

# ResultsPlus

Examiners' Report

June 2011

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS04 01

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## **Introduction**

This is the second year the new specification Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies has been assessed and numbers have greatly increased from last year.

This specification introduced a few new topics and the weighting of the assessment objectives has changed from the legacy specification. The GCSE Religious Studies specification continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within this new specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students.

Unit 4 covers Religion and Life from a Muslim perspective. This unit continues to be a popular unit for many schools who have a number of Muslim candidates, as well as schools who are interested in studying a faith other than Christianity. Many candidates sit this unit as a short course because it engages the interest of young people, it addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today and importantly it fulfils all the requirements for Key Stage 4 statutory Religious Education.

## Question 1 (a)

This question asked for a definition of a key word.

The majority of students got full marks for this question. Some students confused the key words.

Write your answer here:

(a) Omniscient means to believe that Allah is All-Good.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an incorrect response as it is the answer to a different key word.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Part (a) questions ask for either a definition or examples. Learn glossary definitions to gain full marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) Omniscient means the ability to know everything / to be all-knowing. Muslims believe Allah is omniscient.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the key word definitions. This student has written more than is necessary.

### Question 1 (b) (c) (d)

Part (b) was a question about the scientific explanation of the creation of the world. This has led to answers which used either scientific theories or religious ones about the creation of the world.

Part (c) was a question about the problem of evil. This was attempted well by candidates of all abilities.

Part (d) required candidates to evaluate a statement about whether miracle is possible today. Most candidates responded well to the new layout of part (d) question and were able to state their own opinion and give reasons for it in part d(i).

(b) No. Firstly, some atheists or agnostics may believe in science and the Big Bang theory. Nevertheless, Muslims believe that Allah caused the Big Bang to happen and so they believe in Allah and feel this scientific theory relates to Him. The cause is unknown and Muslims claim the cause of Allah, the 'omni-potent' one. Also, some non-believers believe in creationism and evolution. However, Muslims simply see the world together as a manifestation of Allah's glory. Every discovery for them (and myself) merely consolidates belief in Allah/God.

(c) Many atheists and agnostics claim to reject belief in Allah as they feel that if He was really 'omni-secant', He would know how to end evil and suffering.

Also, they may think that if Allah was omnibenevolent, he would be kind enough to empathise with humans and cease all forms of evil and suffering altogether. In addition, many think that if He was 'omnipotent', Allah would definitely possess the ability/power to end suffering. Henceforth, it has led many to believe that Allah does not possess the qualities Muslims claim he does. It is thought that if He does not obtain such characteristics, the credibility of Muslims and the religion as a whole suffers immensely. Thus, evil and suffering may lead some people not believe in Allah as they assume that either Allah is evil or alternatively, due to the diminished credibility, He does not exist altogether. Agnostics may believe in the former and cause them to doubt religion - and of course, atheists do not believe in ~~and~~ the presence of God and so may agree to the latter part of the conclusion.

(d) (i) In my opinion, I believe that there still is a slight possibility that miracles may happen. I strongly believe that it entirely depends on one's mindset and general view of the world. It is a form of religious experience (as well as a numinous one, conversion and an answered prayer), hence someone who is spiritual may believe so. Also, some Muslims claim to have experienced a miracle like a famous woman who said that being religious cured <sup>her</sup> cancer that may have otherwise been terminal.

Similarly, in the past, miracles were common so I do not see why it cannot be the case again.

(ii)

Some who are not spiritual may disagree, as their take on the world and its happenings differ immensely. They may rely more on factual evidence and things that are in any way scientific. For instance, many many people reject belief in God as it is considered unscientific at an age where science dictates plenty and explains it. Another reason they might disagree is because miracles cannot be explained scientifically and so to think in this way would be rather difficult and as it is not logic-based, as such.



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Examiner Comments

- (b) There are two clearly developed reasons here.
- (c) This is a comprehensive and coherent answer to the question and gets full marks.
- (d) This is a fully developed answer.



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Examiner Tip

On part (b) questions, remind students to re-address the original question when they give their second reason. Some students got 2 marks for developing the belief that Allah created the world as it is clearly written in the Qur'an. However, they then lost the last 2 marks for saying why they believed the Qur'an was the word of Allah rather than going back to the original question.

(b) I think science does not prove that Allah did not create the world. According to science the world came about through the 'Big Bang' theory. However, Muslims argue that there should be a cause for the 'big bang' and it has to be god because he is the most omnipotent. Also, the world is so complex that it has to be designed. Only Allah could have done this. Furthermore, William Paley the designer of the known clock Pley, suggest that designed things have to have a designer, so the same goes for the world.

