

**Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations**

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS)**

PAPER 2A – Christian Perspectives on Personal, Social and  
World Issues.

**2302/1**

MARK SCHEME

**Specimen Paper 2003**



- 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) **What do Christians mean when they say that people are stewards of the earth?** [8]

This is based on the ideas in Genesis 1:28. Candidates need to explore the idea that although people are part of creation, nevertheless they are in a special position because God gave them dominion over the rest of creation.

- (b) **Explain why many Christians work to get rid of hunger and disease in the world.** [7]

Candidates might decide to use any suitable texts in order to address this question e.g. Matthew 25. Other answers might concentrate on the need for this work and Christian responsibility for others.

- (c) **'Christians should not send money to other countries when there are so many poor people in their own.'**

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

This is an open question about charity, giving and responsibility for others. Mark on the quality of argument and discussion.

**5 (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.