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Examiners' Report

June 2011

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS16 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. GCSE Religious Studies continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both engages and educates young people. The variety of choice within this specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students.

Question 1 (a)

The majority of candidates who attempted this question gained only one mark. This was an easy question to get full marks by using a glossary definition but like the second example many were awarded only one mark for a partially correct answer – usually giving a place (often heaven) as being the kingdom.

Write your answer here:

(a) The Kingdom is the rulership of God in peoples' lives.



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This is an example of a correct answer - slightly re-wording the glossary definition.

Write your answer here:

(a) The Kingdom is the place of God. (his gift) (heaven).



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Examiner Comments

This is a partially correct answer as it does not refer to the rule of God in people's lives.



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Examiner Tip

Always learn the glossary definitions to be sure of gaining two marks.

Question 1 (b) (c) (d)

1(b) asks candidates whether they think it is possible for people to follow Jesus today in the way the first disciples did. Candidates were required to provide two reasons for their view and then develop these reasons in order to gain maximum (4) marks. Most candidates were able to provide two reasons, but many were not able to develop these reasons and so only gained 2 marks.

1(c) requires candidates to know the story of Jesus' encounter with the rich (young) man and from that to be able to explain how the costs of discipleship are shown in that story. Typically an answer would contain 4 reasons in order to gain the maximum (8) marks although less reasons could be provided if they were developed.

1(d) requires candidates to consider whether the disciples of Jesus are the best role models for today. In order to obtain the maximum marks, candidates should state their own view of the question and provide three clear reasons for that view (they can provide less than three reasons if they develop those reasons). They must then state what people who disagree with them would say again providing three clear reasons for why they would disagree. Somewhere within their answer (either di or dii or both) they must make some reference to Christianity. In this question this would typically be some reference to certain actions of the disciples (eg the denial by Peter or the betrayal by Jesus).

(b) I do think it is possible to follow Jesus today the way the disciples first did because when Jesus called John, James, Simon (Peter), Andrew and Levi they were selfless and left behind all they had to follow Jesus. We can do this with the help of Jesus Christ ruling in our hearts to spread the Gospel.

Also the disciples were lowly people who had sinned and weren't seen as particularly important but by Jesus recruiting them it shows that he always accepts everybody and including us sinners today so we should follow him because he forgives our wrong doings just as he did with the disciples.

(c) The cost of discipleship are shown in the story of the young rich man because Jesus used the parable "It is easier for a camel to ^{go through} enter the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven.

This shows the attachment to money that people have and in order to be a disciple you have to leave that behind because money can't be your main agenda, spreading the gospel should be.

The costs of discipleship ^{are} also shown because to the man he looked at it as if he was losing everything and not as gaining the love and friendship of Jesus.

This is a problem that comes over many of us in the modern day because people often think that being a follower of Jesus means losing everything but what Jesus tried to teach the man & us that material things are all vain and that he is the only good in the world.

The costs of discipleship is also shown in this story because although the man did as Jesus wanted he still had doubt which shows that as we grow & gain we find it hard to let go which is why Jesus said that it is ~~also~~ ^{also} easier for children to enter heaven.

(d) (i) I do agree that the disciples of Jesus are the best role models for today because regardless of the many mistakes they made e.g falling asleep at the garden of gethsemane, Jesus always forgave them and teaches us the lesson of forgiveness.

The disciples were also humans because sometimes they had doubts but this helps us identify with them and their relationship with Jesus which may be similar to us.

The disciples were also followers of Jesus and although Judas betrayed him they continued to spread the Gospel & and Mark even wrote it even though ^{some were} being persecuted & even killed. This shows determination.

(ii) People may disagree with me because the disciples seemed to let Jesus down the most in his time of need like when they fell asleep in the Garden. This makes us think that if they ~~has~~ failed why should they be role models & what chance do the rest of us have.

Judas also betrayed ^{Jesus} so people may think that to look up to those who initiated his death, denied him three times and ran away at the crucifixion would be irrelevant because they did what was wrong by our saviour & we shouldn't follow their example.



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In (b) two reasons have been given, both have been developed by added explanation so 4 marks are awarded.

In (c) two developed reasons have been given which are: 'Money can't be the main agenda' - developed by reference to The Eye of The Needle and 'The man was losing everything' - developed in the next paragraph. The answer is coherent so it gains 8 rather than 7 marks.

In (d) (i) the candidate gives their own opinion and then three reasons which are: 'Jesus forgave them', 'had doubts like us' and 'spread the gospel' so 3 marks are awarded.

In (d) (ii) one developed reason is given 'disciples let Jesus down' - developed with an example; plus one simple reason - 'Judas betrayed Jesus' so 3 marks are awarded.



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In the (c) questions, write each reason as a separate paragraph. It then shows clearly what your ideas are.

(b) I think that following Jesus today in the way the disciples did isn't possible because, Jesus doesn't exist anymore, no one can hear him, nor no one can see or touch him. He is the son of God but only in the bible and passages told by the priest. Jesus today is like he doesn't exist. The followers of Jesus, attended everywhere he went throughout curing the ill, to helping the poor. They done this out of kindness + felt special to be amongst "the 12". Thus following Jesus today the only way is by reading the bible, attending any religious ceremonies and attending church at least 5 times a day. This is called looking up to Jesus, not following him.

(c) The cost of discipleship, Jesus is shown in stories such as the rich young man, the man who chose money over his family, who once he got the money, took off out of town + spent it on nice but useless things, and has even as his treasure

disappeared, he started to physically live like a pig, eating from a trough and sleeping with the pigs, until one day he got the courage to come back and see his father, face up to all the consequences he deserved, but his father didn't want to punish him, he wanted to rejoice celebrate that he had finally got his son back, where he belongs! The disciples such as 'Judas' betrayed Jesus, he sold Jesus to punters Pilate for 30 pieces of silver. He gave a kind generous man's life away for money, He then couldn't take it anymore, the regret he had would always be on his conscience, so he hung himself! He used money as an more important thing than a friend who'd help him through anything, his selfish heart overtook the kindness in him, he became greedy & took a man's life.