(c) There is two types of <sup>evil -</sup> suffering. The first one is the nature evil which is caused by the nature that make people suffer. However, the second evil is the moral evil which is caused by



human beings which also makes people suffer. Example of moral evil is murder. Earthquakes is an example of natural evil. Evil and suffering may lead some people not to believe in Allah because they might think that if Allah can hear our prayer why is Allah not doing anything to stop it. This is known as the unanswered prayer. They also say that there is more than one person who is praying to make suffering stop. ~~to~~ On the other hand, Muslims argue that life is a test for them and suffering is a part of it. In addition, they also believe that Allah has planned everyone's life and Allah knows what is best for us. Furthermore, Allah has given everyone free will which means they can make their choice. In this case they can make the choice to help stop the suffering, for example stop committing crimes.

(d) (i) Miracles is what breaks the law of science and as a result convince people to believe in Allah or for those who are Muslims makes their faith stronger. I disagree with the statement saying: "Miracles cannot happen today". This is because Allah is the only Omniscient. We as human beings don't know what will happen. But as it is mentioned in the Quran Miracles can happen when our

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they don't believe in Miracles as well as the Quran.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Comments

(b) This has one developed response which is the Big Bang and a different developed response based on Paley's watch.

(c) The student gets level 1 for saying "Why is Allah not doing anything to stop it. The student argues the alternative view.

(d) One simple reason, the Qur'an. Another simple reason, we as humans cannot know. A simple reason that some people do not believe in the Qur'an.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Tip

Students should be reminded that unless they are asked for it, they don't need to give the alternative view. Some students on part(c) question gave the Muslim response to evil and suffering which did not give them marks.

## Question 2 (a)

This question asked for a definition of a key word.

Question 2(a) on this paper was a glossary definition question. This question was very well answered by candidates; most candidates who attempted it got full marks.

(a) agnosticism means not being sure whether Allah exists.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions. Some students paraphrase and do not get it quite right, such as agnosticism meaning that you are not sure what religion to believe in, or whether religion is right.

(a) not sure if god does exist



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer and candidates are not penalised for spelling.

## Question 2 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked students whether they thought a religious upbringing would lead to a belief in Allah and to give two clear reasons.

Part(c) question asked students whether what they saw or heard in the media could affect belief in Allah.

part(d) question asked students if they agreed that the world was designed.

In part(b) most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for it. However, frequently, candidates simply described a religious upbringing which did not answer the question set.

Part(c) was well answered by candidates, who were able to name a programme and explain why it might affect their faith. Less well answered by candidates who described whole programmes or did not link them to how they might affect belief in God.

In part(d) many candidates failed to realise that this question was about whether God designed the world and that led to answers purely about creation which did not answer the question set.

(b) I think a religious makes children believe in Allah, firstly because a child taught from a young age about Islam and the Quran and the prayers, would think this is right and they will keep it in their mind. Secondly if a child is taught patiently with love and care they will tend to listen better and accept.

(c) Television programmes for example good ones on Islam channel will give you good information about Allah and make your belief about Allah stronger and stren good and strengthen it. While other programs like Simpson which is supposed to

be entertaining <sup>but</sup> changes the meaning completely will influence people's belief about Allah. Radios are in everyone's cars, houses, sometimes they have talks about the Muslim life, so they include things about Allah and Muslims and change people's attitude towards Allah and Muslims completely. Films like 2012 has the plot about the world ending this is wrong, because they're trying to change people's mind about Allah and make believe that Allah does not exist and the world just could end suddenly. Soap operas like East Enders engages people's attention a lot for example Syed's a homosexual, his mother wants to have an abortion etc. They are Muslim family in this episode, but people will look at this become influenced and take this part of their daily and forget what Allah set for them. Some documentaries are about the poor people, who suffering in world poverty. This would make people upset and think why doesn't Allah help them if he helps everyone. This would change their mind about Allah and their belief. Some television shows <sup>will probably</sup> talk the opposite about Allah this would make some people believe, while others hate

(d) (i) I agree because obviously there has to be someone who created it. It couldn't have just ended up there. Thomas Paley said if you find a watch (with cogs and complexed attachments) you would look at it and think this is so beautiful and so complexed, who did create such a beautiful watch with such beautiful features. The same way ~~the~~ you would think about the creation of the world it's so complexed, amazing, so much greenery etc. So you would wonder obviously someone created this world as well, it couldn't have just appeared out of nowhere.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they would say no, they never seen it happen with their eyes, so they will not believe it.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) The candidate has used one developed reason and one simple reason.
- (c) This is a good example of four brief reasons with examples.
- (d) The student has written a fully developed answer using Paley's watch. This is one simple reason.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Encourage students to separate their reasons clearly in b) questions. This student has used the word "Secondly" which shows the examiner that this is clearly a second reason.

