supper (1)

Total: 1 Mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Read the questions carefully: give the information the mark scheme requires

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian beliefs

Bullet point 1.5 – The nature and significance of salvation

Candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding of salvation. Most candidates gained 4 marks.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why salvation is significant to Christians.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed to be given 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote or example). The development must be linked to the reason given and to the question asked.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why salvation is significant to Christians.

(4)

One reason salvation is significant to Christians is that it ~~helps~~ encourages them to learn more of Jesus' sacrifice and the passion, in order to explain how his sacrifice creates salvation.

Another reason for salvation's significance is that it helps Christians have a deeper connection with God as they appreciate God's influence and wisdom.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed reason.

- Reason One – It encourages them to know more about Jesus' sacrifice (1) Development One – in order to explain how his sacrifice causes salvation (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Candidates may write two answers; however, if they cross out one, examiners will mark the answer that is not crossed out.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why salvation is significant to Christians.

(4)

The first reason is that they believe that Jesus will forgive them.

The second reason is that they are doing it for God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one reason:

- Reason One – they believe Jesus will forgive them (1)

The remaining information in this paragraph is irrelevant.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.6 – Christian eschatology

Candidates were able to identify two Christian beliefs about life after death – less-able candidates included reincarnation and lost marks.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** beliefs about life after death in Christianity.'

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

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs were required, and both were needed to be developed for 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must relate to the belief given and to the question asked.

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

If the development is not about the question, even if it relates to the event given, it will gain no marks.

Frequently candidates write: 'and this is in the Bible and the Bible is the word of God' — this usually does not answer the question and therefore receives no marks.

(c) Explain **two** beliefs about life after death in Christianity.

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

(5)

One belief about life after death is that heaven is a large place. This is shown when Jesus says 'my father's house has many rooms' it shows that heaven is a large place as it has many rooms.

Another belief about life after death is that the good will go to heaven and the bad will go to hell. This is shown through the parable of the sheep and the goats which explains how those who follow their leader will be rewarded with eternal happiness after they die.



The candidate gives two developed beliefs and makes use of a source in their reasoning.

- Belief One — Heaven is a large place (1) Development One — my fathers house has many rooms (1) Although this could be credited as a source there is no further development, only repetition, so it is credited as a development.
- Belief Two — If you are good you will go to heaven (1) Development Two — If you are bad you will go to hell (1) Source — Parable of the Sheep and the Goats paraphrase (1)

Total: 5 Marks

c) items are point marked.

c) items may be given 5 marks: 2 for beliefs, 2 for the development of each belief and 1 for an accurate source that relates to the belief given.

(c) Explain **two** beliefs about life after death in Christianity.

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

(5)

one belief is that christian will go to heaven or hell after death. This is because your are judged by God in your life on earth if you are worthy to go to heaven. A teaching to back this is to be kind to other ~~as~~ as it could result in a good judgement from God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gives one developed belief and is awarded 2 marks

- Belief One — Christians will go to heaven or hell after death (1)
Development One — You are judged by God...to see if you are worthy to go to heaven (1)

The rest of the answer does not discuss another belief.

Total: 2 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The source of wisdom may be given as a recognisable paraphrase

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, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Christian Beliefs

Bullet point 1.2 – The creation of the universe

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS. Candidates who did well recognised that this was a stimulus about the metaphorical versus the literal understanding of the Bible.

The question asked:

“Christians should believe that God created the universe using words.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

Please note that, neither in the bullet points, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response, thus any non-religious content was ignored.

Appraisal shows:

- The value of the evidence provided
- The strength of the answer
- The validity of the chains in the answer
- A consideration of what is written in order to answer the questions (rather than simply which side they agree with)
- A measurement of which side is more logical
- An assessment of which is the more compelling argument
- An understanding of which argument is more convincing or rational

d) items are Levels marked, they are NOT point marked.

* (d) "Christians should believe that God created the universe using words."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Christians believe that God didn't create the universe
by using his ~~own~~ hands and that he had
created the world ~~only~~ speak, and by speaking
God had made the earth, the universe and
mankind. & God creating the world
world using words shows God's omnipotence
and his power over all things that is shown
in the quote "I am ~~you~~ my lord is
greater than I" this shows God is described
as omnipotent and it shows he is able
to create using words &



The candidate's response reaches Level One because:

The paragraph provides an argument 'didn't create the universe by using hands...using speak' this is explained using superficial connections to God's omnipotence.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion or any evaluation in the answer

Reasons are not developed; the information is very general. It shows isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 1, in the middle of the of the range of marks .

