

Examiners' Report
June 2012

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS08 01

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Introduction

This was the third year of examining for the new GCSE Religious Studies specification. There are two assessment objectives: AO1 requiring the candidates to “Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding.” AO2 requires candidates to “Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints.” AO1 is assessed using (a) and (c) type questions and AO2 is assessed in (b) and (d) type questions. Both assessment objectives are weighted at fifty per cent of the total and the same question weightings apply in each of the four compulsory sections of the untiered paper.

This year’s examination demonstrated that many candidates understood the importance of developing their simple reasons and this was reflected in (b), (c) and (d) question responses.

Question 1 (a)

All (a) questions ask for a definition of a keyword from the specification keywords glossary, or for examples of the keyword.

A pleasing number of candidates understood that the Church is the community of Christians and gave responses that scored 2 marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) The Church is the group of Christians, the Christian community.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gave a concise and correct response based firmly on the specification definition.



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Examiner Tip

One way to ensure full marks in part (a) questions is to know the glossary definition of the 12 keywords required for each section of the specification.

Not all candidates were familiar with the glossary definition. This is often the case with words that candidates assume they know, like Church, and they therefore give an incorrect or inaccurate definition. A number of candidates gave a definition of the "church" as a Christian place of worship and scored 1 mark.

Write your answer here:

(a) the holy body of christ on earth. The organisation of the Christian religion.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gave a particularly Christian view of the Church which was also credited at 2 marks.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Ensure all candidates are familiar with the specification glossary definitions.

Question 1 (b) (c) (d)

Question 1 was significantly less popular with the candidates than question 2.

In this year's examination fewer candidates confused the key medical issues required by the specification. Approximately half the candidates felt genetic engineering was a good idea whilst the others chose to disagree most commonly using religious reasons to justify their opinion.

(b) Yes as it can save lives as Jesus saved lives. Christians should try to do as Jesus did. Also it is a human right to have life and if genetic engineering gives this then it must be good.

(c) It shows what people have to do to get into heaven so they need to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and so on so forth. Also it is a parable from Jesus which shows that it is good and should be followed. Also it is told in the Bible which 100% the word of God.

(d) (i) Yes as the Bible only links to certain situations and can't link to many other situations. Also you can interpret situations in different ways and if someone interprets the Bible in a certain way they could end up doing evil things. Last of all situation ethics is following a rule from Jesus which is more up to date than God's and can link to every situation.



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Examiner Comments

In part (b) this candidate gave a clear personal opinion by saying "Yes" and then gave two developed reasons.

The first reason "It can save lives" was developed by "Christians should try to do as Jesus did". The second reason "Human right to life" is developed by "If genetic engineering does this it must be good".

The response to part (c) achieved level 4 – 8 marks. Personal opinion with one developed and two simple reasons.

This candidate illustrates that candidates do not need to fill all the available space to score maximum marks in a question and shows that quality is more important than quantity.

They achieved the marks by giving one developed and two simple reasons. The first reason "It shows what people have to do to get into heaven" is developed by accurate examples e.g. feed the hungry. The further two simple reasons are "It is from Jesus" and "It is from the Bible which is the word of God".

In part (d)(i) this candidate achieves 3 marks because they give a personal opinion (indicated by saying "Yes") with 3 simple reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) The Bible can't link to all situations. (2) The Bible is open to interpretation. (3) It is a rule from Jesus.

These reasons were all clearly views held by Christians and credited as Christian reasons which therefore fulfilled the demands of the question to refer to Christianity.

In part (d)(ii) the candidate also achieves 3 marks again because they give 3 simple reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) It may contradict the 10 commandments. (2) Bible is the word of God. (3) Could be used as an excuse.



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Examiner Tip

This candidate understands the difference between a developed and a simple reason. The candidate has not spent too much time outlining their personal opinion at length but has moved quickly to the justification for their point of view.

This candidate was clearly familiar with the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats and was able to give succinct reasons to explain why this parable is important to Christians rather than outlining the story of the Parable.

This candidate provides us with an example of where candidates tended to have the difficulties in attempting this question.

go to pray.
(b) Genetic engineering is a good idea in my opinion as it could be the difference between life and death for some people also another reason why I think it is a good idea is because it is quick and everyone could have it done, not wait on a list like you do at hospitals.

(c) The parable of the sheep and goat is important to christians because we believe 'you are your own person' none controls you. also its almost like them following god, sheep following goats, this is relevant to the religious side of things.

(d) (i) I don't think situation ethics are always the right way to make decisions because everyone are there own person and can

make' there own
Decissions, not just what
others think the should
do.

(ii)

people may disagree
with my opinion as the
could argue situation
ethics is always the
right thing to do as
its what religion is
all about.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response to part (b) has been awarded 1 mark for a personal opinion with 1 simple reason. The reason given was "It could be the difference between life and death."

There was no further credit as the remaining information is incorrect. This candidate clearly did not fully understand what genetic engineering is or why it may have value for society.

The part (c) was given 0 marks this is because there are no reasons to explain why Christians use the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats to make moral decisions. In both (d) (i) and (d)(ii) this candidate was also given 0 marks. This was because there is no evidence to suggest the candidate knows what Situation Ethics are. The reasons are vague and are not ever shown to be specific to a discussion of Situation Ethics. In (d)(ii) the reasons do not relate to Situation Ethics.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Due to the large numbers of candidates entering this examination the full range of abilities are seen throughout the marking process. Unlike the previous candidate this student spent a lot of time giving a personal opinion and then generally failed to justify that opinion with creditworthy reasons.

Question 2 (a)

Question 2(a) asked candidates "What are **human rights**?" This is a less familiar term to many candidates than "Church" but most candidates who attempted this question responded with the glossary definition.

The mark scheme for 2(a) indicates that, for full marks, candidates needed to convey the idea that these were a set of rights (and/or freedoms) coupled with the idea that everyone was entitled to these rights (rather than the notion that every human being has these rights).

Write your answer here:

(a) Rights that every person on Earth is entitled to.



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Examiner Comments

This response has the idea of a basic entitlement coupled with the idea that they apply to everyone and therefore gained full marks for this a question.



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Examiner Tip

A brief but accurate definition can gain full marks and there is often no requirement for further elaboration.

Where candidates were not familiar with the glossary definition they were frequently aware of their entitlements because of the Human Rights Act.

Write your answer here:

(a) human right is that you have got a right to speak for yourself and you have a right to say something.