(b) I think a religious upbringing makes children believe in Allah. I think this because when the child sees ~~that~~ its parents praying it encourages him/her to also pray and by keeping a religious home it allows the child to get used to ~~its~~ ~~surrounding~~ what it can and can't do. ~~rather~~ it's

(c) Media can affect a person's belief in Allah, by watching programmes or films where there ~~are~~ <sup>can</sup> aren't Muslims but are living happily. ~~It~~ make you think

whether Islam is the right path. Also when you are watching those you are not praying therefore ~~is~~ weakening your faith. It could also increase your belief by seeing women wearing the hijab it makes you realize that it isn't so strange and by ~~it~~ ~~see~~ seeing your favourite actor/actress attend the mosque or fasting it encourages you to be like them.

(d) (i) I agree, In the Quran it talks about Allah having unlimited power and being omni-potent also one of Allah's name is the creator. In Surah Ikhas it says Allah is one and when there is only one Allah with all this power then only he ~~can~~ could've created this ~~universe~~ world.

(ii) Some people may disagree and believe in the theory of ~~evolution~~ the big bang. They may also think that in the Quran it says Allah created the universe in 6 days and think that if he is so powerful why did it take so long.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) There are two brief reasons here - copying parents and halal home. Neither reason is developed.  
(c) This student cannot go beyond 4 marks as they have not referred to specific programmes or films  
(d) The student has not answered the question about design. There are two simple reasons here.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When answering questions on the media, students must refer to specific examples to access the full range of marks.



### Question 3 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for euthanasia. However there were some candidates who did not know the glossary definition which highlights the fact that a person must be seriously ill. These candidates used literal definitions such as "an easy and gentle death" which did not indicate this and so were awarded partial marks. Thorough learning of key words would prevent this confusion.

(a) Euthanasia is ~~known~~ as assisted suicide. Euthanasia is usually taken when the person cannot live on for they are so ill.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an example of euthanasia (assisted suicide) so is partially correct.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the definitions which are in the specification. These are the ones accepted for the exam.

(a) take some one's life away, if they are in so much pain.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer written in alternative wording.

### Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked students to decide whether world poverty was mainly caused by natural disasters.

Part(c) question asked students why some non religious people had a belief that there was life after death.

Part(d) question asked whether life and death issues belong to Allah, or whether humans can make these decisions.

Some candidates did not understand part(b) question fully. Some wrote answers about natural disasters being a test from Allah rather than addressing the question. Some students wrote very good answers but tended to lump corrupt leaders, debt and lack of education as one issue. If they had separated them into two clear reasons they would have been awarded more marks.

Part(c) was answered well by the majority of candidates, although some students confused non religious with non Muslim.

In part(d), most candidates got full marks on this question, with the best answers referring to abortion and euthanasia.

(b) No, I believe that natural disasters are not the main cause of world poverty, as there are many other factors that contribute to world poverty for example "lack of health care and education", or "Debt" these are two big factors that contribute to the world poverty, also corrupt leaders, cash crops and wars are big problems that cause world poverty.

Debt is one of the most problems LEDCS face as they ~~receive~~ <sup>own</sup> third world countries big amounts of money which was taken to ~~to~~ rebuild their country.

Reformation.

(c) Some non religious ~~to~~ people believe in life after death as they believe in seeing ghosts, they argue that they are able to see the soul of dead people before being taken to the next world.

- para normal activities, being able to communicate with the dead people's souls,
- near death experiences when they say that they were able to see their body from the outside and were with loved people who have already died.
- Reincarnation, which is a belief that when a person dies their soul is given to the new born person.

(d) (i) yes, I strongly ~~think~~ believe that only Allah could take someone's life, no one has the right to ~~kill~~ end someone's life, Muslims also believe in sanctity of life.

Life is a gift from Allah so it is our duty to take care of it. Muslims also believe that life is a test and suffering from an illness is part of that test and in order to pass the test you must be patient and pray to Allah as euthanasia is cheating the test, also the Quran bans suicide and euthanasia is a form of suicide.

(iii) On the other hand others believe in quality of life they argue that life must have benefits to be lived, so if someone was suffering from a painful disease then to end the suffering we should practice euthanasia on them and kill them in a painless way instead of making them go through all this pain.



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Examiner Comments

- (b) This has two clearly developed reasons.
- (c) The student gives four brief reasons. The student does not link reincarnation to religious belief.
- (d) The student gives a fully developed answer.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Re-read the question. Some students wrote extensive answers on why religious people believed in life after death because they had misread the question.

