

Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations

General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS) (SHORT COURSE) 2394/1
PAPER 4A – Christianity

MARK SCHEME

Specimen Paper 2003

- 1 (a) **Describe a Christian marriage service.** [8]

Description of Christian marriage service from any denomination. Candidates have not been asked to identify the denomination so give some credit for descriptions of general 'church wedding'. Levels three and four description are likely to include significant words said, whether by the person officiating or by the couple.

- (b) **Explain the importance of the vows made at this service.** [7]

Explanations of the importance of the vows lies in the way which they stress the biblical teachings about marriage, focusing on issues of infidelity, poverty, sickness; also in the fact that they are made by both parties in front of witnesses and, most importantly, in front of God.

- (c) **'It is the duty of parents to pass on their religious beliefs to their children.'**

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]

Good responses are likely to develop arguments about the pros and cons of religious nurture to investigate the meaning of 'duty' in the quotation. The Christian context may be explicit or implicit.

- 2 (a) **Describe the main features of a Christian place of worship.** [8]

Any feature is acceptable as is any Christian place of worship. More general interpretations of the question are acceptable.

- (b) **Explain the importance of these features for Christians.** [7]

Good candidates are likely to give explanations which include understanding of the theological importance not merely the importance of the feature in terms of purpose and use. More general interpretations of the question are acceptable.

- (c) **'Christians should give their money to charity, not spend it on buildings.'**

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

Candidates may approach this question primarily from charity or buildings. Arguments are likely to be stronger in relation to charity, though some may deal with respect for God and the need to look after his house etc.

- 3 (a) **Describe the teachings about forgiveness in the Sermon on the Mount.** [8]

Teaching about forgiveness from Matthew 5-7 e.g. of specific references 'if you forgive others... God will forgive you' and principles drawn from teaching on anger, revenge, love for enemies and not judging others. General Christian teaching without reference to the set text is not likely to reach more than level two.

- (b) **Explain how and why Christians might help people who are in prison.** [7]

For good marks, 'why' should be addressed which is relevant to Christian helpers e.g. teachings and example of Jesus. Very general reasons are not likely to reach more than Level 2.

- (c) **'Religious people should avoid conflict.'**

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]

Good responses will probably develop from earlier parts of the question. Many angles are suitable for discussion. Words such as 'conflict' and 'religious' may need defining and may constitute 'other points of view'.

- 4 (a) **What does the Apostles' Creed teach about the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)?** [8]

Good candidates are likely to focus on the three persons and the relationship between them and to support this with reference to the wording of the Apostles' Creed, which is in the syllabus. (Reference to other creeds is acceptable if relevant to the answer.)

- (b) **How and why might keeping Lent affect the life of a Christian?** [7]

Good responses are likely to go beyond accounts of practices and references to the Temptations and negative short term effects to positive long term effects of e.g. obedience, discipline, prayer on spiritual growth and on attitudes to others and to the material world.

- (c) **'It is impossible to follow the example of Jesus, so there is no point in trying.'**

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]

Good evaluation needs to be supported by accurate knowledge and understanding of Christian teaching in the arguments. Good responses are likely to address both parts of the quotation and to develop the themes of the structured question about trying to follow the example of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

