

**Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations**

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS) (SHORT COURSE) 2392/1**  
PAPER 2A – Christian Perspectives on Personal, Social and World Issues

MARK SCHEME

**Specimen Paper 2003**

- 1 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the sort of persons they are. I have a dream, that one day... all God's children, black men, white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the black people's old song, Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'

*Revd. Martin Luther King*

- (a) Give an account of biblical teaching which Christians might use in forming their views about racism. [8]

Candidates might refer to Old Testament texts about treatment of an alien person or to Paul in Ephesians, or to the Great Commandments or any other suitable text.

- (b) Explain how and why one well-known Christian has helped to fight prejudice. [7]

Candidates are likely to use Martin Luther King Jr. as their example but any other suitable person can be credited. The answer needs to address the reason for this person's work as well as the work itself.

- (c) 'Women and men are not equal!'

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.** [5]

There is plenty of material here within the Bible and the church possibly both arguing both points of view. Mark according to quality of discussion.

- 2 (a) Describe Christian attitudes towards remarriage after divorce. [8]

Candidates need to consider the basic principle that the marriage vows declare that only God can end a marriage, 'let no man put asunder'. Remarriage in e.g. a church after divorce is therefore generally not permitted. Candidates may mention denominations where this is permitted.

- (b) Explain how a Christian couple might find the support of other Christians helpful in keeping their marriage together. [7]

The question is expecting a response based on the support and love of the Christian community for its members and, perhaps, the idea of the church as a family. Strength might come from the common goals and beliefs based on Christian teaching.

- (c) **'Friendship is just as important as love in a marriage.'**

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**

**[5]**

The argument might centre on the difference between love and friendship and consider the need for friendship within a marriage. Other views might be that in the marriage service people do attest to their love for each other. Mark on quality of discussion.

- 3 (a) Describe biblical and Church teaching about euthanasia. [8]**

Candidates need to explore the basic texts which are used in discussions about euthanasia but should be aware that there are no specific texts which relate to the topic. In addition they should look at one or more expressed church views.

- (b) Explain how Christians might put their beliefs about euthanasia into action. [7]**

The most likely answer will be a discussion about hospices, their work, and support for them. Other responses might, of course, argue that, based on the concept of agape, a Christian might be moved to help someone who wished to end an intolerable life.

- (c) 'Only God has the right to take a life.'**

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**

**[5]**

The view, as expressed, is a standard Christian view but expect discussion to consider alternatives based, possibly, on material from (a) and (b). Mark on quality of discussion.

- 4 (a) Describe Christian teaching about the relationship between men and women. [8]**

There are various issues which might be addressed here. Some candidates may look at both biblical and Church teaching and question whether Jesus' teaching does imply equality of the sexes and how this is borne out by Paul. Some may consider the question of women priests. Others may see the question as relating to the relationship between men and women in e.g. a marriage and approach the question from this perspective.

- (b) Explain how a couple's Christian faith might affect the way they bring up their children. [7]**

Expect responses along two lines of approach: one is that these parents would bring their children up according to Christian principles of love and the family; the other is that these parents may wish to bring up their children to follow the Christian faith, baptism, teaching about Christianity etc.

(c) **'Christians need the support of others to keep their faith strong.'**

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view.** [5]

There are two clear sides to this discussion as to whether some Christians might feel that they have a unique personal relationship with Jesus / God, whereas others might feel the need for the support of a Christian community and its minister or priest. Mark according to quality of discussion.