This candidate wrote a good answer to part(c) but did not give enough reasons for either part(b) or part(d) question.

(b) <sup>yes</sup> ~~no~~, I do ~~not~~ think that natural disasters are the main causes of world poverty because the LEDC countries are some of the main places where natural disasters occur.

Also that when the disaster happens the country cannot afford to rebuild it, causing more poverty for the country and the people.

(c) Some non-religious people believe in life after death because of paranormal activities. Some of these people may have seen or heard a ghost which proves that there must be some life form after death. Another reason why non-religious people

may believe in an after life is because they have had a near death experience. For example, a person may have had a car accident, and may have fallen into a coma, half asleep/half awake and then all of a sudden they are aware of their surroundings, they have woken up. This convinces them that ~~Allah (SWT)~~ exists because there is life after death because they have had a 'taste' of it.

(d) (i) Some people may disagree with this argument because they believe in atheism. They believe that Allah (SWT) does not exist so therefore He (SWT) cannot take our lives away.

Another reason why some people may disagree with this argument is because they may think that life is ours, and so Allah (SWT) has no right to take it away from us, we should only when we are ready to die.

(ii) However I agree with this statement because Allah (swt) is the one who gave us life, and so He (swt) has every right to take it away from us.

Another reason why I agree with this statement is because



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) The student gives two brief reasons.
- (c) This student has used two fully developed reasons.
- (d) This answer is written the wrong way round- their opinion and reasons is in (d)(ii).



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Remind candidates to say whether they agree or disagree on part(d) questions. If they don't do this, they cannot get the marks.

## Question 4 (a)

This question asked the students to say what akhirah means.

This question was mostly answered correctly. Students who did not get 2 marks usually referred to Judgement Day.

(a) Muslims belief about the last day.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a partially correct answer as it is an alternative wording of Judgement Day.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions.

Most students got this correct. A few students gave definitions for a different key word.

(a) Akhirah means life after death.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know the key terms not only because of the a) questions but also because the other sub-questions will use the terms within their questions. If candidates do not know the key terms they may not understand the meaning of some of the other questions. For example, the word akhirah may appear in a b), c) or d) question in future years.

#### Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked students their opinion on whether euthanasia should be legal in the UK.

Part(c) question asked students to explain the work of a Muslim agency working to relieve world poverty.

Part(d) question asked students for their beliefs on the afterlife and the reasons for them.

Part(b) question was generally answered well. Many students wrote about the sanctity of life and how life is a test.

Part(c) question was about how an agency worked. Some students wrote extensive answers why but did not answer the question. Others wrote about drug and alcohol abuse rather than looking at world poverty.

Part(d) question got full marks by most students.

(b) No, because this man has the right to live and no one can stop him even when he is very sick. He may was ~~was~~ bad man but at any time he may change and ask God to forgive him before he lose everything. He may also will feel how bad it. This person will also may be under control (can't control him self) and says somethings he does not know what he is saying. (He doesn't know where he is) That is why I don't agree.

(c) By being a nice ~~man~~ person. Do what God told him to do. Be fair man. Try to persuade the other and tell them about Islam and how the world will end and what will happen. Show them some evidence to show his point.

Read Qur'an and Hadith to <sup>persuade</sup> ~~persuade~~ them.  
 Explain for them the meaning of the life, what happen  
 and what will happen. Emphasise them about the day  
 of judgment etc. That will decrease the <sup>things</sup> ~~mainly~~  
 will help to <sup>world</sup> ~~provenly~~ because when show someone something  
 he never knew about it before, he will ~~starts~~ thinkings and  
~~resear~~ ~~resear~~ ~~re~~ ~~searche~~ and see if it is right or wrong.  
 He gets more idea and will understand the life and be  
 better and ask for forgiven from God and start a new  
 life

(d) (i) No, I don't because we muslims people have to believe in  
 life after death because ~~is~~ there is judgment at last day of  
 the world. It is also one of the 6 pillars of muslims faith.  
 If he don't believe in one of them he is not a muslim.

(ii) They are non-believer and they don't believe that the life  
 is a test. They think that they've been borned only to  
 live not to be tested. Or they may believe that the soul  
 is being insert in another body, so they will still alive forever.  
 They also because have never seen the Hell before so they  
 don't believe in it.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) The student has given one developed reason and one simple reason.
- (c) This answer is not about the work of a Muslim agency so does not get any marks.
- (d) This is a developed answer. The student has given two simple reasons as "test" is repeated.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Students need to know the law on euthanasia in the UK. Some students did not know that switching off a life support machine was already legal.