To be awarded Level Two the candidate would need to:

Make superficial chains of reasoning and attempt judgements and appraisal

SPaG is given 2 marks because it interfered with understanding.

Level 1

Response: 1 Mark

SPaG: 2 Marks

Total: 3 Marks



Take every opportunity to assess and analyse the evidence used in your arguments

The question is '**Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion** – there must some evaluation of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades.

Formulas and writing frames restrict the flow of the arguments often limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

*(d) "Christians should believe that God created the universe using words."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

— created in
6 days/
rested on the 7th

(15)

Some Christians may believe God created the universe using words because God is all powerful. Therefore this means God can do anything. Another reason they may believe this is because God everyone listens to God. This means he has control over anything.

Some Christians may disagree with this statement as in the bible it says that God created the universe in 6 days and rested on the 7th. This means God made the universe in them 6 days on his own. Another reason they may believe this statement is because Adam and Eve were God's first creations. This means God created mankind along with the universe.

Some Christians may disagree with one another because they believe God created everything with his hands which means he is the creator of it all.

In conclusion, I disagree with this statement, as I believe God created the universe with his hands and not with

Words. This is because God was ~~omnipotent~~ omnipotent and omniscient.



The candidate's response reaches Level Two because :

The first paragraph provides two reasons 'because God is all powerful' and 'he has control over everything'. Neither of these is extended – they are isolated elements of understanding and belief.

The second paragraph uses a contrasting argument: 'God created... in 6 days'. This is supported by a chain of logical reasoning.

The following paragraph gives another isolated reason.

The candidate then gives a personal opinion and a conclusion that does not show judgement of the arguments: it simply repeats an argument already given.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 2, at the bottom of the range of marks. It contains some of the requirements of Level 2 and many of the requirements of Level 1.

To be awarded Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about creation using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in their response.

Response: 4 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 7 Marks

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.1 – Christian attitudes towards justice

The majority of candidates gained 3 marks. They were able to give three Christian beliefs about justice – from any denomination’s teachings.

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** Christian beliefs about justice.'

a) items are point marked – each outline requires a full sentence.

2 (a) Outline **three** Christian beliefs about justice.

(3)

One Christian belief about justice is that

God is just so Christians should be too.

Another belief is that justice is ^{important} ~~necessary~~ as

Jesus taught Christians to act justly.

A final belief is that justice should always

be served because this is taught in the

Bible.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences — each sentence outlines one belief.

- God is just (1)
- Jesus taught to act justly (1) (not a quote so this is acceptable)
- Justice should always be served (1)

The rest of the information in each sentence is not required: maximum marks have been awarded.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should write each outline on a separate line

Some candidates answer using a list: this is not an outline and thus will only receive 1 mark according to the mark scheme.

2 (a) Outline **three** Christian beliefs about justice.

(3)

One Christian belief about justice is that we should be merciful while carrying out justice.

Another Christian belief about justice is that we should ~~not give retribution~~ give retribution to the criminal but not through extreme means.



ResultsPlus
Examiners Comments

The candidate writes one sentence outlining one belief.

- We should be merciful while carrying out justice (1)

The candidate provides two sentences: however only one is accurate.

The candidate confuses justice with punishment.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.6 – Christian teachings about forgiveness

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Christian teachings about forgiveness.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding of Christian teachings about forgiveness, a very wide topic. Most candidates gained 4 marks.

b) items are point marked – two developed teachings are required.

b) items provide marks for four points, 2 for teachings and 2 for the development of each teaching.

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about forgiveness.

(4)

One Christian teaching about forgiveness is that if a person wrongs you in anyway you should be forgiven. This is supported by Jesus' teaching on forgiveness for example; 'turn the other cheek'.

A second Christian teaching about forgiveness is that all people are owed forgiveness as everyone has sinned and shouldn't all be condemned. This is supported by 'he who is without sin may cast the first stone'.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate receives marks for:

- Teaching One – If a person wrongs you...you should be forgiving (1)
Development One – Supported by 'turn the other cheek' (1)
- Teaching Two – All people are owed forgiveness (1)
Development Two – as everyone has sinned (1)

The maximum marks have been achieved and so the rest of the answer, although correct, cannot be credited.

Total: 4 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Write an answer that divides into two paragraphs each containing a teaching and a development

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about forgiveness.