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Examiner Comments

One mark was awarded to this response as it was a partially correct response. It gives an example of a human right – the right to freedom of speech. However, there is no sense of universal entitlement in this response so it could not be awarded 2 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates who cannot remember the glossary definitions of keywords can sometimes gain one mark if they include an example of what they mean. This will often gain them a mark even if the definition does not.

Question 2 (b) (c) (d)

Approximately two-thirds of the cohort attempted this question.

Some candidates continue to try to pick the parts from each of the two questions in the section. In this case they have answered 1(b) followed by 2(c) and 2(d). Candidates will only be awarded marks for one of the two questions (whichever scores most highly) so they should be strongly discouraged from doing this.

This example also illustrates one of the better responses to 2(c).

(b) I do not think ~~genetic engineering~~ genetic engineering is a good idea because God made us the way we are so humans should not try to play God.

Also, God has a plan for all of us so we should not disrupt it by changing the genes he gave us.

(c) Some Christians only use the church because they believe that it is literally the word of God so we can follow his rules through the church.

Also, other Christians believe that Jesus still acts today - through the church, so we should follow him through the church when making moral decisions.

Other Christians use only the church when making moral decisions as anything can be done if someone says it's the most loving thing to do - Situation Ethics - so we should use the church as it's God's word and Jesus' teachings

Finally, other Christians believe that the

Church's teachings are a modernised version of God's rules so they are more applicable to everyday situations, therefore the Church's teachings should be the only way we make moral decisions.

(d) (i) I do not think that conscience should always be our guide as it does not always lead to us doing the best thing. Also, I think when making a decision we should use the teachings of God or Situation Ethics as they're more reliable than our conscience. Finally, conscience should not always be our guide as it is unaware of the effects/risks that come with each decision we make.

(ii) others may disagree with me as they may think we should use our conscience as the teachings of the Church only applied to Biblical times and we do not know the effects of Situation Ethics so we should use our conscience. Also, our conscience tells us if the decision we are about to make is wrong so we can make the right choices. Finally, we should use our conscience as it is a feeling inside us so it knows what's best for us.



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Examiner Comments

Although this candidate has chosen to answer question 2 this candidate has actually responded to the 1(b) question on genetic engineering. Therefore they could not be credited for their answer to 1(b) as they score more highly on their responses to question 2. In part (c) this response achieves level 4 – 8 marks as they give four simple explanations.

These were credited as follows: (1) They follow the rules of God through the Church. (2) Jesus acts today through the Church. (3) The Church is more reliable than situation ethics. (4) The Churches teachings modernise Gods' rules so are more applicable today.

The religious context is clear so the higher of the two possible level 4 marks were awarded.

In (d)(i) this response achieves 3 marks as a personal opinion with three simple reasons is given.

The three reasons given are: (1) It doesn't always lead to doing the most loving thing. (2) The teaching of God is more reliable. (3) It doesn't take into account the effects / risks associated with a decision.

In (d)(ii) they also give three simple reasons and so are awarded 3 marks.

The three reasons given are: (1) More up to date than Church teaching. (2) We cannot know the effects of Situation Ethics. (3) It is inside us, so it knows what is best for us.

Many candidates responded by giving ideas about why conscience was better than the alternatives and this was credited as a relevant alternative approach.



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Examiner Tip

This example illustrates a good way to structure a response to a part (c) question by starting a new paragraph for each new reason.

Many candidates gave strong developed reasons in support of being your "brother's keeper". Almost all used a variety of religious teachings to support their opinion as this candidate has.

(b) I believe I am my 'brother's keeper' because the second commandment teaches me to love my neighbour and another commandment teaches me to honor my father & mother, which leads to respect for my siblings. I believe you should take care of those around you to help follow God's teaching and to follow in Jesus, and do the most loving thing.

I also believe this because I follow the parable of the sheep & goats taught by Jesus where I should help others to stay on the ~~narrow~~^{wide} path to heaven & unity with God. I also believe in the golden rule where I would want someone to watch out for me so I ~~also~~ should do the same for them.

(c) Some Christians use only the teachings of the Church to make moral decisions because they use God's ~~the~~ words & Jesus' teachings and help explain them for its members to fully comprehend. The

Church helps Christians make moral decisions by discussing what is the most Christian thing to do in certain situations and how God would want you to act; the Church is a support system for Christians.

Other Christians may use the Church for moral guidance as they cannot use situation ethics because they are unsure what the most loving thing to do is in ~~the~~ some situations. The Church is available to explain God's words in modern terms and define them, in this Church's opinion, on how they

should be used in everyday life.

These Christians also use the teachings of the Church only for moral decisions because they have, most likely, been through most issues themselves and use the Bible to support their teachings. The Church can give someone a variety of answers to their dilemma and they can use the most Christian one, in their view, to help them in their decision.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because your conscience was given to you by God and you should trust it to lead you to the most Christian path. I also agree due to the idea that your conscience can be supported by the teachings in the Bible if needed and therefore will be God's words. I also agree because the conscience is always there with you and will tell you exactly what to do while different passages in the Bible can be interpreted to contradict each other so can be confusing as to what should be done.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because * your conscience was given to you by God and you should trust it to lead you to ^{follow} the most Christian path. I also agree due to the idea that your conscience can be supported by the teachings in the Bible if needed and therefore will be God's words. I also agree because the conscience is always there with you and will tell you exactly what to do while different passages in the Bible can be interpreted to contradict each other so can be confusing as to what should be done.



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Examiner Comments

In part (b) this response was awarded 4 marks for a personal opinion with 2 developed reasons. The two developed reasons given were:

(1) Follows Jesus' teaching developed by to do the most loving thing. (2) The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats developed by "where I should help others".

This part (c) response was credited for having a personal opinion with one developed and two simple reasons and so achieved level 4 – 8 marks. The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) They explain the teachings of Jesus which is developed by "they discuss what is the most Christian thing to do". (2) You may not know what the most loving thing is. (3) The people in church have been through the issues themselves developed by they use the Bible to support their teaching.

In response to (d)(i) 3 marks were awarded for a personal opinion with three simple reasons.

These reasons were:

(1) The conscience was given by God. (2) It can be supported by Bible teaching. (3) It is always there. (This reason is developed by the idea that the Bible can be interpreted in different ways but the candidate has already achieved full marks on this part question).

In (d)(ii) they also achieve 3 marks for giving three simple reasons.

These reasons were: (1) The Bible helps us to live as God intended. 2. Situation ethics is used because it is "love thy neighbour". (3) They seek advice from the early Church leaders from the beginning of Christianity.

Question 3 (a)

The vast majority of candidates used the glossary definition of infertility or gave a valid alternative wording.