(d) (i) The disciples of Jesus, are the best role models today. I disagree with this because they were selfish, cold hearted and greedy, they chose money over Jesus, they betrayed over knowing Jesus, and they broke promises. Role models today should have courage, bravery, put others before themselves, the disciples didn't do this, they chose money over a man who gave his life up, because he believed it was the right thing to do, Role models are also people, we will want to have faith in + trust. The 12 disciples didn't show this, they showed hatred lies and disbelief all towards Jesus.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because the disciples gave up their family + everything that had back home, to help Jesus spread the word of God, many people think they showed courage and love towards Jesus, like they'd do anything for him, and give up the most precious thing ever. They showed bravery, when one accused they fought it they helped Jesus and was there for him every step of the way. They also showed love for Jesus as they looked upon him as a follower, as such he was a follower of God, they took Jesus's word and did the same thing, spread the word!



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In (b) only one reason was given - 'Jesus doesn't exist anymore', this is developed with examples so is awarded 2 marks. This needed a second reason to take it further.

In (c) the candidate refers to the wrong incident - the parable of the Prodigal Son so cannot gain any marks.

In (d) (i) the candidate gives their own opinion with one reason - 'the disciples betrayed him'. This is developed by showing what they should be like so 2 marks are awarded. This needed a second reason in order to take it to the maximum mark.

In (d) (ii) 3 reasons are given which are: 'they gave up family', 'they showed bravery', 'they spread the word' so 3 marks are awarded.



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Examiner Tip

This candidate was not able to gain any marks for part (c). Make sure that you can link the story headings to the correct incidents.

Question 2 (a)

The glossary definition of this term is "the twelve selected from the disciples to be Jesus' closest disciples". The idea of selection or closeness are what is important here to gain the two marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) The twelve selected by Jesus to be his
closest disciples.



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Here the glossary definition is given so the answer is awarded 2 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

For (a) questions learn the glossary definitions for the key words.

Write your answer here:

(a) The twelve are ^{the} 12 disciples that follow Jesus.



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No idea of selection or closeness is expressed here so this answer was only awarded 1 mark for stating that they were followers of Jesus.

Question 2 (b) (c) (d)

Part (b) of this question was not generally answered well and many candidates did not understand the reference to being 'slave of all' as a reference to serving others and answered it as if it were referring to our modern idea of slavery.

Again part (c) of this question was generally not very well answered with many candidates not being able to link the idea of the costs of discipleship to the parable.

However, part (d) was better answered than the other two parts of this question.

(b) yes i think it's still relevant as it shows great strength and continuous behavior to strive for the position of first, as you take on the burden of being a slave also if we were all to follow this teaching then we would all be great people in ourselves. Also being a slave of all makes you inferior as you have taking the hard route to secure good and it shows a relaxed attitude of doing what is necessary to become the best

(c) the parable of the tenants is where the owner of the land rented the land and the tenants became disrespectful and began to abuse the land and not pay rent. but when he sent a servant

they killed the servant, so he sent his son and they killed ~~the~~ the landowner's son. So the man threw out the tenants. This is interpreted as the landowner being God and the son being Jesus. This shows ~~great~~ a great example of discipleship as many who say they believe and follow only seek the rewards ~~of~~ of the lord. But this parable shows us how we pay no rent to our own (prayer or worship) and we kill those who try and break the tension between the farmer and his people and seal a new relationship between both. The costs are shown as the people were not grateful for the opportunity of renting great land that they took advantage until all was lost.

(d) (i) It is impossible for us to be a disciple of Jesus today because many of us are blind to his message and many people care more about earthly goods than Jesus. ~~Some Christians~~ because of many modern traditions many of us truly fail to see past the clouds. I agree that at this time and age it's truly impossible for us to be disciples of Jesus as many of us do not have the pure heart and qualities to be a disciple.

(iii) many Christians believe that all denominations ^{of Christians} ¹ are disciples and followers of Christ in their own ^{believe} ^{they} unique ^{was} as they believe that they follow the way of Jesus to be more like God in God eyes. also they may feel that there are disciples of Jesus and they share the words of God to those who can't yet get God speaking to them - and believe that the qualities of the twelve now dwell in themselves



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In part (b) the candidate expressed their own opinion with one reason - 'shows great strength' - which was then developed so 2 marks were awarded. To gain 4 marks another reason with development would be needed.

In part (c) this response is awarded level 1 for purely a description (re-telling) of the parable. It is coherent so it gains 2 rather than 1 mark. In order to gain any more marks, explanations as to how the story shows the cost of discipleship must be given.

In (d) (i) two reasons were given which were: 'blind to his message' and 'many do not have pure hearts' so the response is awarded 2 marks.

In (d) (ii) again two reasons were given - 'all denominations are disciples' and 'believe that the qualities of the 12 now dwell in themselves' so 2 marks were awarded.



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Examiner Tip

In the (c) questions, if you only tell the story that the question is based on you can only get a level 1 - 2 marks. Reasons must always be given to gain more marks.

(b) ¹ If you want to be first you must become slave of all. This quote is from when Jesus is asked by the Rich man about how to gain eternal life. Jesus also said this when the twelve were talking about who is the greatest. This teaching is still relevant because it tells us how to live a better life and how to give yourself a better life after death. This quote is important because it teaches us to put others before ourselves so that they may live an easier life.