(4)

One Christian teaching about forgiveness is that in the Bible it is stated to 'forgive 70 times 7 times'. This is important as your neighbour has forgiven you.

Another Christian teaching about forgiveness is that Jesus forgave everyone who sinned against him. This is important as we should all forgive



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two teachings, and one is developed.

- Teaching One – forgive 70 times 7 (1)

The rest of this answer is confused.

- Teaching Two – Jesus forgave everyone who sinned against him (1)
Development Two – we should all forgive (1)

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

A source can be accepted as a teaching or as a development of a teaching

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.7 – Christian teachings about the treatment of criminals

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Christian beliefs about the use of torture.'

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

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding about the use of torture. Some assumed that torture was a method of punishment thus gaining fewer marks. Most candidates gained 2 marks.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks. They must also correctly use a source of wisdom in their answer, which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the belief given in the response: this is the 5th mark.

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

They should be familiar with the words used in the specification.

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about the use of torture.

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

(5)

one Christians believe about the use of torture is against god as Jesus was a pacifist. ~~love~~ love they neighbour this means to love everyone.

another Christian belief about the use of torture is it goes against the sanctity of life. this is because life is holy and belongs to god so no one less can punish you but god.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two beliefs: one is developed and uses a source as part of their reasoning, gaining the 4 marks.

- Belief One – the use of torture is against God (1) Development One – Jesus was a pacifist (1) Source – love they neighbour (1)
- Belief Two – It goes against the sanctity of life (1)

The rest of the response is about punishment and cannot be credited.

Total: 4 Marks

c) items are point marked

c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for beliefs, 2 for the development of each belief and one for an accurate source that relates to the belief given.

(c) Explain **two** Christian beliefs about the use of torture.

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

(5)

Torture is not taught as being right. It is taught that criminals should be punished for their crime but not ~~to~~ tortured. Criminals should be able to change and learn from their crime through punishment. Some believe torture is right as it will stop them from committing the same crime again.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response has given one developed belief.

- Belief One – Torture is not taught as being right (1) Development One – Criminals should be punished for their crime but not tortured (1)

The remainder of the answer is about punishment: it is not about torture and thus cannot be credited.

Total: 2 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The source must be relevant and used as part of the candidate's reasoning

Question 2 (d)

The focus of the marking is AO2 on the d) items. As explained in the specification this means:
Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.
AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark on the paper.

The question asks candidates to '**Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion** – there must some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but did not evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames often restrict the flow of the arguments preventing progression to the higher levels.

d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme and the level is determined using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.3 – Christian teachings about good evil and suffering

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS. Candidates who did well recognised that this was about whether or not people suffered as divine punishment for wrongdoing and were able to expand answers with appraisal.

The question asked was:

"People suffer because they have done wrong."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Please note that candidates were required to give a non-religious response. If they did not, then their answer was capped at Level 2, because an element of the question had been ignored.

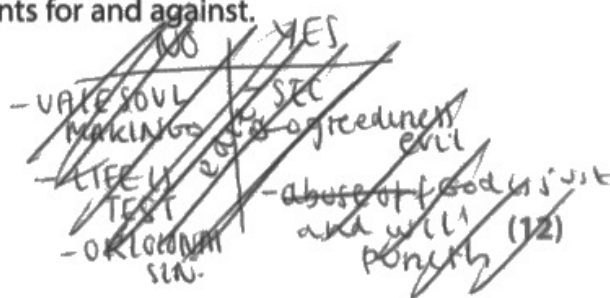
There are many different ways to answer d) items and gain marks. A template will not assure good marks.

(d) "People suffer because they have done wrong."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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



It is clear that people do not suffer because they have done wrong as God created suffering to build Christian character. The Bible states 'suffering produces perseverance'. This illustrates that God created evil to make Christians be more resilient and stronger so they become the best humans possible. This argument is valid as it is pragmatic as God is benevolent (all loving) and wants humans to be the best they can. Another reason is because life is a test. This demonstrates that God ~~also~~ allows people to suffer to see how they react ~~and~~ and therefore, accordingly judge them in the afterlife to see if they were good enough Christians. This argument is valid as it is consistent with the story of Job. A final reason is because of the fall. This illustrates that people suffer because Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and ~~the~~ brought evil into the world. This argument is valid as it is relevant today as infants get baptised to wash away the original sin.

on the other hand, some may argue that people suffer because they have done wrong, as God is just and will punish you. This demonstrates that God promotes fairness so if a Christian has committed a crime or sin they will suffer as a punishment. This argument is flawed as it is not relevant today as the New Testament promotes forgiveness and peace. ~~And~~ some secular people argue that people suffer as they have done wrong as it is what they deserve. This illustrates that if someone commits a crime they have to suffer as it is only fair. This argument is flawed as it is ^{has bad consequences} ~~the~~ of no reformation. The Bible states 'an eye for an eye'.