Write your answer here:

(a) Infertility is the inability to have children.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response was given 2 marks as an alternative wording of "not being able to have children".

Write your answer here:

(a) Infertility is a virus in a humans body and some Christians are against the treatment.



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Examiner Comments

Unfortunately this candidate went off at a tangent and therefore could not score any marks.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

This candidate scored 13 out of 20 for the following response. The response to part (b) shows two developed reasons offered in support of their opinion. There were fewer instances of candidates giving one reason to support their argument followed by "Other people would disagree with me because..." which would not be credited as it is not the candidate's personal opinion.

(b) I think natural resources may run out because people are using them excessively at the moment some people aren't aware of the problems with using an excessive amount and ~~are~~ not aware of how quickly they can run

out. Also, there is an exponential growth in the population of the world right now. This means that it is growing rapidly and shows no sign of stopping. This means that more and more people will be wanting to use all the natural resources and they will continue to run low until they run out completely.

(c) Some Muslims are against transplant surgery. This is because they think that a person has been made to be how they are and it would be wrong to give away organs that God has provided you with, ~~transplant surgery~~ is ~~organ~~ donation. They are also against ^{transplant surgery} organ donation because if the person has an illness, they feel ~~it~~ that if they were suppose to survive it and get through it, then God would have provided themselves with the means to do so rather than other Muslims giving their organs away.

(d) (i) I think that all ^{religious people} religions should have to live lifestyles which do not harm the environment. I think this because if a non-religious person has the right to non environmentally friendly things then so do religious people because they all have the same Human Rights. Also, just because people are religious doesn't mean that their lives have to be

disadvantaged. For example, a car can cause pollution which means it may harm the environment, however religious people still have the right to drive one too.

(iii) People may disagree with me. Christians believe that God created the world himself, therefore they need to preserve it and never try to harm it. Therefore, driving cars and running factories ~~are~~ for example are ~~the~~ things of which Christians shouldn't do because they are causing pollution which is harming the world that God made.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response to part (b) achieved 4 marks for a personal opinion with two developed reasons.

The two developed reasons were:

(1) Excessive use developed by people aren't aware of the problems. (2) Exponential population growth developed by more people want the resources.

In part (c) this candidate gave one developed reason and was credited with 4 marks. The developed reason given was - a person has been made by God how they are - which is developed by the idea that if you were supposed to survive God would have provided the means to do so.

One way for this candidate to reach a higher level would be to give further reasons to explain why most Muslims do not agree with transplant surgery.

This response to part (d)(i) achieved 3 marks for a personal opinion with one fully developed reason which was - religious people have the same rights as others. This was developed by religion shouldn't mean you are disadvantaged and was fully developed by the example of driving a car.

In part (d)(ii) the candidate gave one developed reason and achieved 2 marks. The developed reason was God created the world developed by driving cars causes pollution and harms God's world.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

There were still some examples of candidates who gave both sides of the debate even when (as in this case in part (c)) only one was required. Candidates should make sure they only answer the question that has been asked.

Many candidates drew a distinction between non-renewable resources on the one hand which are likely to run out and renewable resources on the other hand which will not.

- (b) I ~~do~~ think they will
- Firstly, we are using too much oil and no regulations are being put in place to stop drilling
 - Secondly, the natural resources are finite whereas our need for fuel is infinite.

(c) Islam is against transplant surgery. Firstly they believe the body is a temple. Because of this to take anything out of the body would be interfering with God's elegant design. Therefore removing organs would go against this.

Secondly, ~~not~~ some Muslims believe that all humans will be resurrected on the day of ~~their~~ reckoning, Judgement day. For this they will need their organs to be fully resurrected. If organ donation takes place this cannot happen because the person is not complete. Therefore they disagree with transplant surgery.

Thirdly many Muslims believe that taking organs away and giving it to someone ~~else~~ else is playing God. Muslims only believe in one God and therefore trying to be the creator is a sin. Therefore ~~the~~ some do not agree with transplant surgery.

Finally many Muslims interpret the teachings of the Quran as being against organ donation. Since the Quran is the Holy book of Muslims they believe in its teachings therefore some disagree with transplant surgery.

(d) (i)

I believe ~~that~~ that religious people have free will. Therefore if they want to ~~harm~~ ^{harm} the environment they can. If God disagreed with this ~~to~~ they can punish them after they die in Hell. Therefore I disagree with this statement. Furthermore trying to stop them will go against their free will.

(ii)

Some religious people such as Muslims believe in Stewardship. This means we are all 'khalifas' and have a duty to protect the environment for the next generation. Therefore protecting the environment is very important for some religious people.

(d) (i)

I believe ~~that~~ that religious people have free will. Therefore if they want to ~~harm~~ ^{harm} the environment they can. If God disagreed with this ~~to~~ they can punish them after they die in Hell. Therefore I disagree with this statement. Furthermore trying to stop them will go against their free will.

(ii)

Some religious people such as Muslims believe in Stewardship. This means we are all 'stewards' and have a duty to protect the environment for the next generation. Therefore protecting the environment is very important for some religious people.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this answer to (b) the candidate gave a personal opinion with 2 developed reasons for 4 marks. The two developed reasons given were:

- (1) We are using too much oil developed by "there are no regulations to stop drilling".
- (2) Natural resources are finite developed by "our need for fuel is infinite".

This response illustrates the point that development is about quality rather than quantity.

In part (c) four simple reasons were given for 8 marks.

These four reasons were:

- (1) Removing things from the body interferes with God's eloquent design.
- (2) They need their organs for resurrection.
- (3) Playing God.
- (4) The idea that the teachings of the Qur'an prohibit organ transplant.

In (d)(i) 2 marks were awarded for a personal opinion with 1 developed reason. The developed reason was free will which was developed by the idea that God may punish them later.

In (d)(ii) they again gave one developed reason for 2 marks. The reason given was the Muslim belief in stewardship. This was developed by protecting the environment for the next generation.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This candidate used a format for the part (c) question which made it very clear when a second reason was being offered. There were many examples of similar good practice throughout the responses seen.

Question 4 (a)

The vast majority of candidates understood global warming to mean "the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere" which is the definition found in the key words section of the specification.

Many candidates understood and wrote confidently about what global warming is and its possible effects. Many candidates still link global warming with an increasingly large hole in the ozone layer and many asserted that this hole was caused by increased production of carbon dioxide.

Write your answer here:

(a) global warming is the warming of the planet through the destruction of the ozone layer.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this case the answer "warming of the planet" scores the 2 marks. The reason given as the cause is inaccurate; however in a part (a) question the correct definition was still credited.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Understanding about global warming could perhaps be addressed by a common approach to the teaching of this topic in both Science and Religious Studies.