(b) I don't think euthanasia should be allowed in the UK. Because there will be an increase of death especially in this day & age. And it would cause a lot of arguments not only with Muslims but other religions as well.

(c) Muslim aid is trying to end world poverty. They go to different countries - themselves, & try to provide people with food & shelter & medical treatment.

They also hold fundraising events at many charitable events. Also many people donate money from time to time especially in Ramadhan. Because that is when a lot of people give Sadaqah - charity.

Also a lot of people hold charitable bins in mosques, madrasahs etc. for people to donate clothes, shoes, blankets etc.

Muslim Aid is a worldwide, known charity.

It tries to help to the best of their ability.

(d) (i) I disagree life after death is possible. There is a life after death. We're not going to stay in this world forever. We are being tested in this world. If we pass this test by obeying Allah's commands we will, if God is willing be rewarded with Paradise, but if we fail to obey Allah's commands we will be given the punishment of the hellfire.



(iii) Some people may disagree with me because they may think that as soon as a person dies, & they are buried—that's the end of them. They don't think that there is a certain reason why they are put on this earth. They think that after death everything is blank. There is no eternal gardens or punishment of the hell-fire.



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**Examiner Comments**

- (b) The candidate gives two simple reasons: an increase in deaths and arguments between religions.
- (c) The student has written two explanations with one developed: aid and charity.
- (d) Assume there is a comma after "disagree" and this makes a good answer. The student will not be penalised for poor grammar on this sub question. This is one developed reason.



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**Examiner Tip**

If a question asks about a religious agency, the student should name the agency.

## Question 5 (a)

This question asked students the definition of the word promiscuity.

Most students got this fully correct. Those who did not, clearly did not know what it meant and guessed it was to do with promising something.

(a) Promiscuity is the sexual intercourse with multiple partners or the choice not to be married.



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Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer.



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Examiner Tip

Sex before marriage and adultery are partially correct.

(a) promiscuity is the act of sex with many other people other than the marital partner.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate has given the correct answer by saying that it is sex with many people. By saying it is not with the marital partner implies that there is no commitment. This is alternative wording of casual sex with a number of people.



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Examiner Tip

Some students used words such as "going out with" which made it partially correct.

## Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked students whether they believed sex outside marriage was acceptable.

Part(c) question asked students the reasons why some Muslims accept homosexuality and some don't.

Part(d) question asked whether a religious family was automatically a happy family.

Part(b) question proved difficult for students to clearly give two separate reasons. Some students wrote a long answer but only got 2 marks for one developed reason (usually that it is forbidden in Islam.)

Part(c) was answered extremely well by most students.

For part(d) some students did not address the issue of happy family, but concentrated on what a religious family do. These students often did better giving the alternative view.

(b) I think that sex outside marriage is not acceptable because ~~of~~ sexual freedom ~~is~~ leads to many problems in society. Adultery is a form of sex outside marriage and it causes many marriages to go wrong, sexually transmitted disease to increase and many people especially young adults suffer emotional upheavals when relationships don't work.

(c) ~~There are different attitudes to homosexuality~~ Muslims have different attitudes to homosexuality because there are verses and hadeeths that talk about homosexuality, and they look at them from different perspectives. Most Muslims do not accept

homosexuality because it goes against the teaching of the Quran. In the Quran, Allah talks to people of Lut that were homosexuals; "Of all creations will ~~as~~ you approach males and abandon those who Allah created for you as mates". Homosexuality is against procreation, which is greatly encouraged in Islam. They also believe

that homosexuality is a worse sin than adultery and should be punished for by death. Some Muslims accept homosexuality because they see diversity as an interesting and good part of life. They believe that homosexuality existed throughout all times, ~~and~~ and is found in the animal kingdom. ~~They use the~~ Islam is a religion of compassion and use this ~~as~~ a reason to accept homosexuality.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because religion encourages family life and talks about its importance. Religion has guidelines for parents, showing them how to look after their children. Also has guidelines for children, saying that they have to respect their elders. This encourages and helps families to stay together as religion strengthens the ties between members of the family, and makes everyone happy and protected.

(ii) On the other hand it can be argued that families don't have to be religious to be happy. In fact some religious family is not happy because <sup>the</sup> children will be pressurised to do things they don't want to do. Parents will also not be happy because they might not be able to bring up their children according to their religion and this will lead to frustration and disagreements between both parents.



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Examiner Comments

- (b) The student has used one developed reason and one brief reason: the last point does not develop the second reason.
- (c) This is a good answer. The candidate has given three reasons with one developed.
- (d) This is a fully developed answer. As the student has not referred to Islam, the student cannot gain any more marks here.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Clearly separate the two reasons on part(b) questions. Remind students to make sure they refer to Islam on part(d) questions or they cannot get more than half marks.

