

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations

General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS)

PAPER 2B – Christian (Roman Catholic) Perspectives on Personal, Social
and World Issues.

2302/2

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 Catholics 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 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. 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.

- 3 (a) Describe Christian teaching about 'Just War'. [8]**

Candidates should refer to the principles of 'Just War' theory as set out by Aquinas in 13th century and possibly as adapted by later writers. They might list the conditions such as: just cause, safeguarding civilians, etc.

- (b) Explain why Christian teaching might affect the way Catholics treat their enemies. [7]**

Look for teaching on treatment of others e.g. Great Commandments etc. as well as specific Church teaching on humanitarian issues.

- (c) 'It is the duty of Catholics to fight for their country.'**

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

Answers are likely to be divided between responses which deal with the possible need to fight in a Just War or with the concept of Christian pacifism. Mark according to quality of discussion.

- 4 (a) Describe Catholic teaching about human rights and prisoners of conscience. [8]**

Answers will probably address both biblical and Church teaching. The specific teaching is likely to be that which relates to human rights, equality and the need to be concerned with the wellbeing of others.

- (b) Explain how and why Catholics might support organisations which work for human rights throughout the world. [7]**

Responses should deal with the reasons for this support, which may be derived from (a) and from specific Church teachings. The organisations themselves do not have to be Christian, the question is asking 'how' support might be offered as well as why.

- (c) 'Catholics should not get involved in politics.'**

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

Candidates may respond that, of course, Catholics do get involved in politics, some may, indeed, cite Liberation Theology as part of this answer. Another point of view might be the argument that, of necessity, living a Christian life might place believers in a situation where they do not wish to become involved in non-spiritual issues such as politics.

- 5 (a) Describe Catholic 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 specific Catholic teaching which is opposed to euthanasia.

- (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.