Some candidates demonstrated an understanding of the probable causes of global warming without explaining what it actually means.

Write your answer here:

(a) is where all of the factories smoke and a car exhaust smoke go in the air.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This example does not include either the idea of a temperature increase or the fact that it is the whole earth and focusses instead on air pollution and therefore could not be awarded any marks.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

The part (b) question caused some problems for those candidates who focussed on the word "pollution" and who did not appreciate that the focus of the question was whether we worry about it too much. By not addressing the question that was set they could not achieve more marks.

(b) I think pollution is a big thing as we still pollute alot at the same time as trying to cut down if pollution was completely stopped many people would lose jobs ~~as~~ as people ~~may~~ need lorries, planes, boats, to get around so to help lower it down to a reasonable level all the countries in the world need to agree on stopping pollution.

(c) Some Christians are against infertility treatment as it is classed as playing God and also life's Christians think God meant everyone to have babies the natural way and not by mechanical use

Christians believe its wrong because it's not a 100% perfect and can result in the baby being deformed or having defects.

God was made everyone in his image.

(d) (i) I agree that organ donation should be compulsory like it is in Spain and if you don't want to donate you can opt out. It would also help to shorten the waiting list of people waiting for organs this would save so much more life's a year because they don't have to wait for organs

(ii) Muslims believe that if you die and you don't have all your body parts Allah won't grant you entry in Paradise so they don't agree with organ donation



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In part (b) this response is not answering the question from the paper but rather a more general question about pollution and so was awarded 0 marks. The responses must answer the question that was set.

In answer to part (c) 4 marks were awarded for two simple reasons which were - playing God and - God intended babies to be born naturally.

In (d)(i) 2 marks were awarded for a personal opinion with two simple reasons.

These reasons were:

(1) It would shorten waiting lists. (2) It would save lives.

For (d)(ii) one simple reason was given for 1 mark. The reason credited was - you need your organs for paradise.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates need to read the question carefully and respond to the question set. There was some suggestion that candidates saw a word like "pollution" and wrote everything they could remember about the problem of pollution without actually answering the question set.

This response illustrates two points of note from this question. In part (b) the candidate chooses to answer in the opposite way to that suggested by the markscheme by saying "No", (they do not worry too much) followed by two reasons that suggest they should be worrying more.

In part (c) the candidate did not respond to the fact that the question asked for Christian reasons not to agree with infertility treatments and instead answered on Islam - this could not be credited as it did not answer the question set.

(b) No, because pollution is constantly affecting the Earth in a negative way. Christianity teaches about stewardship where we should look after things before passing it down to the next generation. If we don't worry about pollution or try to stop it, we will be going against this teaching and the Earth will be in a bad state for the generation below us.

(c) In ^{the} Islamic religion they believe that treatments for infertility are playing as the God role. They believe that no one has the power or level of God therefore no one should try to be him. Religions believe that if someone is infertile that is the way God wanted them to be. By trying to change this you are tampering with God's plan. Some people also believe that we should leave things to run naturally and some situations man should not get involved with.

(d) (i) No, I believe this takes away people's human rights as their organs are their property they should have a choice of where it goes.

Religions like Islam are against organ transplants, they believe this trying act as God. Also having someone else's organ out of your own another religion may affect how much a part of Islam they are. Donating your organs would be contributing to something the Islamic religion is against.

(iii) People may disagree with me because organ donations save lives. In the Christian religion Jesus taught to love thy neighbour and by donating an organ you are helping another person. Also by not donating an organ you could be taking away someones right to live.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response to part (b) achieved 3 marks for a personal opinion with one simple and one developed reason. The simple reason given was - pollution is affecting the earth in a negative way. They also said that - Christianity teaches stewardship which was developed by not worrying about it or not trying to stop it goes against this teaching.

The part (c) question asked for Christian views. This candidate begins by talking about Muslim views then goes on to using the non-specific "religions" this therefore cannot be credited as Christian. So this response was awarded 0 marks.

For (d)(i) this candidate gives a personal opinion with two simple reasons for 2 marks.

The reasons credited were:

(1) You should choose where your organs go. (2) Islam believes it is trying to act as God.

The comment on affecting how Muslim they are afterwards was not credited.

As with (i), in (ii) the candidate gave a personal opinion with two simple reasons for 2 marks.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) It saves lives. (2) Love thy neighbour.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should practice alternative ways a question might be asked to focus their attention on answering the question set.

Question 5 (a)

Question 5(a) asked the candidates to define *aggression*.

As this is a word in common use, fewer candidates gave the glossary definition. However, in order to achieve full marks their response needed the idea of anger/violence with the idea that it was unprovoked.

Write your answer here:

(a) Aggression is when you attack someone without being provoked.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This gained full marks as it covers the glossary definition and has the ideas of both violence and unprovoked.

This answer scored 0 marks. It has no sense of either violence (anger) and no sense that it is for no reason.

Write your answer here:

(a) aggression is were some one shows envy or jealousy in another person life or maybe what another person believes in.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

It is particularly important to make sure candidates are giving accurate definitions of words in common usage.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Question 5(b) asked "Do you think some wars are worth fighting?" Many candidates took the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of 'Just War theory' to either agree or disagree with the statement.