(c) The parable of the tenants is a very influential story because it shows Gods plan for Jesus, his only son, and the disciples. When each of the tenants goes back to

the land to collect the pay, they are killed out of fear and greed. This keeps happening until the man sends his son to collect the money, he is killed also.

This then alerts ~~the~~ the man that there is no good that can come of this so he kills the greedy murderers and gives the land to the poor.

As each of the collectors are sent, they are killed, this highlights the dangers of being a disciple because spreading the word of God may lead people to not understanding them and they may be killed or hurt by the people who fear the word of God.

When the son dies, it is a shock and immediately shows that just because he is the man's son, doesn't make him special to the killers, he is still only human. Therefore if Jesus was not safe, how would the disciples be?

(d) (i) It is not impossible ~~for~~ to be a disciple of Jesus today because the meaning of disciple is 'a ~~follower~~ person who follows the teachings of Jesus'. Thereby anyone who listens to and follows the teachings of Jesus and God is a disciple of Jesus.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because to be a disciple of Jesus, they think that you have to have been alive when Jesus was and to have known him or met him.

People may also disagree with me because they believe that they are not following the teachings of Jesus about this time. They believe the teachings are out-dated so they cannot truly be a disciple of Jesus.



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In (b) the candidate's own view is supported by two undeveloped reasons so this gains 2 marks. In (c) the candidate has given a reason - 'spreading the gospel may lead to being misunderstood'. This is then developed with an example 'that it may lead to being killed'. This answer is coherent so will be awarded 4 rather than 3 marks. In (d) (i) the candidate's own opinion is supported by one reason which is 'anyone who listens... is a disciple' so this is awarded 1 mark. In (d) (ii) two reasons are given in support of the opposing view which are: 'had to have met Jesus', 'teachings outdated so cannot follow' so this is awarded 2 marks.

Question 3 (a)

Although many candidates answered this question correctly, a significant number did get the Pharisees muddled with the Sadducees.

write your answer here:

(a) The pharisees were the religious leaders who's aim was to keep the Jewish traditional faith alive. They were teachers of the law.



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This response gives a clear description which includes the glossary definition. This was awarded 2 marks.

write your answer here:

(a) The pharisees ~~where~~ were a religious group that where around when Jesus was alive.



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Examiner Comments

This is a partially correct answer. The candidate knows that it is a religious group but has not given a sufficient description to distinguish them from other religious groups that were around at the time. It was therefore awarded 1 mark.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) most candidates managed to provide one or two reasons for their view on this question, but most were not able to develop those reasons and so were not able to get beyond two marks.

In (c) the intended incident in this question was that of the man lowered through the roof to Jesus. However, because at least one translation used by many centres also mentions a man with a paralysed hand (withered/shrivelled hand in other translations) either miracle was accepted and was marked accordingly. However, many candidates did get the two miracles muddled and included bits from both in their answers.

In (d) whilst there were some good answers from candidates who recognised that the question was aimed at eliciting ideas about the relationship between politics and religion, some answers were only able to make the point 'it is no longer relevant because Caesar is dead'.

(b) NO, I believed that Jesus was just being a good man / son of God by ~~per~~ performing miracles and spreading the word of God, like in the miracle where he healed the paralysed man he said your sins are forgiven he said this because he knew who he was and this was the best way to heal the man. Also if Jesus was set out to ~~deliberately~~ deliberately annoy the authorities he would of said more things and done more things that was considered to be blasphemous in them times.

(c) The healing of the paralysed man was where four men cut out part of the roof and passed down a paralysed man and asked Jesus to heal him, but this is not

it caused conflict after Jesus had performed the miracle he said "your sins are forgiven" but the authorities where there and heard him say this and as only God can take away sins they accused Jesus of blasphemy which led to him being questioned.

Blasphemy is ~~where~~ a law in this time where you could be put to death which led to conflict by Jesus being beaten at his trial and the sadocees even broke these rules by testifying against Jesus at night.

(d) (i) I, do think this question is still relevant because in today it is still the law to pay taxes and for christians paying to God what is ~~to~~ his means that every thing is God, So when they tried to trick Jesus by asking that question Jesus answered "what belongs to cesar should be given to him, but what belongs to God should be payed to God" Jesus said this because nothing is greater than God and in the long term everything is given to God.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because they might think that the question asked to Jesus was not answered correctly he just got out of the question also their upbringing leads them to not believe in God and Jesus.



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In (b) this candidate gives their own opinion and two reasons, the first one being developed: 'being a good man' is developed with examples. The second reason about 'Jesus blaspheming more' is not developed so 3 marks are awarded.

In (c) the candidate has given one developed reason - 'sins are forgiven' which is developed by accused Jesus of blasphemy. The answer is coherent so it gains 4 rather than 3 marks.

In (d) (i) two reasons are given for the candidate's personal opinion: 'we still pay taxes', 'everything is God's' so 2 marks are awarded.

In (d) (ii) one reason is given for the opposing view - 'upbringing leads people not to believe in Jesus' so 1 mark is awarded.

(b) no I don't think Jesus deliberately set out to annoy the authorities I believe he just wanted to get his point across, ~~if you~~ ~~don't~~ ~~tell~~ ~~people~~ to show them he was serious about what he was doing and to show them how it is a better way of life. Jesus wanted everyone to be happy and not sin so why would he deliberately annoy the authorities? his followers would then see this to be the right thing to do so therefore he would be setting a bad example to his followers.

(c) ~~whereas~~ this led to conflict because no-one believed he could do this 'miracle' at first and when he proved people wrong everyone

wanted to know how he did it, and everyone was asking him to heal their loved ones, if he could heal one person why not heal others in need they thought. This led to conflict because they didn't understand why he would leave others in need out if all Jesus did was to help people. They seen this to be unfair.