Most students who chose this question got high marks on part(c) question. This student did not gain the last two marks because they did not address the whole question.

(b) I strongly believe that sex outside marriage is unacceptable, as I believe it cause many damages to the society, it could also cause problems in between family members which could cause breaking for the family bond. Sex outside marriage could also cause sexually transmitted diseases such as (AIDS and HIV).

(c) All muslims do not accept homosexuality and believe it is a great sin, they also believe that who ever has sex with someone of the same gender ~~is~~ should face a punishment of Death, same sex couples are

so hated in Islam, muslims believe it is worse than committing Adultery.

Homosexuality does not allow the couples to have children and the main purpose of sex is to have children to increase the ummah.

The Quran also speaks about how Allah (SWT) punished the people of Lutt for being homosexuals, but Allah saved Lutt and his family as they were straight and forbidden the evil.

(d) (i) A Religious family is a happier family I ~~strongly~~ agree with that statement, as Islam teaches us to treat members of the family well and Islam also focuses on the family and it is mentioned several times in the Quran, the Quran teaches ~~us~~ the children to treat their family well and to respect their parents, it also tells the parents to treat their children well.

(ii) on the other hand others believe that artists do  
live a happy life with their family, and are  
taught the good values.



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Examiner Comments

- (b) The student has given three brief reasons so only two can be credited.
- (c) This student has started really well but cannot go beyond 6 marks as there is no alternative view. This is one developed reason.
- (d) This is one simple reason.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Encourage students to investigate other people's opinions on different topics.

## Question 6 (a)

This question asked students to define what a civil partnership is.

Most students knew that this was a partnership of homosexual people.

Some students used the word "marriage" which is not accurate.

(a) A civil partnership is a relation between two people that is civil meaning accepted by society, and therefore it is a lawful partnership.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is partially correct as there is no mention of homosexuality.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

A civil partnership has to be a legal partnership between homosexual people.

(a) Civil partnership is when homosexuals have the same legal rights of a heterosexual as a husband and wife.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer. The answer needs both the fact that it is for homosexuals and that it is a legal partnership.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Students are encouraged to use the glossary definition here as paraphrasing was often inaccurate. Gay marriage is partially correct as it is not a marriage. Students were not penalised for using the word gay.

## Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked whether all Muslims should accept divorce.

Part(c) question asked students to choose an issue from this section and explain whether the way it was presented was fair or unfair to religious people.

Part(d) question asked students to decide whether contraception should be acceptable to all Muslims.

Part(b) question was best answered by students who pointed out that it is allowed in Islam but not liked by Allah and then give their reasons. This gave them a yes and no answer which enabled them to access the full range of marks.

Part(c) question was answered well by students who clearly identified an issue (eg homosexuality) and a programme (eg Eastenders) and then gave a number of reasons why it was portrayed fairly or unfairly.

For part(d), most students answered the question well, making a distinction between different types of contraception and times of life.

(b) I disagree, all muslims should not accept divorce because divorce is the most hated thing that Allah made permissible.

Divorce can affect children alot mentally and physically making them put blame on their selves for the divorce

(c) In Eastenders, there is a <sup>Asian</sup> Muslim ~~subculture~~ family, the treatment wasn't fair to Muslims when a member of that family was homosexual ~~man~~ and making it seem as normal. When in fact in Islam homosexuality is not allowed.

There was another case in that family where the father ~~was~~ committed adultery with another lady. This ~~make~~ show that Muslim don't stick to their religion or follow it how it is meant to be ~~and~~ followed. It also ~~make~~ makes Muslims look like hypocrites.



(d) (i) I do agree because, <sup>incourages</sup> ~~whom~~ <sup>is the man</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> to get married to fertile women, ~~therefore~~ <sup>plus</sup> Muhammad (saw) <sup>wishes</sup> ~~thinks~~ his ummah to be the largest ummah on the Day of Judgement. Allah is the one who plans whether you have a baby and regardless to using contraception, because there are still people who use contraception but ~~to~~ still end up pregnant.

(ii) Some people may disagree by saying that the prophet companies ~~was~~ performed a type of contraception. Sometimes the mother only just had a child and her having another child will be difficult. Finally there ~~be~~ a case where when having a baby may ~~make~~ be dangerous to her life.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

- (b) The student has given one brief and one developed reason. They develop the second reason by saying that children may blame themselves.
- (c) The candidate has written two reasons with one developed. They develop the second point by saying it makes Muslims look like hypocrites.
- (d) This has two simple reasons. The student has given three simple reasons.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

The media question required an issue from this section of the exam. Make sure students are aware of the different sections. Some students got 0 marks because they wrote about life after death or creation.