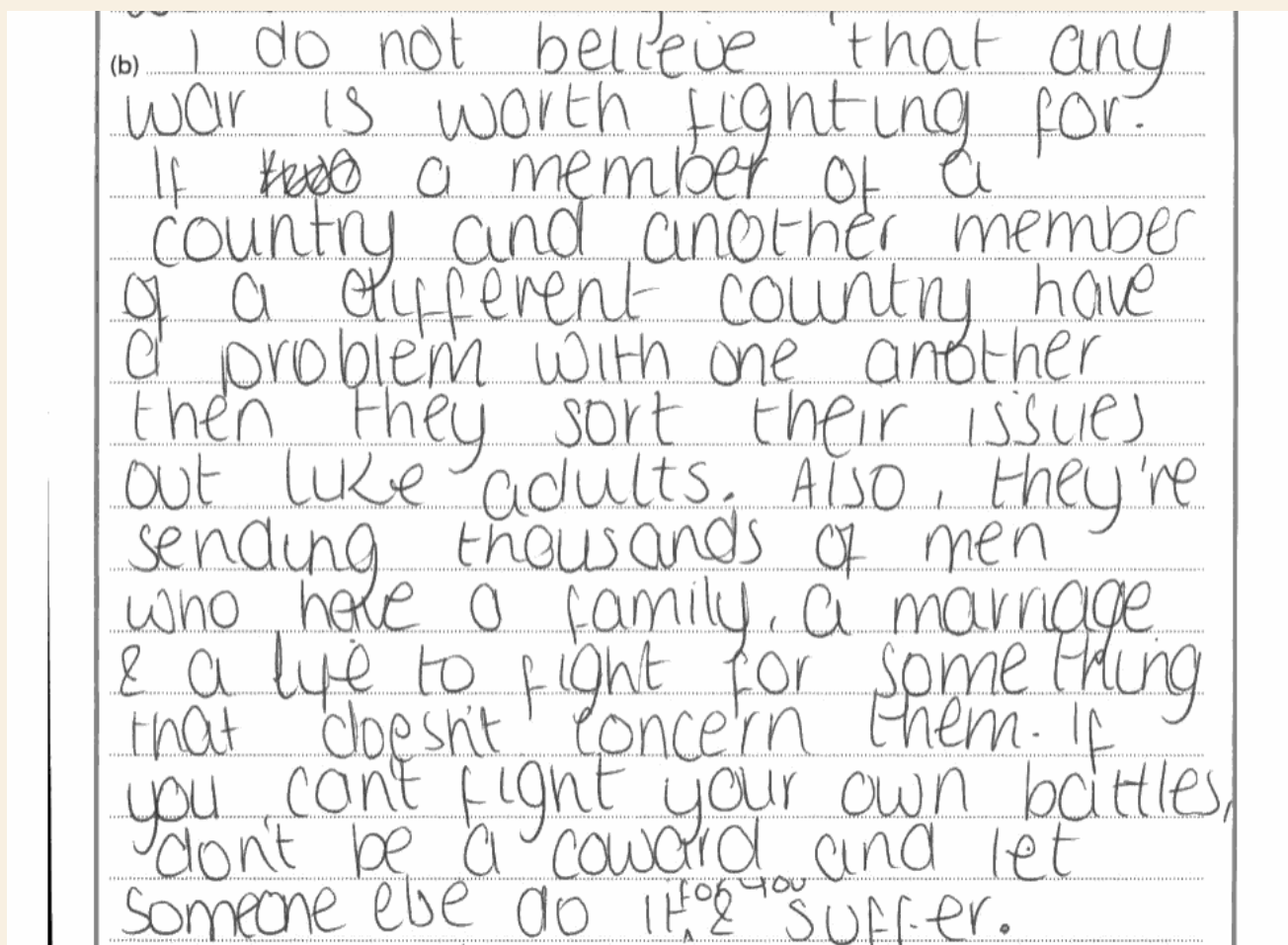
Part (c) asked candidates to "Explain how a religious organisation tries to work for world peace". The significant point here is that the question asks for how rather than why. The reasons why religious groups work for world peace is not required by the specification. As a result many candidates answered a different question and, although the religious teachings employed were of value it could not be credited.

Part (d) asked candidates to consider the statement "There should never be conflict in a religious family". Often candidates disagreed and went on to give valid reasons why there could be sources of conflict in a religious family. The reasons offered to agree with the statement were often weaker and showed little appreciation of religious teachings on family life.

Many candidates found it difficult to name a religious organisation that works for world peace. However, this was not required by the mark scheme so incorrect examples, as in this case, could be ignored and credit was given for things a religious organisation could do to work for world peace.

The most common example offered by candidates was the United Nations. They often then went on to talk about sanctions and peace keeping forces which are outside the remit of any religious organisation and could not be credited.

The part (d) question shows a further incorrect approach among candidates who claim to be giving an alternative view in (d)(ii) but go on to offer reasons that further support their stated opinion. This candidate gave reasons why there may be conflict in a religious family in both (i) and (ii).



(b) I do not believe that any war is worth fighting for. If ~~two~~ a member of a country and another member of a different country have a problem with one another then they sort their issues out like adults. Also, they're sending thousands of men who have a family, a marriage & a life to fight for something that doesn't concern them. If you can't fight your own battles, don't be a coward and let someone else do it for you suffer.

(c) ~~in the past~~ ~~users~~ ~~their~~ ~~shorter~~
~~the~~ ~~religious~~ ~~as~~ ~~as~~ ~~religious~~ ~~people~~
~~because~~ Religious organisation
such as Greenpeace tries

and promotes world peace by protesting, they will stand outside a government body such as parliament, and camp there for days and days, until their point is heard.

They also send out flyers and leaflets to shops, pubs and letter boxes to try and get their point across. Some who take part, take a more violent method by marches, as they know that the police will get involved and trouble will be caused. They also put banners up on buses around London, so the government will react ~~to~~ to this and give them a response. They also write letters to the government addressing their point and what they want done about it. If the government disagree, then this is where the camping protest begins.

(d) (i) I agree that conflict should happen between religious families like Christians, some have different beliefs to other Christians and they have to lay down the line they also do this in front of children, so when the children grow up, they know that what they think is right, and that no-one should dictate their judgement. They follow the parables & believe conflict will end in resolution.

(ii) However, I do not agree with this because of other reasons. Muslim women might not want to wear a burka because they want to be their own person.

~~Also~~ Also, they might ~~want~~ have their own view to their

religion and might not want to follow it, they might want to follow their own religion or another faith they can pursue. They may not agree, & find out what life is like with no rules.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response to part (b) was awarded 2 marks for a personal opinion and one developed reason. The reason was they should resolve their differences like adults, which was developed by fight your own battles.

In part (c) this incorrect example, Greenpeace, was ignored and ways of working for world peace were credited. This response achieved level 4 – 8 marks by stating four ways.

These were:

(1) Protesting. (2) Advertising fliers. (3) Marches. (4) Letters to the government.

These are all methods used by religious organisations and therefore can be credited.

In (d)(i) 2 marks was awarded for a personal opinion and one developed reason. The reason was the variety of beliefs in Christianity which was developed by means you may have to "lay down the line" so they know what is right.

The response to (d)(ii) was awarded 0 marks because the candidate goes on to give further reasons why there can be conflict in a religious family so is not presenting an alternative view.

This response provides an example of the difficulties encountered when candidates tried to apply the work of the United Nations to this question.

(b) I do not believe any wars are worth fighting because innocent lives will always be lost. Also the ten commandments state "thou shall not kill"

A religious organisation called the United Nations tries to promote world peace by creating a peace treaty that a number of countries sign to say they will maintain the peace between them.

They also help civilians whose countries are at war by such as Israel and Pakistan.