(d) (i)

I do agree ~~was~~ Cesar and the taxes is still very relevant today. As he was a bad person taking more than what was owed and at the time ~~then~~ he thought it was a good idea, but when Jews made him return everything back he took of people it shows he got his commurence.

Cesar then knew what it felt like to be robbed from and he was guilty this made him learn his lesson. This today can help people change their opinions about things.

(iii) some people may disagree because people that don't believe strongly about Jesus and the story that were told therefore some people don't see this story to be true.

They don't see how it can be relevant now as it was so long ago. Some Christians might think it is irrelevant because they believe God has a plan for everyone and if he did why would he create people like this to commit such a crime?



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In (b) the candidate gives their own opinion with two undeveloped reasons which are: 'just wanted to get his point across' and 'Jesus wanted everyone not to sin'. Since neither point is developed the candidate could only gain 2 marks.

In (c) there is no reference in the answer to the healing of the paralysed man so this does not answer the question and therefore is awarded 0 marks.

In (d) (i) there is no understanding of the quotation so the candidate gains 0 marks. Again in (d) (ii) this answer is not related to the quotation and gets 0 marks.

Question 4 (a)

Most candidates were able to identify Palm Sunday correctly and so gained 2 marks.

write your answer here:

(a) Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter where Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.



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Examiner Comments

This response is a correct identification of the day (almost the glossary definition), so it gains 2 marks.

write your answer here:

(a) Palm Sunday is a special event which took place in Jerusalem when Jesus rode there on a donkey with celebrating by throwing palm leaves at him.



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Examiner Comments

Although not the glossary definition, this was acceptable as it clearly correctly identifies Palm Sunday so was awarded 2 marks.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) most candidates correctly identified the incident in question and were able to produce one or two reasons. However, many candidates did not develop these reasons and so were unable to gain more than 2 marks.

Most candidates found this a difficult (c) question and did not easily identify what the plot was, although it is specifically mentioned in the specification. However, there were a few good answers.

In (d) most candidates were able to provide some reasons on both sides of the argument, with most candidates saying that they inevitably came either directly from Jesus' behaviour because he needed to get arrested as part of God's plan, or because the authorities didn't like him. Both these premises then needed illustrating with examples in order to gain more marks.

(b) Yes, I do believe Jesus was right to do this because Jesus is the son of God and the temple is where God dwells. Because they were buying and selling things in his father dwelling place, which was meant to be a place where people pray to and praise God.

He also was right to do it because the temple many people would go to the temple expecting to buy and sell goods instead of going there to praise God for all he has done.

(c) The plot to kill Jesus was significant for many reasons. One of these reasons was that Jesus even born, a prophet called Eliphaz had prophesied that the messiah

was coming, and would eventually be killed by his own people. The plot to kill Jesus shows that he was not only hated but even ~~hated~~ ^{disliked} by his own people and eventually murdered by his own people.

The plot to kill Jesus was also significant because Jesus ~~at~~ knew what was going to happen. We know this because Jesus ~~knew~~, at the last supper, knew the Judas would betray him. And even though he knew his faith ~~was~~ not to change it. ~~an~~ We also know that ~~he~~ ~~didn't~~ ~~try~~ ~~change~~ ~~know~~

(d) (i) ~~Yes~~ No. I do not believe ^{it} should of be inevitable that Jesus and the authorities would have conflict. Because I think if the authorities had actually ~~looked at the~~ and listen to some of Jesus' ~~a~~ teachings, they would eventually find out that they both serving the same God. I also believe that Jesus right not bend him ways to suit the way of the authorities.

(iii) Other people may say yes, it was obvious that Jesus and the authorities of the time would ~~be~~ not get along. This is because Jesus was going to keep ~~breathing~~ the way he was and the authorities such as the ~~saducees~~ scribes and pharisees would never change the way they preached. And eventually the authorities, being more violent than Jesus, would eventually kill him.



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In (b) the candidate gives their own opinion with one reason 'Temple is where God dwells' which is developed with reference to the buying and selling which was going on so this was awarded 2 marks. The second paragraph is simply a repeat of the buying and selling.

In (c) three reasons are given here (one of which is developed) these are: 'the fulfillment of prophecy' (although the prophet is incorrectly identified, it still gets the mark for saying it was foretold), 'he was despised by his own people' and 'Jesus knew what was going to happen' which is developed by reference to the betrayal. The answer is coherent so it gains 8 rather than 7 marks.

In (d) (i) one reason is given for the candidate's own view - 'if the authorities listened to Jesus' so they are awarded 1 mark.

In (d) (ii) two reasons are given for the opposing view - 'Jesus was going to keep preaching the way he was' and 'authorities would not change' so this is awarded 2 marks.

(b) I do think Jesus was right to cleanse the temple because it is a place of worship where people can pray to God so it should be blessed & clean. I also think this because it shows that Jesus cared and loved God which is important for us Christians.

(c) The plot to kill Jesus is when the high priests and Pontius Pilate plot to kill Jesus for his crimes of blasphemy. This is significant because it shows us that the scriptures are true that Jesus will die.

It was also significant because Jesus ~~to~~ said one of his disciples will betray him; Judas. who helped the guards ~~plot~~ plot to kill Jesus by ~~telling them~~ where he was and ~~less~~ taking them to the garden where Jesus was praying and kissing him on the cheek to show the guards who he was. ~~This~~ This was significant because it showed that even Jesus' disciple who was suppose to be Christian and love God and Jesus was tempted by and persuaded by many things. So if someone who Jesus trusted makes mistakes and he can forgive them then we can also make mistakes and God can forgive us because we are all human. Jesus knew about ~~the~~ their plot to kill him but he didn't try to stop them. he let them kill him and fulfilled the prophecy.