In conclusion, it is clear that humans do not suffer as they have done wrong, as God created suffering for the sake of soul making and as life is a test. This argument is stronger as it is consistent with the story of Job and is pragmatic as God is benevolent and wants humans to be the best they can be.



The candidate's response reaches Level Three because:

The answer shows coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief. There are judgments made throughout the answer and appraisal is attempted.

The first paragraph provides several arguments that, ideally, should have been written separately.

The candidate provides coherent and logical chains of reasoning focussed on the idea that suffering is a test that 'builds perseverance'. They develop this idea, making connections to the nature of God and then further provide more reasoning linked to the story of Job.

The paragraph then continues with the argument that Adam and Eve brought evil into the world. This is developed with superficial argument and an attempt at evaluation.

The second paragraph provides a logical chain of reasoning linked to the punishment from God and showing an accurate understanding of religion and belief. This is followed by an attempt at evaluation.

A conclusion is then given, which appraises the arguments given, briefly.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to reach Level 3 in the middle of the range of marks because most, but not all, of the demands of the level descriptor are met. It contains coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief.

To reach Level Four the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate a wider understanding by using more logical chains of reasoning and connections among the full range of elements in the question with a comprehensive appraisal of evidence.

Level 3

Total: 8 Marks

(d) "People suffer because they have done wrong."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

It is clear that this statement is flawed as the reason for suffering is due to the Original sin. This was when Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil and destroyed their devotion to God. This is why the Lord's prayer teaches 'lead us not into temptation' so that Christians do not act the same as Adam and Eve. This argument is valid ~~too~~ because the Original sin is ~~for~~ a practical argument ~~to be~~ for the problem of evil, as it does not challenge beliefs about God and his benevolence.

However, it could be argued that secular people believe that everyone has free will however their actions have consequences. For example, if a person was to commit murder a secular person may believe that the murderer should suffer as he made someone else suffer ^{in order to let the victim have closure}. This argument is flawed as it is ~~not~~ inconsistent with scripture as Christians believe that they should 'turn the other cheek' and 'forgive not 7 times but 70x7'. This illustrates that ~~criminals~~ people should not suffer for what they have done wrong as they should be forgiven instead.

Nevertheless it is evident that the reason for suffering is due to the trials of soul making. This exemplifies that people suffer in order to make them better people and therefore access an 'eternity of life.'

This argument is valid as it is consistent with scripture as the Bible states 'my father's house has many rooms.' This exemplifies that there is plenty of space in heaven for everyone who has become a better person through suffering.

In conclusion it is discernable that people ~~do~~ do not suffer because they have done wrong as whilst God is benevolent, life is a test as those who have performed good deeds will receive an eternity with God. Also, it is evident that the statement is flawed due to the concept of ~~the~~ grace. This illustrates that God loves those even with sin thus he would not ~~to~~ wish for sinners to suffer.



The response reaches Level Three because:

The answer shows coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief. There are judgments made throughout the answer and appraisal is attempted.

The first paragraph provides an argument focussed on the concept that 'suffering is due to the original sin'.

The candidate then provides coherent and logical chains developing this idea making connections with the Lord's Prayer. The paragraph then finishes with an attempt at evaluation.

The second paragraph provides a secular view of 'free will' written in a logical chain of reasoning linked to an example.

This is countered by a Christian point of view and followed by an attempt at evaluation.

The next paragraph is a short chain of reasoning describing the 'vale of soul making' and then an attempt at evaluation.

A conclusion is given that uses new arguments, rather than attempting to appraise the whole essay.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 3 at the lowest of the range of marks. It contains coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief.

To reach Level Four the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate a wider understanding by using more logical chains of reasoning and connections among the full range of elements in the question, with a comprehensive appraisal of evidence.

Level 3

Total: 7 Marks

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.4 – Pilgrimage

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** places Christians may go on a pilgrimage.'

This question worked well; it highlighted that candidates knew places of pilgrimage. Most candidates gained 3 marks.

This section was one for which candidates had been provided with Advance Information and they were informed of the bullet points that would be covered in the examination.