(d) (i) I agree with the statement because Christians believe in forgiveness as Jesus said not to forgive 7 times, but 70 x 7 times. Furthermore the household would all have the same beliefs so no one would quarrel about that.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because, if every one is religious and one member of the family decides that they are an atheist - then that would cause a considerable amount of conflict. Another point is if a Muslim girl who is already in an arranged

marriage decides she wants to marry a man of another religion, then there would be conflict within that house.



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Examiner Comments

In part (b) 2 marks were awarded for a personal opinion and two simple reasons.

The reasons credited were:

(1) Innocent lives will be lost. (2) "Do not kill".

This response to part (c) was awarded 0 marks. It was not unusual for candidates to cite the UN as a religious organisation working for world peace and this therefore invalidates paragraph one because religious organisations cannot make peace treaties. The second paragraph may indeed be true of religious organisations but it is aid work rather than world peace so cannot be credited.

In (d)(i) this response scored 2 marks for a personal opinion and two simple reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) Jesus said to forgive 7x70. (This provides the religious reason required of the question). (2) If all have the same beliefs there is no source of conflict.

In (ii) again the candidate score 2 marks for two simple reasons.

The reasons were: (1) If one becomes an atheist. (2) Marrying a person of a different religion.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

The best answers discussed the work of organisations like Pax Christi or the Quakers.

Question 6 (a)

Question 6(a) asked the candidates: What is "reconciliation"?

The majority of candidates had very confused ideas of the meaning of reconciliation often equating it with forgiving someone. In order to achieve full marks the definition had to include the ideas that reconciliation is a two way process and the idea that the people or groups concerned were formerly opposed to each other.

Write your answer here:

(a) Reconciliation is bringing people who were opposed to each other together.



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Examiner Comments

This was awarded 2 marks as it is a mark scheme definition

Write your answer here:

(a) Reconciliation is when two people or groups who have been in conflict learn to forgive or forget the issue.



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Examiner Comments

This was awarded 2 marks because it covers both the idea of two groups being involved and the idea that they were formerly opposed to each other.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

The vast majority of candidates complied with the instruction in part (d) question to refer to a religion other than Christianity. This candidate is an example of someone who did not and therefore could not access the full range of marks.

(b) I do believe that everyone deserves to be forgiven because Jesus believes that you should not forgive 7 times, but 77 times and he believes that no matter what someone does, they should always be forgiven. ALSO, everyone deserves to be forgiven because they may have made a mistake and they will change if you forgive them.

(c) Christians are against Bullying because bullying is when you intimidate or frighten someone weaker than yourself and God created people to respect and love one another, but if you bully someone, you are going against what he put you on earth to do. ALSO, some Christians are against Bullying because you are harming/frightening someone weaker than yourself and you know they are too frightened to fight back and it's wrong to carry on abusing someone. Physical bullying is wrong because you shouldn't abuse someone as you would harm the human God created and you should respect every human for what they are and not to make them feel unwanted in the world.

(d) (i) I don't agree that 'Religious people should never go to war' because if someone was ruining or destroying their country, they would want to fight for their country. Just war is what people ~~Christians~~ should follow because it's a war fought in a ~~to~~ fair and right way. And, some believe that ~~is there~~ if there is a successful outcome at the end of war, they should be allowed. War should be the last resort, if there are other options to resolve a problem, they should all be tried before a war.

(iii) Some people may disagree because religious people shouldn't go to war as people should not kill or destroy other humans lives. Civilians are always killed in wars, however it is not the aim of a war. Also, some people may disagree with me because a war is not the way to solve problems and it ends up with thousands of lives lost.



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Examiner Comments

In part (b) this candidate achieved 4 marks for a personal opinion with two developed reasons.

The two developed reasons were:

(1) Jesus said forgive 77 times, which was developed by the idea that no matter what someone does they should always be forgiven. (2) They may have made a mistake, which was developed by they will change if you forgive them.

Part (c) was awarded level 3 = 6 marks for giving three reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) God created people to respect and love one another. (2) You are harming someone weaker than yourself and it is wrong to carry on abusing someone. (3) It harms Gods creation.

In (d)(i) the candidate gave a personal opinion with 3 simple reasons for 3 marks.

The three reasons were:

(1) They want to protect their country. (2) A Just War is fought in a fair and right way. (3) It is the last option; everything else has been tried.

In (d)(ii) this response scored 0 marks. This is because there is no specifically religious reason from a religion other than Christianity so it cannot be awarded more than 3 marks in total for part (d).



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Examiner Tip

In what was otherwise a strong response this candidate could not gain three marks because they did not give a specifically religious reason. Candidates should practice questions with this requirement so they realise they need to look out for it.

There was evidence of candidates inventing quotes from the Bible and the Qur'an and many things were attributed erroneously to both Jesus and Muhammad.

Candidates should also know that it is perfectly permissible to use reasons from Christianity in questions like these as they will be credited as long as one reason is from a religion other than Christianity.

(b) As a strong Christian I think everyone deserves to be forgiven because in the parable of the sheep and the goats, if you have not forgiven people for their sins then why should God forgive you for yours. Also there is the point of "What would Jesus do?" ~~so~~ so people should go by the word of Jesus. His last words on the cross were him talking to God saying "Forgive them father, they know not what they do" so Jesus forgave the men who were murdering him setting the example that everyone can be forgiven.

(c) Christians are against bullying because they have very strict guidelines about being kind to one another. Things like "The Golden Rule" (do unto others as you

would have them do unto you), so if you were bullying someone then you would technically be allowed to bully them because that is what the Golden rule says.

Secondly, Jesus said to do the most loving thing so bullying someone would not be a loving thing to do. Forgiveness also comes into this along the way ^{so kindly} because

a Christian would believe about the parable of the sheep and the goats, so if you were bullying someone throughout your life, then on the judgement day you would be made a goat because you did not do the most loving thing and help the person you were bullying.

(d) (i) As a strong Muslim I believe that religious people should be allowed to go to war because Muhammed who was the perfect human had been allowed to go to war so a Muslim should follow in the ways of Muhammed and go to war. Also if it was a 'Just War' then it would be the better thing to do to go to war.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they believe that a conflict resolution would be the best way to resolve any kind of argument so that it is brought to a peaceful solution. Also they may believe that if a war involved a weapon of mass destruction then it would be unfair for the innocent women, ~~the~~ children, men and livestock caught up in someone else's war.



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In part (b) this candidate was awarded 3 marks for a personal opinion with one simple and one developed reason.

The simple reason was - if you don't forgive people then why should God forgive you? The second reason was the example of Jesus, which was developed by "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". Part (c) was awarded level 3, 6 marks. The candidate gave three reasons. Which were: (1) The Golden Rule. (2) Do the most loving thing. (3) You will be judged on Judgement Day.