(d) (i) ~~I~~ I do agree that it was inevitable that there would be conflict between Jesus and the authorities because they both had different beliefs. And the authorities believed that Jesus had committed blasphemy which was the worst crime anyone could commit in their times ~~so they had to~~ The authorities thought that Jesus questioned them and they did not like this. Also Jesus had ~~be~~ become popular in the community & the authorities felt like he was taking away their power.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me by saying that no one could have prophesied what would happen between the authorities & Jesus. The authorities may have agreed with Jesus and ~~believed~~ believed what he believed. They could have followed him & preached the word of God.



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In (b) the candidate states their own opinion and gives two undeveloped reasons in support 'it is a place of worship' and 'Jesus loved God'. These reasons needed to be developed in order to gain more than 2 marks.

In (c) three reasons are given which are 'the Scriptures are true', 'a follower of Jesus betrayed him' and 'he fulfilled the prophecy'. The answer is coherent so it gains 6 rather than 5 marks.

For (d) (i) the candidate gives three reasons in support of their view 'they believed Jesus committed blasphemy', 'they did not like Jesus questioning them' and 'they felt he was taking away their power' so this is awarded 3 marks.

In (d) (ii) one reason in support of an opposing view is given 'authorities could have followed Jesus' so 1 mark is awarded.

Question 5 (a)

The majority of candidates correctly identified Gethsemane, although there were a significant number who muddled it with Golgotha.

Write your answer here:

(a) It is the garden where Jesus and his disciples went to pray before his arrest.



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This is a correct identification of Gethsemane, although different to the glossary definition it is still awarded 2 marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) Gethsemane is the stone place where people were sent to die when they had done bad crimes.



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This candidate has Gethsemane muddled up with Golgotha, therefore received 0 marks.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) many candidates had some difficulty in relating their answers to the last part of the question '...in Mark's Gospel' and so didn't score as highly as they might have done.

Part (c) was generally answered well and many candidates had learned many of the reasons why the trial of Jesus was technically illegal and therefore unfair - particularly picking out such things as it being held at night and the witnesses failing to agree.

Part (d) again was generally answered well with many candidates finding several reasons on both sides of the argument.

(b) The resurrection is important because in Mark's Gospel because it is what the majority go by and puts down the basis that there is life after death.

Also if the resurrection wasn't important it would mean the Jesus wasn't the messiah, didn't build the bridge between man and God and didn't wash out sins away.

(c) Christians may think the trial of Jesus before the high priest was unfair because it is the law that a trial can't be held at night. Caiaphas allowed this regardless of the

law so technically it shouldn't stand. Also the guards beat Jesus ~~me~~ on numerous occasions this is ~~allow~~ also not allowed yet many turned a blind eye even with their ~~awar~~ knowledge.

Usually 24 hours ~~shout~~ must be allowed before a verdict was made and a punishment carried out however they made their verdict immediately and Jesus was crucified in the early hour with less than 24 hours in between.

Many people also made false statements but they were still taken into account even though their stories didn't fit. Some claim that Jesus said he would "take down the temple & rebuild it in three days" However Jesus was thought to have been referring to ~~the~~ his body as the temple & the rebuilding as the resurrection.

His trial and crucifixion was unjust and unfair because rules were broken but they persisted by all means.

(d) (i) I do believe that the crucifixion was bound to happen because Jesus knew that it was God's will and nothing can prevent what God wants.

Also if Jesus wasn't crucified then he wouldn't be our saviour because he wouldn't have taken away our sins which he claimed he could do.

They hated Jesus so they would have made up ~~to~~ an unjust reason just to kill him even if he did nothing wrong.

(iii) People may disagree with me because it is believed that Jesus doubt God on the cross by saying " why have you forsaken me " and in the Garden of Gethsemane when he asked God to remove his suffering. This means the people think it wasn't entirely Jesus' will so the crucifixion was half-hearted.

People may also believe that due to free will the plan could have changed and Judas wouldn't have betrayed Jesus & Pilate may have crucified Barrabas instead.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) this candidate gives their personal opinion and one simple reason 'there is life after death' and one developed reason 'wasn't the messiah' so was awarded 3 marks.

In part (c) four reasons are given which are - 'Jesus was held at night', 'the guards beat Jesus', '24 hours should elapse before sentence is carried out' and 'there were false witnesses'. The answer is coherent so it gains 8 rather than 7 marks.

In (d) (i) the candidate gives three reasons in support of their own view 'It was God's will', 'without it there would be no salvation' and 'they hated Jesus' so this is awarded 3 marks.

In (d) (ii) one reason is given in support of the opposing view 'The plan could have been changed' so only 1 mark can be awarded.



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Examiner Tip

Part (b) questions ask for two reasons. If you give more than two reasons only two will be credited. You can only access the higher marks by developing these reasons - not by giving further reasons.

(b) Yes because it shows God's power and how he cares for others. It is also important part of Marks Gospel as it is when people started to disbelieve in Jesus, so by the resurrection God is proving to the people that Jesus is who he says he is. He has just done the impossible and this shows to people it must be true and people start to believe again and this is a very significant point in Marks Gospel.

(c) Christians may think that the trial before the High Priest was unfair as Jesus was not given the chance to prove himself, he wasn't given

a proper opportunity to explain himself, as his words would be twisted and brought back upon himself. They also may believe that he shouldn't have been in that position in the first place. The High Priests already had it in their heads that he was blaspheming and he was sinning and nothing Jesus could say would change that which is why he didn't defend himself. Christians may take this as he was given no chance, that he was already convicted.

(d) (i) I agree, as Jesus knew this would happen, God had set it out to be that way. This was the only way Jesus had to fully prove himself worthy of God and of us. God had set it out in order to save us as he knew his Son would be fine but to protect us it had to be done. I believe that there was no other way as no one would believe.