3 (a) Outline **three** places Christians may go on a pilgrimage.

(3)

Christians may go to Lourdes as it is a place of healing. They may also go to Jerusalem to reflect on Jesus' key events in his life. Christians might also visit Taize to bring together Christian denominations and worship.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences — each sentence outlines one place.

- Christians may go to Lourdes (1)
- They may also go to Jerusalem (1)
- Christians might also visit Taize (1)

This candidate has written too much for each outline. This wastes time that could be used later in the examination.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Each place needs to be in its own standalone sentence, otherwise it is not an outline

3 (a) Outline **three** places Christians may go on a pilgrimage.

(3)

One ~~reason~~ place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Jerusalem.
Another place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Lourdes.
Another place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Iona.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences — each sentence outlines one place.

- One place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Jerusalem (1)
- Another place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Lourdes (1)
- Another place Christians may go on pilgrimage is Iona (1)

This candidate has written outlines that are like each other, however, each one is a valid outline of a place and can be credited.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Three separate sentences is a good idea!

Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.7 — The role and importance of the local church

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about specific activities that take place in the parish. Those that gave general answers gained fewer marks.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Christian activities that may take place in the local parish.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two activities are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must link to the activity described and to the question asked.

This section was one for which candidates had been provided with Advance Information and they were informed which bullet points would be covered in the examination.

b) items are point marked – Two activities are required.

b) items provide marks for four points, 2 marks for activities and 2 marks for the development of each activity.

(b) Explain **two** Christian activities that may take place in the local parish.

(4)

Every Sunday Christians might go to church to pray to God. They do this to become closer to God and unite the community and their faith. Another activity that might take place is educating children to teach them about God and help the community.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two developed activities.

- Activity One – Every Sunday Christians might go to church (1)
Development One – to become closer to God (1)
- Activity Two – Another activity ...is educating children (1)
Development Two – to teach them about God (1)

Total: 4 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Examples linked to the reason given are a good form of development

(b) Explain **two** Christian activities that may take place in the local parish.

(4)

Local Churches
Christians could host youth groups
to help support their local
area and boost the activity
of youth bible studying.

Christians could go to their
Local ~~churches~~ Parish to participate
in Church assembly as well as
participating in Charity events.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

b) items provide marks for four points, 2 marks for activities and 2 marks for the development of each activity.

The candidate gives two specific activities: only one of the activities is developed.

- Activity One— Host youth groups (1) Development One — boost the activity of youth bible studying (1)
- Activity Two — Participate in church assembly (1)

Charity work — is too vague and not linked to participate in church assembly.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Writing reasons in separate paragraphs is a good idea

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.1 – Christian worship

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding about liturgical worship. Some assumed that this concerns set prayer eg The Lord's Prayer, and thus gained fewer marks.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** reasons why some Christians prefer liturgical worship.'

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

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians prefer liturgical worship.

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

(5)

Some Christians prefer liturgical worship because it has been practised since the beginning of the religion and people may want to keep handing the practice down to many generations to come.

Another reason why they prefer it is because some may prefer things in a set pattern and believe it is more respectful towards God. The Bible states 'God created humans to worship him', which may be more official if it is liturgical.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed reasons.

- Reason One – It has been practised since the beginning of the religion (1) Development One – handing the practice down to many generations to come (1)
- Reason Two – Prefer things in a set pattern (1) Development Two – believe it is more respectful (1)

The attempted source is too inaccurate to credit.

Total: 4 Marks



Learn and use quotations — do not make them up!

c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for reasons, 2 for the development of each reason and one for an accurate source that relates to the reason given.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Christians prefer liturgical worship.

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

(5)

One reason why Christians prefer liturgical worship is Christian scripture states 'this then is how you should pray'. This demonstrates it tells Christians to pray in structure (liturgical worship.)

Another reason why Christians may prefer liturgical (structured) worship is Jesus went to some place in Jerusalem to pray, teaching other people how to pray and when to pray.



The candidate does not provide any accurate reasons regarding liturgical worship.

The biblical quotation they give concerns prayer and the remainder of the answer similarly concerns prayer.

Total: 0 Marks



Answer a c) question the same way as a b) question, if you have difficulty with a source

Question 3 (d)

This section was one for which candidates had been provided with Advance Information that informed them which bullet points would be covered in the examination.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Christian Life

Bullet point 3.6 – The future of the Christian Church

d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS. Candidates who did well knew about missionary activity and were able to expand answers with evaluation. Those who did less-well assumed missionary activity was purely charitable work.