In (d)(i) the response was awarded 2 marks for a personal opinion with two simple reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) Muhammad allowed war. This was taken as a valid religious view from a religion other than Christianity. (2) Just wars are a good thing.

In part (ii) 2 marks were achieved for two simple reasons. These were:

(1) Conflict resolution is better than war. (2) Using weapons of mass destruction would be unfair.

Question 7 (a)

Question 7(a) asked for a definition of *judgement*.

Many candidates used the glossary definition to achieve full marks, of those who did not the most common wrong answer gave a definition of prejudice.

Write your answer here:

(a) Judgement is where someone is treated differently by the way they look without even being known by someone. I don't think of it as prejudice.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a definition of prejudice and therefore scores 0 marks as this is a definition of another keyword.

Write your answer here:

(a) Judgement is where someone is examined on what they've done, like God will judge us on our own life. What is right or wrong on passing a people opinion.

(b)



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Examiner Comments

This was awarded 2 marks for God's decision on the quality of a life.

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

Question 7(c) asked the candidates to "Explain why justice is important for Christians".

This was probably the least well answered question on the paper with many candidates answering on why the justice system is important or, on punishment and forgiveness, rather than the reasons why justice is important to Christians.

Few candidates offered a sophisticated account of why justice is important to Christians. This response typifies the descriptive responses which were common.

(b) I think capital punishment is wrong, people have the right to live a life. Its wrong to kill or someone has been committed for a crime and they put them on death row and turn out to be mistaken yet your still killing taking a life away no one has the right to take a life. Capital punishment is never the answer. It ends with all the guilt being on you and its proves if you kill and take away a life that your just as bad as them. also it make the community/society look bad. People would no longer want to live there.

(c) Justice is important to christians because without justice nothing is solved people need justice, right to live. need justice over there own or there relatives that have been murdered they want justice because they will always live in terrible grief if not. right to fair trial, the right to know things. christians believe that justice is there to be served there to live life.

(d) (i) I agree because if you don't they will never learn right from wrong they will do it again and again. Christians believe that people/criminals should pay for what they did otherwise it will happen again and no one would do anything about it. Buddhists believe in ahimsa - total non-violence no one should treat people badly. Buddhists try to avoid suffering. Christians golden rule treat others how you'd like to be treated. Not end up in violence - violence is never an option to take.

(ii) People would disagree with me because sometimes people are mistaken for things that they haven't done. Christians believe to love thy neighbour and Buddhists believe in metta - loving kindness. Not to let them suffer but give the imprisonment show them not to do it again. Sometimes people are framed for the wrong things.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

In part (b) this response was awarded 4 marks for a personal opinion with two developed reasons.

These were:

(1) It is wrong to kill, which was developed by you could turn out to be mistaken. (2) You are just as bad as them, which was developed by it makes society look bad.

This response to part (c) was awarded level 1, 2 marks for a general description of why everybody needs justice. This was not specific to Christianity and therefore could only be credited as a description. Part (d)(i) was awarded 2 marks for a personal opinion with two simple reasons.

The reasons were credited as follows:

(1) They need to learn right from wrong. (2) It would keep happening.

In part (ii) 0 marks were awarded as there was no valid alternative view. There is nothing in (ii) to uphold the view that criminals should not be made to pay for their crimes. The candidate mentions twice that mistakes could be made, but in that scenario it wouldn't be the criminal who was paying.

Strong candidates often gave examples of Christians working for justice in the world. e.g. Jubilee 2000. Some candidates, like this one, gave simple reasons why Christians should be just and were credited accordingly.

(b) Yes I do think ~~purist~~ capital punishment is wrong because it is the same as murder, and murder is not right. Also, capital punishment is not always effective enough compared to life in prison because life in prison gives people a chance to change, where as capital punishment does not.

(c) Justice is important for Christians because firstly, they believe that God is the God of Justice and Christians should inspire to be like God.

Christians also believe that justice is important because they believe that Jesus gave money to the poor and Jesus is a good example of a good Christian and so they should be like Jesus.

Thirdly, many churches have made statements ~~about~~ about Justice and Christians believe that Church is right and so they should follow teachings of the Church.

Fourthly, Christians believe that they should do as their Government says and so they should support their Government's statements about Justice. For example, a fair trial for justice.

Also, the Bible has made statements about justice

and Christians believe they should follow teachings of the Bible.

(d)(i) I agree as I believe that if people pay for their crimes they will be able to understand the crimes they have committed and those punishments will deter them from doing it again. If people pay for their crimes, those affected can also benefit, for example, community service.

(iii) A Christian might disagree with me because they believe that people should 'turn thy cheek' and ~~st~~ forgive people for their sins. They also believe this ~~because~~ because Jesus died on the cross for the reconciliation and forgiveness of everyone.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In part (b) this candidate gave a personal opinion with one simple and one developed reason and was credited with 3 marks. The simple reason was - it is murder. The developed reason was - not as effective as life in prison which was developed by this gives people a chance to change.

In the response to (c) three reasons were given which achieved level 3, 6 marks. The three reasons were:

(1) God is a God of justice. (2) Churches teach justice. (3) The Bible talks about it.

This answer to (d)(i) was awarded 3 marks for a personal opinion with one developed and one simple reason.

It was credited as follows:

(1) If they pay they will understand the crime they have committed, this was developed by the punishment will deter them. (2) Those affected can benefit.

In (ii) this response gave three simple reasons for 3 marks.

These were credited as follows:

(1) "Turn the other cheek" (2) Forgive people their sins (3) Jesus died for the forgiveness of all.

Question 8 (a)

Question 8(a) asked "What is **retribution**?" Many candidates defined retribution accurately, those who didn't equated it with revenge and scored one mark. A number of candidates confused it with reform or rehabilitation.

Write your answer here:

(a) Retribution is the punishment given to a person who has committed a crime. It is making them pay for what they have done.



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Examiner Comments

This is a response on the mark scheme scoring 2 marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) This is like getting someone back for something they have done to you.



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Examiner Comments

This achieved 1 mark for a partially correct response giving a definition of revenge.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

Question 8(b) asked "Do you think laws help society"? There was an overwhelmingly positive response to this question with many candidates suggesting that it made society safer and fairer and illustrating this with relevant examples.

Part (c) asked candidates to explain how alcohol can lead to social problems. Many candidates answered the question with enthusiasm and many scored highly. Those who didn't tended to focus their response on religious attitudes to alcohol rather than the problems it causes in society.