(iii) Some people may disagree as they may believe that this could have been avoided. They may believe that God could have saved Jesus from being arrested, he could have proved Jesus was the Son of God, but he didn't and that is why he was crucified.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) the candidate gives their own opinion supported by two basic reasons 'shows God's power' and 'it proves Jesus is who he says he is' so this is awarded 2 marks.

In (c) two reasons are given which are 'He should not have been in that position in the first place' and 'the idea that nothing Jesus said would change their minds'. This is an alternative approach to that contained in the mark scheme, but is acceptable. The answer is coherent so it gains 4 rather than 3 marks.

In (d) (i) two reasons are given in support of the candidate's own view 'it was God's plan' and 'it was the only way that Jesus could prove himself' so this is awarded 2 marks.

In (d) (ii) one developed reason is given in support of the opposing view 'God could have prevented it' this is developed with an example - 'He could have proved Jesus was the Son of God' so 2 marks are given.

Question 6 (a)

Most candidates knew what the Upper Room was, but a surprising number of candidates thought it was a term used by Mark for Heaven.

Write your answer here:

(a) upper room: the place where he last supper took place.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has given the glossary definition so is awarded 2 marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) the upper room is the room where Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a correct definition using alternative wording and therefore worth 2 marks.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) most candidates were able to provide one or two reasons to support their opinion of this issue. However, many candidates did not develop their reasons and so were unable to get the higher marks.

In (c) most candidates were able to give one or two reasons to explain why the Last Supper was significant. However, quite a few candidates were able either to develop these reasons or to give three or four reasons. Most candidates majored on the bread and wine and its links to the Eucharist, but many also pointed to the foretelling of Judas' betrayal.

In (d) most candidates could give reasons for saying why all Christians should (or should not) believe in the resurrection but many overlooked the word 'bodily' in the question.

(b) I think Pilate should've given into the crowd because if he never there could've been a riot and he could've lost control of Judea. He also should've given it because it was prophesied that Jesus would die and if Pilate hadn't have given in the prophecy wouldn't have been fulfilled, leading to no origin for Christianity.

(c) The Last Supper was significant because it is the origin of the Eucharist and all Christians take part in the Eucharist in order to remember Jesus. It is also significant because it give a new

meaning for the Passover feast which ultimately shows that this is the new and correct religion that should be followed and it also shows the kingdom is found through Jesus. It also helps us remember how Jesus suffered for us, since the bread is his body and the wine is his flesh. The Last Supper is the beginning of a new celebration it could've also meant that the Passover feast is no longer necessary and neither are sacrifices because Jesus was the sacrifice (the bread and wine).

(d) (i) All Christians should believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus because ~~the~~ Jesus ~~appeared~~ appeared to all the disciples and Thomas even touched his wounds. They should also believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus because when the women went to the tomb his body was missing. We should also believe in the bodily resurrection because resurrecting means coming again in life and Our life is bodily.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because the Gospel of Mark without the Longer ending doesn't say Jesus appeared to all the disciples. They may also disagree with me because Jesus's human body wouldn't have been able to survive with the wounds he had. They may also disagree with me because they might think the Bible is unreliable and so therefore need other sources to prove any sort of resurrection of Jesus.



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In (b) the candidate has given two developed reasons to support their own point of view these are 'there would have been a riot' which is developed with losing control of Judea and 'prophesied that Jesus would die' which is developed with what would have happened if it hadn't taken place so this is awarded 4 marks.

In (c) three reasons, one of which is developed, are given. These reasons are 'the origin of Eucharist', 'new meaning given to the Passover' which is then developed in the last sentence and 'new meaning given to the bread and wine'. The answer is coherent so it gains 8 rather than 7 marks.

In (d)(i) two reasons are given in support of the candidate's personal view 'Jesus appeared to the disciples' and 'the tomb was empty' so this is awarded 2 marks.

In (d)(ii) three reasons are given for the opposing view 'shorter ending making no mention of the appearance to the disciples', 'a human body could not survive such wounds' and 'the Bible is unreliable' so this is awarded 3 marks.

(b) yes because any ruler will want to make his people happy so he chose who ever the crowd wanted and his was barabas. If he had of went against his people then ~~he~~ he was at risk of causing riots or protests against his people.

(c) The last supper was significant because Jesus knew that he would be leaving his disciples.

It is very significant to today because every church session always has the last supper described when Christians go up to collect the bread and wine.

(d) (i) I ~~disagree~~ agree because people who believe in Jesus have to believe everything he done ~~and~~ did. This includes him reserecting from the cross.

(ii) people may disagree because they think once a man is dead not even Jesus can perform a miracle and resurrect.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) the candidate's own opinion is supported by one developed reason 'Pilate wanted to make the crowd happy' this is developed with the outcome if he didn't so 2 marks are awarded.

In (c) one reason is given 'the link to communion'. The answer is coherent so it gains 2 rather than 1 marks.

In (d)(i) one reason is given in support of the candidate's personal view 'People who believe in Jesus have to believe everything Jesus did' so this is awarded 1 mark.

In (d)(ii) one reason is given for the opposing view 'once dead not even Jesus could resurrect' so this is awarded 1 mark.

Question 7 (a)

Most candidates answering this question were able to identify who Moses was, although a few candidates confused him with Elijah.

write your answer here.

(a) Moses is ~~only~~ an old testament prophet, ^{who,} ~~with~~ God's help, ~~with~~ ~~set~~ set the Israelites free from ~~eg.~~ egypt and parted the red sea. Then he lead them into the desert where god passed the Ten commandments down to him.



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Examiner Comments

This is a very full answer which is correct but is longer than is necessary. It includes 'Setting the Israelites free' and 'receiving the Ten Commandments' - either of these on its own would have guaranteed the 2 marks.

write your answer here.