The question asked:

“All Christians should take part in missionary work.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

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

This question includes an additional 3 marks for SPaG.

*(d) "All Christians should take part in missionary work."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Disagree → Love thy neighbour

↓
Free will

PLAN
Agree → Great commission
↓
save from hell

(15)

All Christians should not take part in missionary work.

Some might argue that they should take part in missionary work because Jesus ordered us to do so. In the Great Commission, he says "Go and make disciples of all nations". This means that he ordered Christians to convert people from all around the world, and since he is God incarnate, we need to follow what he says. This is not convincing, however, because ~~he was~~ it has been thousands of years since he said that and now we have technology which means people have access to learning about Christianity if they want to. It is more convincing to argue against missionary work because we need to accept everyone for who they are. In the New Testament, Jesus said "love thy neighbour". This means that we need to love everyone regardless of religion and accept what they choose to do with their own lives. So, missionary work is not loving, and should not be supported.

It is possible to argue that Christians should take part in missionary work because ~~there~~ it can save people from

going to hell. ~~In the New Testament, it is said that "whoever believes and is baptised will be saved". Since you need faith to be able to go to heaven~~ In John 3:16 it states "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". This means that you need faith to be able to go to heaven, which means that by doing missionary work and converting people, you can save them from going to hell. However, this is not convincing because if people convert with the wrong intention, they will not actually believe ^{in God} and thus will still go to hell. It is more convincing to argue that ~~that~~ ^{Christians} should not take part in missionary work because God gave people free will. In Genesis, Adam and Eve ate the apple using their own free will. This means that everyone has the ability to make their own decisions, and trying to convince people to change this decision undermines God's creation. Therefore, Christians should not take part in missionary work.

In conclusion, whilst it is possible to argue that all Christians should take part in missionary work because of the Great Commission, this essay has demonstrated otherwise. The strongest reason for this is because Christians must accept people for who they are.



The candidate's response reaches given Level Three because:

The answer shows coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief. There are judgments made throughout the answer and appraisal is attempted.

The paragraph provides several arguments which, ideally, should have been written separately.

The candidate provides coherent and logical chains of reasoning focussed on the teaching of the Great Commission and develops this idea making connections to the conversion.

This is developed with superficial argument and an attempt at evaluation. The argument is then continued with an alternative reason: that it is better to 'accept everyone for who they are'. This is developed with connections to biblical references and examples in a coherent and logical chain of reasoning containing evaluation.

The second paragraph provides a logical chain of reasoning linked to 'saving people from going to hell' showing an accurate understanding of religion and belief. This is followed by evaluation provided in a logical chain of reasoning.

A conclusion is then given which briefly appraises the arguments given.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be placed in Level 3 in the middle of the range of marks because most, but not all, of the demands of the level descriptor are met. It contains coherent and logical chains of reasoning and accurate understanding of religion and belief.

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate a wider understanding by using more logical chains of reasoning and connections among the full range of elements in the question with a comprehensive appraisal of evidence.

Level 3

Response: 8 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 11 Marks



Candidates may write on the exam paper to plan their answers

* (d) "All Christians should take part in missionary work."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

It could be argued that all Christians should take part in missionary work because it gives a chance for everyone to have eternal life in heaven.

It could be argued that all Christians should not take part in missionary work because it is not helping your chance of eternal life in heaven. This shows that all Christians should not take part in missionary work because it is taking away your chance of eternal life in heaven.

It could be argued that all Christians should take part in missionary work because you are doing the most loving thing for the person because they may have not heard of Christianity. So you will be helping them have eternal life in heaven. Joseph Fletcher stated 'do the most loving thing'. This shows that you care ~~enough~~ enough that you are willing to help random strangers go to heaven.



This response reaches Level Two because:

The first paragraph provides an isolate reason, 'it gives a chance for everyone to have eternal life in heaven'.

The second paragraph, uses a contrasting argument 'not helping your chance at eternal life' this is supported by repetition, not reasoning

The following paragraph provides superficial connections between 'doing the most loving thing' 'eternal life in heaven' and 'Joseph Fletcher'.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2, at the lower end of the range of marks, because it contains some of the requirements of Level 2 and many of the requirements of Level 1.

To reach Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about creation using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in their response.

Level Two

Response: 4 Marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 7 Marks



Candidates may write on the exam paper and cross out the elements (bullet points) as required

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.4 – Christian attitudes to issues surrounding conflict

In this question candidates were asked to show knowledge and understanding of the problems that conflict causes. Many candidates answered providing the causes of conflict, which was an incorrect response.