While part (d) asked candidates to respond to the quote "Capital punishment is a sin", Some candidates ignored the sin aspect of the question and wrote as though the question was "Do you think capital punishment is a bad thing?"

There was evidence of increasing use of developed reasons in part (c) responses as exemplified by this candidate.

(b) I think that laws do help society. I think this as by giving the people a set of strict rules they will know the limits of what they can and cannot do e.g. You can drink alcohol to a reasonable extent but you cannot take certain drugs.

Another reason is that with laws people know that there will be a punishment if the laws in question have been broken. This is a form of deterrence which means that there will be less crime which will benefit society as a whole.

(c) Alcohol can lead to social problems in several different ways. First of all it is an intoxicant which means that if drunk in excess it will cloud a person's judgement and may lead them to do bad

things which they would not otherwise do. In the story told by Muslims there is a man who is offered made to commit one of three sins; intoxication, murder or adultery. The man in the end chooses intoxication, thinking it is the

lesser of the given sins ~~but~~ but as a result of the sin of intoxication the man commits the other sins too. This story shows what may happen when intoxicated.

Secondly alcohol can lead to addiction as it is addictive while this can cause the problems listed above it will also mean that the person will have to be treated in one form or another which could put stress on society by doing so.

Another way alcohol may lead to social problems is that alcohol is desirable to some groups who are not allowed to legally drink it. This may mean that in order to get it they might have to resort to techniques like stealing to get it, which would cause social problems in trying to reach the offenders and dealing with the damage they may have caused.

(d) (i) I disagree as according to the Muslim faith a person can receive the maximum punishment of capital punishment if they do certain crimes. Also ~~or~~ if a person has committed a crime to which they would get a life sentence then there is little difference in letting the person die straight away and over many years.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me for example Christians as they might believe that in killing the offender the person is committing murder. Murder is not to be done in Christianity according to the decalogue. Also Christians may not agree as they may think that if God can forgive anyone for their sins then we should try to too. And by not killing them we are doing so.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Part (b) scored 4 marks for a personal opinion and two developed reasons.

The reasons credited were:

(1) They will know the limits of their behaviour; this was developed by the example concerning alcohol and drugs. (2) There is a punishment for breaking the rules, which was developed by the deterrent effect.

In part (c) this response was awarded level 4 – 8 marks. The candidate gave two developed ways which were credited as follows:

(1) Increased crime alcohol makes people do things they wouldn't normally do. This is developed by the story of the man who commits more sins when drunk. The question does not ask for any religious views but this can be credited here as an example of how alcohol makes you more likely to do bad things. (2) May become addicted; this was developed by requiring treatment.

This part (d)(i) response gave a personal opinion and two simple reasons for 2 marks. The reasons given were - it is legal for some crimes in Islam and if you go to prison for life you die slowly over many years anyway.

For (ii) 3 marks were awarded as the candidate gave one developed and one simple reason as follows:

(1) It is murder; this was developed by banned by the Decalogue. (2) God forgives sins and we should too.

In (d)(i) an example of a crime for which the death penalty is recommended in Islam would have been enough to get this candidate full marks on this question.

Some candidates, though many fewer than last year, gave an alternative view in (b) questions. This response is included as an example of this.

(b) I think laws help society or everyone is protected by them. Such as the law of you go to jail if you murder someone. This is good for society or there is one less murderer walking the streets.

Some people disagree or some laws are seen as unfair and pointless. Such as not being able to smoke in pubs. You can smoke at home and not in pubs which seems a pointless law. Also the people think the punishments are not equal to the crime. If someone commits murder they get a lifetime in prison but do not die. This is not justice so people do not think some laws help society.

(c) Alcohol can lead to social problems. Such as people drinking underage which is against the law. Another problem is many people when drinking alcohol do bad things or they are drunk. Such as kill people. This is a social problem as if more people drink alcohol the crime rate may increase leading to a unsafe, scared community. Also more people may become alcoholic which means that they need help but if too many people become alcoholic there will not be enough support for them. Finally, drinking can damage and affect people's health. This is a social problem.

or if people drink they may die younger and get in ~~trouble~~ with the ~~law~~ wrong crowd. As alcohol is illegal so are drugs so they may also take drugs. Police may not be able to cope with drunk people and neither can ambulances. Some may be doing elsewhere but the services may be attending a drunk person. This is a social problem or more important problems don't get solved making society scared and worried that the police, ambulance and fire service cannot cope with all the problems.

(d) (i) 'Capital punishment is a sin' - I disagree as I think in some cases it is necessary. Such as if a person has killed someone they must die also. Some Muslims also believe in capital punishment and in some countries it is still used. I think they should die a painful death such as stoning. There are more human ways such as a lethal injection. It is not a sin, ^{some} Muslims believe this as well.

(ii) Some people may disagree as Christians believe it is a sin to kill someone. They believe in reforming a criminal, not killing them. Also some people believe it is wrong to use capital punishment or some methods are inhumane such as being stoned to death. Some people believe that everyone should be given a second chance and forgiven for what they have done. So some people do think 'capital punishment is a sin'.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

In part (b) this answer achieved 2 marks for a personal opinion and one developed reason. The reason was they protect society, which was developed by the example of murderers going to jail. The candidate then gives a reason to disagree. Since it says "Some people disagree..." it is clearly no longer their own opinion and cannot be credited. Part (c) was awarded level 4, 8 marks for one way and one fully developed way.

The response was credited as follows:

(1) People drinking under-age. (2) It leads to breaking the law; this was developed by increasing the crime rate and fully developed by its impact on society, it leads to an unsafe, scared community.

In response to (d)(i) the candidate gave a personal opinion and two simple reasons for 2 marks. The two simple reasons were - Muslims believe in capital punishment and it is legal in some countries.

In (d)(ii) 3 marks were awarded for three simple reasons.

The three reasons were:

(1) It is a sin to kill. (2) They should reform criminals. (3) Some methods are inhumane.

Paper Summary

Based on the observations from this paper candidates should:

- read the question carefully and answer the question as it is asked
- ensure quotes are accurate rather than general eg “Love thy neighbour” is not one of the Ten Commandments, although many candidates suggested that it is. In (d) questions make the religious reason specific to a religion rather than vaguely about “religious people”
- be very clear on the specific teachings of their other religion. For example this year a number of candidates described Muslim beliefs on the body as a temple which is a very Christian view. In Islam the belief is rather that the body belongs to Allah
- practice time management for the one and a half hour examination
- remember that spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in section 1 of the paper in future series and candidates need to be aware of the new requirements.

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