(a) ~~At the time of Jesus~~ Moses is a disciple of Jesus and is the man who freed the slaves from egypt



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Examiner Comments

Although the first part of this answer is incorrect, the second part was sufficient to receive the full 2 marks.

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) most candidates were able to achieve maximum marks on this question because the two reasons just needed to be illustrated by a relevant example of a miracle.

In (c) the question referred to a passage from Matthew's Gospel. Even though this is a paper on Mark's Gospel, this reference to Matthew's Gospel is part of the specification. Most candidates attempting this question were aware that this was all about the role of Peter as seen by Roman Catholics.

In (d) most candidates pointed to the voice from heaven saying 'You are my son...' as showing the divine nature of Jesus. Many candidates also pointed out that many see the baptism as being the first appearance of the Trinity.

(b) yes, because many people saw his miracles and believed in Jesus also, he could because if he could die then he must not have been resurrected, so he must have performed miracles for it to have been true

(c) its important because Jesus said he would build the church on this rock, namely Peter.

also, Jesus says he gives the keys to the kingdom to Peter, making Peter the first pope. another point is that Jesus gives Peter the authority to let people in to heaven, and gives the authority to forgive sins.

(d) (i) I agree because a voice from heaven came down and said I am pleased with you, Stony Sees is the Son of God also, soon the baptism witnessed the Holy Spirit come down on Sees, and being blessed by you.

(ii) people may disagree because only some could see this happen, how does Mark know about it? also, it could have been a mirage and that they saw was an illusion. Some also said see an only baptize with water so how did Sees get blessed by the Holy Spirit?



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In (b) the candidate's own opinion is supported by two undeveloped reasons 'many saw the miracles' and 'if not he would not have been resurrected' so this is awarded 2 marks.

In (c) four reasons are given, these are 'Build the church on this rock, Peter', 'the keys of the kingdom are given to Peter', 'Peter is the first Pope' and 'Peter is given authority to let people into heaven'. The answer is coherent so it gains 8 rather than 7 marks.

In (d)(i) the candidate's own opinion is supported by two reasons, one of which is developed these are 'a voice from heaven came down' which is developed by 'what the voice said' and the second reason is 'the Holy Spirit came down' so this is awarded 3 marks.

In (d)(ii) one reason is given in support of the opposing view 'what they saw may have been an illusion' so this is awarded 1 mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Be careful that you only answer the parts (a, b, c, d) from one of the two questions on the page. If you take parts from both questions you will only be able to gain marks from one of the two questions you have answered.

(b) Yes because things that cannot be proved by science in the Bible: Healing the sick, walking on water, ~~and~~ calming the storm etc. Shows that he can ~~see~~ perform miracles.

(c) In Caesarea Philippi Jesus asked his disciples who ~~do~~ do you think I am? Some disciples answered. "Elijah" and "John the Baptist," but Peter answered

"The Messiah" (The anointed one) When Jesus heard this he began to praise Peter for what he said saying that Peter would ~~be the~~ take over when he (Jesus) was gone. This is important for ~~the~~ Catholics because Peter becomes the first pope of Rome, and the leader of the Catholic Church is the Pope. Matthew's version of the event is very important for Catholics as it gives the Pope more power, as the Mark version shows the complete opposite and gives the pope less power and authority.

(d) (i) Yes because when the baptism happened the trinity was first seen together as one. When Jesus was baptised the holy spirit came down in the form of a dove and a voice came down from heaven saying "this is my son, In him I am pleased". This shows that Jesus was divine.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me arguing that if Jesus was the son of God then he must not have sin so he doesn't need to be baptised. They may also argue that he was baptised by an ordinary person, with low status if he was divine someone with high authority and status would have done it.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) the candidate's own opinion is supported by one undeveloped reason 'the examples in the Bible' so this is awarded 1 mark.

In (c) one reason is given 'Peter became the first pope'. The answer is coherent so it gains 2 rather than 1 marks.

In (d)(i) the candidate's own opinion is supported by three valid reasons, these are: 'the Trinity seen as one', 'the Holy Spirit came down as a dove' and 'the voice from heaven', so 3 marks are awarded.

In (d)(ii) one reason given in support of the opposing view 'if divine then he has no sin and no need of baptism' so 1 mark is awarded.



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Examiner Tip

In (b) questions it only asks for what you think. So you should not give two sides to an argument (unlike in the (d) questions) unless you cannot make up your mind and can argue your point of view from both sides. But both reasons must be your point of view - not someone else's.

Question 8 (a)

This question proved difficult for many candidates with many of them thinking that a nature miracle was one which nature performed itself. In general candidates did not understand the meaning of the term in the context of Mark's Gospel.

write your answer here:

(a) Nature miracle is a miracle that Jesus show his power over nature e.g. walking on water, calming the storm.



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Examiner Comments

If the examples had been given without the definition, it would have been deemed to be a partially correct answer and been awarded 1 mark. However, this answer began with the glossary definition so gained 2 marks. The examples were not needed in order to gain the full marks.

write your answer here:

(a) A natural ~~miracle~~ miracle is a miracle that happens by its self, without someone carrying it out.



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Examiner Comments

This answer did not understand the term within the context of a study of Mark's Gospel and so was not able to gain any marks.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

In (b) although there were some good answers to this question, a lot of candidates were often muddling up the terms Son of God and Son of Man.

In (c) although most of the candidates knew what the Transfiguration was, quite a lot were unaware of when it took place and often said that it proved that Jesus had come back to life. Good answers however were able to point out the Jewish belief that Elijah would return before the Messiah came thus showing Jesus to be the Messiah.

In (d) most candidates could find at least one reason on each side of the argument. Many produced more than one.