The question asked was:

'Outline **three** Christian beliefs about the problems caused by conflict.'

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian beliefs about the problems caused by conflict.

(3)

one christian belief about the problems caused by conflict is that it ~~is~~ ~~get~~ harms other people who are innocent. A second christian belief about the problems caused by conflict is that it could lead to other arguments that could ~~be~~ end up hurting or downgrading something.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded one mark for each belief outlined (written in a sentence).

- One Christian belief...it harms other people who are innocent (1)
- A second Christian belief...it could lead to other arguments (1)

Note – the candidate has not provided 3 beliefs, which are required in this question.

Total: 2 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should complete answers on extra paper if they do not have enough lines in the booklet

4 (a) Outline **three** Christian beliefs about the problems caused by conflict.

(3)

War and conflict are bad and should never happen.

Conflict is good and is always a positive.

Without conflict there is no peace, conflict is bad but required.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate has not provided any beliefs about the problems caused by conflict.

Instead they provide beliefs about conflict.

This does not answer the questions and thus cannot be credited with any marks.

Total: 0 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should provide three full sentences to answer an a) item

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.6 – Christian attitudes to Holy War

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about Holy War. This question frequently was not answered or confused with Just War.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Christian teachings about Holy War.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom (a quote) or an example. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about Holy War.

(4)

One teaching about Holy War is 'Go forth and preach'. This illustrates that Holy War can be done to extend the power of the Church.

Another teaching is that 'for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.' This quote demonstrates that Holy War is acceptable if you are defending a sacred place.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two teachings, one is developed.

- Teaching One – Go forth and preach (1) Development One – Holy War can be done to extend the power of the Church (1)
- Teaching Two – Holy War is acceptable if you are defending a sacred place (1)

The reference provided did not support the accurate teaching about Holy War and could not be credited.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Read the secondary command word in each question. In this case it is 'teachings'

(b) Explain **two** Christian teachings about Holy War.

(4)

One Christian teaching about Holy War is that it should be ~~to completed~~ ~~rather~~ done only when a just cause is present for example no other way of reconciliation. ~~Secondly another teaching could be to~~ be that it should always only be a last resort meaning only used when no other form of reconciliation is available and it ~~is the best way or a better~~ to do the most loving thing (utilitarianism).



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate has not provided any teachings about Holy War.

Instead, they provide teachings about Just War.

This does not answer the question and thus cannot be credited with any marks.

Total: 0 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Vary your answers as much as possible, to avoid overlapping material

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.2 – The role of Christians in peacemaking

Most candidates gained 5 marks. They were able to identify Christian teachings about peacemaking and frequently used the beatitudes as a source.

The question asked was:

'Explain **two** Christian teachings about peacemaking.'

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

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings 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 (a quote/paraphrase) or an example. The development must link to the teaching given and to the question asked.

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

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about peacemaking.

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

(5)

One Christian teaching about peacemaking is that Jesus was a pacifist so we should be too, this relates to Matthew 28 where it says "blessed are the peacemakers". Also, we should not react to violence and ~~let~~ "turn the other cheek", which is said in Matthew 5.

Another Christian teaching about ~~the~~ peacemaking is that we should not fight, ~~instead~~ instead talk about it. Also, we should not let violence consume us as there is no point.



The candidate gives two developed teachings and there is an accurate source of wisdom used as part of the reasoning.

- Teaching One – Jesus was a pacifist (1) Development One – Blessed are the peacemakers (1) Source – turn the other cheek (1)
Note: a quotation may be used as development and as a source.
- Teaching Two – we should not fight (1) Development Two – instead talk about it (1)

There is additional reasoning, however, maximum marks have already been awarded.

Total: 5 Marks



You do not have to provide a reference for a quote or quote it word-for-word.

(c) Explain **two** Christian teachings about peacemaking.

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

(5)

Christians teach that you should 'love thy neighbour' meaning you should love everyone around you who gives you support. ~~and~~
Another teaching is you should treat others how your wanting to be treated.
This is shown in the bible.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two teachings, one is developed.

- Teaching One – You should 'love thy neighbour' (1) Development One – love everyone ... who gives you support (1)
- Teaching Two – Treat others how your wanting to be treated (1)

'This is shown in the Bible' is not development that links both to the question and the response.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should not write 'a source of wisdom is' or worse, SOWA — this means the source is not being used as part of the reasoning in the question.