This student describes or states opinions without saying why. This does not give them many marks.

(b) I don't think all Muslims should accept divorce because in Islam divorce is the last thing you should do in marriage when all else has failed eg. get two people, one from each family and try to sort out the problem between the married couple.

(c) The issue from marriage and the family which has been presented in one form of the media which I would be ~~talking~~ writing about is Bend it like Beckham. In this movie the treatment was 50/50

some parts was fair to religious people but other parts were not. For example the way the mother prays, this is fair to religious people because she worships god but sometimes the mother is a figment of fun when she is praying. And the part where Jerinda has the finals in football on the same day as her sisters wedding and she wants to go to the football but she doesn't but in the end her dad finds that she has good potential so he lets her go to play. This is fair to religious people because it shows that her dad cares about her whereas her mum who always shouts.

(d) (i) I disagree contraceptions should not be accepted by all muslims because a contraception prevents a pregnancy and it is only Allahs choice if he wants the person to be pregnant or not and it is preventing a life from coming into the world. They can only use it if the mothers health will be at risk and other circumstances.

(ii) Some people may disagree because some people may not want children and if they have children what would they do and how will they look after them



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The student has only given one brief reason. The candidate has not identified an issue and has written a description.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Remind students that they need to give reasons for their opinion. Their opinion alone does not give them marks.

## Question 7 (a)

This question asks for a definition of discrimination.

Most students knew what discrimination meant, although some confused it with prejudice.

(a) Discrimination is when you discriminate someone because of prejudice.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is partially correct as the student has used the word discriminate.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Students who use the wording of the question in their answer will usually get 1 mark as a partially correct answer.

(a) Discrimination is treating people less favourable because when discriminate someone because of their geage gender / religion e.t.c.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Correct answer. The student has scribbled out the definition. As it can be read it is marked accordingly.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Glossary definitions are particularly important with words like this as paraphrasing rarely gets 2 marks.

## Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question asked students whether men and women should have the same religious rights.

Part(c) question asked students why the Government was keen to support community cohesion.

Part(d) question addressed the issue of conversion.

Part(b) question was answered well by students who addressed the issue of religious rights, and less well by students who wrote about working opportunities. Most students got 2 marks for pointing out that men and women are equal according to the Qur'an.

Part(c) most students answered this question well. Some students gave reasons such as interfaith marriage which are not linked to the Government.

For part(d), most students got full marks and could clearly see the two points of view.

(b) I do believe women should have the same religious rights as men. Because in the Qur'an it says 'man and women were created from a single soul' this tells me they are equal.

In Qur'an it also says 'All human are equal as the teeth of comb no man over a female. This tells me they are both equal.

(c) Government encourage community cohesion because they want to have a same common vision and a share sense of belonging, they want to

appreciate  
~~appreciate~~ other value and differences,  
they want to ~~sto~~ learn and understand  
different cultures and traditions. They  
want ~~stom~~ to have strong positive relationships  
with other race and ethnicity, they  
want to be treated with equal opp  
portunity ~~and~~ whatever race. Community  
cohesion does not just create tolerance  
and having people put up with each other.  
It is to care and work together  
in a society ~~to~~ together as an  
whole. Community cohesion does  
create tolerance.

(d) (i) As a muslim, I believe all muslim should  
and convert others to their religion  
because as muslim, I believe that Islam  
is the full and final message  
of Allah the truth. Allah also  
told in the Quran to try  
dawah ( ~~convert~~ converting others). It is  
our duty as muslim to guide those  
who are non-believers, to become  
true muslim believers.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and say that they believe the religion is the truth and the own true of Allah. They believe that Islam is not the truth and that is misguide their believers. They may ~~say~~ feel offended by conversion and ~~say~~ that they may try to offend ~~me~~ by say Islam is not the ~~truth~~ <sup>me</sup> final ~~to~~ truth send down by ~~go~~ God and Muhammad is not the prophet, because they believe this is the truth about Islam.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) This is a developed reason - Allah created men and women equally.
  - (c) This has two reasons with one developed- tolerance.
  - (d) This is a fully developed reason.
- This is a developed reason.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The roles of women in this section are to do with religious roles. The students need to look at leadership in Mosques and female role models of the past alongside the teaching of the Qur'an.

Some students ran out of time on this section.

(b) ~~women~~ I think women should have the same religious rights as men because so there both equal and there both equal of doing the same thing.

(c) The government encourages community cohesion because so the communities understand one another and shares sense of belonging.

(d) (i) I agree that ~~ish~~ muslims should try e convert others to their religion. because so they know which religion is right e guides them to truth.