(b) I do think that Mark proves that Jesus was the son of God because he showed numerous miracles like the calming of the storm (Mark 4:35-42) and that even the disciples were shocked by. He also did things that nobody else could do like saying he was "the son of God" and showing things to prove so & (Mark 1: 10-11) Mark recorded these events.

Mark also wrote about the baptism when Gods voice ^{descended} descended and told Jesus he was 'his son that I am well pleased with' (Mark ~~the~~ ⁶ 14-26)

(c) The transfiguration shows that Jesus could perform miracles related to himself when he split into Moses & Elijah and his clothes turned an unearthly white.

This shows that Jesus wasn't an ordinary man because he fulfilled the prophecy of Elijah and did things which were unearthly.

It also shows that he was the Son of God as he went up into the skies and did something that broke the laws of science. This also strengthened the disciples belief in him who couldn't even relieve a boy of demons (Mark 4:19-26)

The transfiguration was also Jesus's way of showing the world who he was and what he could do and also that he was greater than both Elijah & Moses so they should worship him & his rules and first of the 10 commandments given to Moses ^{should be applied to him not vice versa} ~~second~~ because he was the saviour & Messiah.

The pure white of his clothing showed his innocence & purity nobody on earth could possess.

(d) (i) I agree that there are no problems believing that Jesus could perform miracles because he was the Son of God which God confirmed at his baptism. Also all the miracles he performed couldn't be explained by science so their leaves no other explanation than God.

Also there are no problems because the disciples who were his main followers confirmed it or using their own free will and trust in God. Jesus also performs miracles today from heaven, it is believed.

(iii) People may disagree because the disciples may have been biased towards Jesus and a true follower would do as much as it takes to make the leader look too good.

Some may also see it as a problem because there are no original witnesses alive from the miracles of the gospel can come across as biased and confusing like it has on other occasions.

People may also disagree because if Jesus could perform such glorious miracles then why didn't he save himself from crucifixion and why don't such miracles occur today.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) the candidate's own opinion is supported by two reasons one of which is developed these are 'miracles' (developed with an example) and 'Mark calls him the Son of God'. The third reason is discounted as the question only two asked for so this is awarded 3 marks. In part (c) three reasons are given these are 'showed he was the Son of God', 'showed he was greater than Moses and Elijah' and 'showed his purity. The answer is coherent so it gains 6 rather than 5 marks.

In (d) (i) the candidate's personal opinion is supported by three reasons 'Son of God', 'can't be explained by science' and 'still performs them today' so this is awarded 3 marks.

In (d) (ii) three reasons are given in support of the opposing view these are 'the disciples were biased towards him', 'no original witnesses are alive' and 'why didn't he save himself?' so this is awarded 3 marks.

(b) I do think this because it shows that Jesus' message spread for so long until it actually got to Mark who didn't know Jesus and actually lived in Rome so his word was so powerful he must have been son of God. I also believe this because on ~~the~~ 2 occasions which were documented and had people around God's voice called out and claimed Jesus to be his son showing that to any disbelievers God actually called them to tell them of how Jesus is his son.

(c) The Transfiguration shows that Jesus was the messiah that was prophesied by prophets many years before even Jesus' time that are documented in the Torah as the prophet Isaiah appeared who

prophesied that he would appear to the messiah who would be king of the Jews. Jesus talked to these prophets like he already knew them which was important because it showed that Jesus was prophesied and knew this day would come and so was ready for it which shows he had no doubts about him being the son of God. The Transfiguration was another time when God's voice called to Peter, James and John and told them that Jesus was his son and this renewed their faith in him which was important as going up to Jesus' death the disciples were starting to lose hope which was simply a natural human reaction.

(d) (i) I do not agree because I believe that you should see Jesus's miracles as parables instead of actual miracles. Such as the legion story can actually be about Jesus getting rid of all the filth of society through the word of God. Another reason for this is that Jesus's miracles haven't been verified and in these times you can't be sure he did those things as it was written long ago and could have been changed. Another reason is that Jesus was sent to earth as a man and though he may still be Son of God they could be ~~signs~~ symbols of his grace but humanity and not actual miracles as a human he couldn't do.

(ii) People may disagree with me because they believe the bible as a text book instead of a book of underlying meanings and they believe Jesus did all this as he was son of God. Another reason is that people believe Jesus was given the power over nature which would allow him to perform the things. So why would they doubt that he did. Other people ~~think~~ believe this because although Jesus's teachings were all very good the people of that time would need verification of his teachings so he would do those miracles to prove that he was justified and his teachings were correct.



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Examiner Comments

In (b) the candidate's own opinion is supported by one reason 'God's voice called Jesus his son' so this is awarded 1 mark.

In (c) two reasons are given 'Jesus was the messiah' and 'the voice from heaven'. The answer is coherent so it gains 4 rather than 3 marks.

In (d)(i) the candidate's own opinion is supported by two valid reasons one of which is developed 'we should see miracles as parables' this is developed with an example and 'the miracles can't be verified'. The other reasons can be ignored as the maximum has been reached so this awarded 3 marks.

In (d)(ii) two developed reasons are given for the opposing view 'Jesus is the Son of God' and 'Jesus was given this power' so this is awarded 2 marks.

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, candidates can either attempt the sub-questions in the top question (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 lines given on the examination paper is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for candidates to write more than this. Any candidate who needs extra space can use that space allocated to other questions as long as they clearly indicate on their paper that this is what they have done.

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. This indicated that they and their teachers had not only studied the topic but importantly had linked them to their everyday life and that reflected in the society around them. These are some general points on each of the part questions:

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 then state reasons why someone might hold a different view in part (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 (d) questions on this unit can ask for the candidate to refer Christianity.

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 is also found on the Edexcel website.

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