

**Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations**

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS) (SHORT COURSE) 2394/2**  
PAPER 4B – Christianity (Roman Catholic)

**MARK SCHEME**

**Specimen Paper 2003**

- 1 (a) **Describe a Roman Catholic marriage service.** [8]
- Description of marriage service. Levels three and four description are likely to include significant words said, whether by the priest or by the couple, and reference to nuptial mass.
- (b) **Explain the importance of the vows made at this service.** [7]
- Explanations of the importance of the vows lies in the way in 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 how Catholics prepare for Easter.** [8]
- Candidates may begin with Lent, Lenten observances, spiritual preparations etc. Answers may continue with the particular events of the church from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday. Detail and events may vary and do not expect complete coverage of all possibilities.
- (b) **Explain how going to Mass each Sunday might help Catholics in their daily lives.** [7]
- Candidates should consider the spiritual benefits of weekly observance and the reception of the sacrament. Others might comment on the social and community benefits.
- (c) **'Christmas celebrations now start so early that Advent is no longer important.'**
- 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]
- Candidates should consider the purpose of Advent as a penitential period and consider whether it has any real importance today with the great social and materialist emphasis on Christmas.

- 3 (a) **Describe the teachings about the Virgin Mary found in the Hail Mary.** [8]

Candidates should be able to provide a fairly detailed account of the teachings and might also refer to its scriptural origins in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55). The key points are probably: Blessed status, mother of Jesus, mother of God, petition for intercession.

- (b) **Explain how and why Mary is still important to Catholics today.** [7]

Answers might consider the long history of Mary in relation to the Roman Catholic church, intercession and her role as Mother of God, need for a female figure etc.

- (c) **‘Catholics say the creed, but it has no real effect on their lives.’**

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

Mark according to Levels of Response. Some might argue that it has very effect whilst others could say that it is a theological rather than a practical guide.

- 4 (a) **Describe Catholic teaching on forgiveness.** [8]

Candidates should consider relevant texts e.g. Sermon on the Mount and church teaching in relation to forgiveness.

- (b) **Explain how and why the sacrament of reconciliation might strengthen a Catholic’s faith.** [7]

Needs consideration of the role and nature of confession and the strength derived from regular absolution. Some may question whether it does have any real effect.

- (c) **‘To be a good Catholic it may be necessary to break the law.’**

**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]

Candidates can look at a variety of world cultures where the need to uphold Christian ideals clashes with the law of that society. A wide range of responses is possible here and should be credited.