Question 4 (d)

Candidates are assessed on AO2 : Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall marks on this paper.

The question is ' **Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion** – there must some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but did not evaluate the credibility of the argument .

Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting progression to the higher levels.

d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme and levels are decided using 'best fit' according to the levels descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.3 – Christian attitudes to conflict

Candidates who did well recognised that this was about the causes of conflict and whether religion was a cause or a solution. They were able to expand answers with evaluation. d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS.

The question asked:

"Religion prevents conflicts."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Please note that as listed in the bullet points, candidates were required to give a non-religious argument.

(d) "Religion prevents conflicts."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

It is clear that religion prevents conflicts. This is because Jesus' ~~preach~~ peaceful teachings call for peace. He said 'turn the other cheek'. Therefore ~~no~~ conflicts should be prevented by religion as Jesus preached ~~for~~ ~~pe~~ about not retaliating to any form of violence. This is a valid argument as it is ^{consistent with} ~~conflict with~~ Scripture. ~~The Bible states~~ ~~the~~ Scripture. The Bible states 'blessed are the peacemakers'. Therefore ~~no~~ conflict should occur if ~~all~~ ~~the~~ Christians act peacefully and ~~also~~ ~~not~~ actively work for peace.

However others disagree as non-religious people would argue that religion is a major contributor towards conflict such as Holy Wars. ~~The Bible states~~ Jesus also said 'I did not come to ~~be~~ bring peace but a sword'. This could demonstrate that ~~the~~ violence and conflict are acceptable in ~~a~~ some circumstances. However this is a flawed argument as this teaching has been ~~an~~ ~~misinterpretation~~ ~~not~~ misinterpreted. Jesus was referring to a spiritual sword.



This response reaches Level Two because:

The first paragraph provides a clear reason 'because Jesus' pacifist teachings call for peace' This is supported by superficial connections to biblical teachings and then an attempt to appraise evidence.

The second paragraph uses a contrasting, non-religious argument: 'religion is a major contributor towards conflict'. This is supported by superficial connections to biblical teachings and then an attempt to appraise evidence.

The candidate does not provide a conclusion.

The answer gives sufficient accurate information to reach Level 2, at the lower end of the range of marks, because it contains some of the requirements of this level.

To reach Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about religion and conflicts, using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in their response.

Level 2

Total:4 Marks



Be familiar with the levels mark scheme and its requirements

(d) "Religion prevents conflicts."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Conflict happens for a lot of different reasons.

Some Christians will agree with this statement because they believe if everyone believed the same thing and follow in God's footsteps there won't be any conflict.

However, some will disagree because some people aren't religious so if a religious person and a non-religious person have a disagreement the religion won't save that.

Also some may disagree because it might be because they believe in different things like how the universe was created.

On the other hand, people might think different things but they still believe in the same God which will reunite them together and accept not everyone thinks the same.

In conclusion, I think religion does prevent some conflicts because a lot of religions believe conflict is bad so they will work things out.



The response reaches Level Two because:

The first line is an introduction

The first paragraph provides an argument: 'if everyone believes the same...won't be any conflict' this is an isolated element of understanding and belief.

The second paragraph uses contrasting non-religious argument in a superficial chain of reasoning.

The following paragraph gives another isolated reason.

The next paragraph provides another superficial chain of reasoning about the belief in the same God.

The candidate then gives a personal opinion and a conclusion that does not show judgement of the arguments. It simply repeats an argument already given.

The answer gave sufficient accurate information to be awarded Level 2, at the bottom of the range of marks, because it contains some of the requirements of Level 2 and many of the requirements of Level 1.

To be awarded Level Three the candidate would need to:

Demonstrate more understanding of beliefs about religion and conflict, using logical chains of reasoning and make connections between the elements in their response.

Total: 4 Marks



Learn the whole of the specification so that there are no gaps in your knowledge

Paper Summary

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

- Answer a) items in outlines – this means they should write in full sentences
- Provide 3 sentences for a) items, each should be on a separate line
- b) items should have 2 developed reasons (not more than 2)
- Development may be 1) examples 2) quotes 3) extra relevant material
- Development must link to the reason given and the question set
- c) items are similar to b) items but use a source of wisdom as a fifth element
- A source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- The source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- d) item responses must show AO2 skills to receive high marks
- d) items must show an appraisal of the argument not simply rely on a set format
- Level descriptors should be used to mark d) items

Grade boundaries

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