(ii) others may disagree with me because e say you can't force people into your religion in the over it says that there's no compulsion in religion



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

- (b) This candidate has used one brief reason and gets 1 mark.
- (c) This student has given one brief reason which is not really coherent and so gets the lower end of the mark range.
- (d) The student has given one simple reason.  
There are two simple reasons here.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Encourage students to spend 20 minutes on each question. This student may have run out of time here.



## Question 8 (a)

This question asks what religious freedom is.

Most students knew what this meant. Some students thought it meant the freedom within their own religion.

(a) Religious freedom is the idea that everyone is able to choose / has the liberty to choose their faith without being forced in any way.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Some students gave definitions of religious equality.

Most students gave the glossary definition. This student paraphrased but it was correct.

(a) ~~the~~ you can practise any religion = religion you want



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer.

## Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

Part(b) question addressed the advantages or disadvantages of a multi faith society for religious people.

Part(c) question asked why Muslims have different attitudes to other religions.

Part(d) question asks students their opinion of the equality of men and women in the UK today.

For part(b), most students answered the question well, looking at the pros and cons of living in a multi faith society.

For part(c), many students answered from an alternative perspective than the one in the mark scheme which assumed they would talk about inclusive, exclusive and pluralist views. Some excellent answers were given based on where Muslims were brought up and influences on their lives.

Part(d) was answered well, although some students did not include a Muslim viewpoint.

(b) living in a multi-faith society could cause problems for religious people, mainly because some people may not want to know more about other religions and are afraid that their children could be influenced by other children in the society. Also living in multi-faith society could cause racism amongst people.

(c) ~~Some~~ <sup>All</sup> Muslims believe that Islam is the final religion and contains the final truth, and the Quran is complete, they believe that Christianity and Judaism are the people of the book meaning that they only have part of

The truth,

Most Muslims believe that everyone has the freedom of choosing a religion to follow as mentioned in the Quran "There is no compulsion in religion" meaning that everyone is free to follow a ~~f~~ religion.

Some Muslims ~~believe~~ believe that the people of the book will enter paradise, as they have part of the truth that has been revealed.

All Muslims believe that a man is free to marry a woman that is Christian or Jew as they are the people of the book, ~~at~~ but the same could not be said to women, as they are only allowed to marry Muslim men, as ~~the~~ Islam teaches that the baby takes the religion of his father not the mother.

(d) (i) Yes, in the UK today there are men and women that have been treated differently, unfortunately some women are still discriminated by some members of the society, as some are not getting paid the same ~~at~~ amount of money as the other gender, when both are completing the same work.

The UK government has been working so hard to stop this sort of discrimination, but some groups of people refuse to let go of that mentality, unfortunately some men believe that women are born to cook, clean and serve the family for her entire life.

(ii) on the other hand others believe that women and men have always been treated equally in the UK, they argue that both men and women are able to find jobs and work, education is allowed for both men and women.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate has given two brief reasons. They cannot be credited for the point about racism as the question is about multi-faith societies.

(c) The candidate has given three reasons with one developed.

(d) The student has written two simple reasons.

There is only one reason credited. The student cannot get any more marks as they have not referred to Islam.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Tip

Emphasis the difference between multi faith, multi ethnic and multi cultural.

## Paper Summary

Teachers and candidates should note these general points in order to improve candidate's achievement in future years:

There is a choice of two questions per section, each of these has four sub-questions, and candidates can either attempt the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their responses and as such are at a clear disadvantage.

Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by putting a cross in a box at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this and they should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.

The amount of space on the question paper is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for candidates to write more than this. Almost all the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved the maximum marks of that question. Any candidate who needs extra space can use the space allocated to other questions as long as they clearly indicate on their paper that this is what they have done.

A number of candidates did not complete the final section due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question leaving ten minutes to check through their work at the end of the paper.

Some general points can be made on how best to answer the various question types:

Maximum marks on the part (a) questions are easily gained by learning the Edexcel glossary definitions.

Only the candidate's point of view is credited in part (b) questions. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph, and then to develop each of the reasons with an example or a quote.

Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level on part (c) questions by writing coherently. Part (c) questions test AO1 and so will either ask for candidates to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how'.

Many of the part (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However, candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in the part (d) (i) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in (d)(ii) rather than mixing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) must be explicitly religious to go beyond 3 marks. The part (d) questions on this unit can ask for the candidate to refer to either one religion (i.e. any religion), one religion other than Christianity or can specify that Christianity is referred to.

Teachers who would like to learn more about the specification should attend one of the Edexcel training events, details of which can be found on the Edexcel website. Specific queries can be answered through the Ask the Expert service which can also found on the Edexcel website.

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