

# **Religious Studies C**

General Certificate of Secondary Education **GCSE 1932**

## **Report on the Components**

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**June 2006**

**1932/MS/R/06**

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All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

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### GCSE Religious Studies C (1932)

#### REPORT ON THE COMPONENTS

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## 1932/01 Jewish Studies

### General Comments:

The candidature for this specification increased this year and the overall standard was again very high. Written Communication was generally good and there were very few rubric errors. However, a number of candidates still disadvantaged themselves by running out of time and failing to complete a third question.

The many Centres and teachers involved in the preparation of candidates for this examination are to be commended on the very high standard of most of the scripts submitted.

### Comments on Individual Questions:

1 (a) Describe how Jews celebrate Pesach. [8]

The picture of a seder plate labelled pictorially as well as in Hebrew and English meant that very few candidates could fail to have the necessary information for at least the Seder meal. Where candidates did not score well it was generally because they left out material, presumably on the assumption that the examiner would know it already.

(b) Explain the importance of Pesach for Jews. [7]

There were many good responses which accurately reflected the importance of the festival for all Jews.

(c) 'Every Jew should remember Pesach every day.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

This question produced some excellent discussion – the only real weakness which was also reflected throughout this specification was the lack of a second viewpoint which inevitably limited the possible marks.

2 (a) Describe what happens at a Jewish wedding ceremony. [8]

Most answers included all the main aspects of the ceremony including a large number of more obscure and largely cultural practices.

(b) Explain Jewish attitudes to divorce. [7]

This question appeared to take a number of candidates by surprise. There were a majority of good answers although many would have improved their responses had they also considered different Jewish attitudes.

(c) 'A husband and wife should share the same religious beliefs.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

This produced some excellent answers although a number had problems disagreeing with the statement and there were some hard diatribes about the perils of 'marrying out'.

3 (a) Give an account of Jewish teaching about Israel. [8]

This was a popular question with many good responses. Candidates demonstrated good knowledge about both the Land and the State and were able to base much of this firmly on scriptural sources.

(b) Explain why Jerusalem is so important to Jews. [7]

Most candidates built their answer on what they had written for (a) whilst specifically tying it to Jerusalem. Most showed excellent understanding of the material.

(c) 'Every Jew should live in Israel.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

Candidates demonstrated clearly that they could balance an argument in relation to the question and there were good points made with supporting evidence on both sides of the discussion.

*Report on the Components Taken in June 2006*

4 (a) Give an account of the Covenant G-d made with Moses. [8]

This was not a popular question and was well done only by a few. Some seemed unclear about the Sinai Covenant and a number confused it with other covenants.

(b) Explain why the Covenant with Moses is still important to Jews. [7]

For those who knew clearly what this Covenant entailed this was a very straightforward question which produced some excellent responses.

(c) 'All the commandments are equally important.'

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

[5]

In general candidates were in agreement with the statement however, some did put forward the argument that the commandments directly relating to G-d could be seen as having greater importance than those which deal with the relationship between humans.

5 (a) Describe kosher rules as they apply to clothes. [8]

This was often extremely well answered. Candidates dealt with specific religious dress and the Law of shaatnez. Many wrote at great length about the rules of modesty with many examples cited, some of which the writers clearly did not agree with.

(b) Explain how keeping kosher rules might affect the life of a believer. [7]

Some, but not many, limited their answers to clothes, following on from (a). Most, however, dealt with food laws and some also with objects and money. There were many excellent responses.

(c) 'All the rules of Judaism are as important today as they were in the past.'

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

[5]

This was a question where a significant number of candidates found it difficult to come up with a variant view. However, the more able dealt with, for example, Progressive attitudes towards the Law and were thus able to produce another view.

**1932/02 - Jewish Texts**

1 (Numbers 15:37-41)

(a) Give an account of the teachings found in this passage. [8]

There were many excellent responses to this question. Most recognised it as the third part of the Shema. Most, if not all, commented on the instruction to observe all the commandments and the blessing of coming out of Egypt. The majority also dealt at some length with the instruction to wear tzitzit and some considered at length that phrase 'turquoise wool'.

(b) Explain the importance of this passage for Jews. [7]

Candidates dealt with both of the areas dealt with in (a) and were able to show good understanding of their importance.

(c) 'The Shema is a complete statement of Jewish belief.'

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

Answers generally stressed the central importance of the Shema but most were able to argue that there are other important aspects of Jewish belief which are not covered in this text.

2 (Grace after meals – Second blessing: for the land)

(a) Describe the teachings found in this passage. [8]

Answers generally focussed on the two main topics: the blessing for the provision of food at all times and also the blessing of the land and the delivery from the Exodus.

(b) Explain the importance of saying thank you to G-d for food. [7]

This question produced some interesting responses with many focussing on this and other parts of Grace after Meals to demonstrate just how important it is to thank G-d.

(c) 'Jews should always think of others and work to help the poor.'

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

The statement as given almost forced agreement from the candidates however many were able to consider other views such as caring for the family and thinking of G-d as well as the poor so the discussion was generally relative rather than any attempt at arguing the opposite.

3 (Amidah paragraph 6 – forgiveness), (Amidah paragraph 8 – healing)

(a) Give an account of the teachings found in these passages. [8]

This was not a particularly popular question. It was generally attempted by the more able candidates. There was good discussion of the teachings on forgiveness and repentance and on dependence on G-d for health and well-being.

(b) Explain the importance of saying the Amidah every day. [7]

Most who attempted this question were able to argue for the importance of the Amidah and of the need for regular repetition of the prayer.

(c) 'The Amidah would not have the same importance if people were sitting down when they said it.'

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

This produced some excellent responses. Candidates appeared not to have thought about the importance of the 'standing prayer' in this way but were able to work their way through argument and discussion in relation to it.

*Report on the Components Taken in June 2006*

- 4 (a) Describe the rôle of the fish in the story of Jonah. [8]

Questions on Jonah are always popular. Although approached from an unusual perspective there were some excellent answers which dealt with the idea of the fish as G-d's agent and also with its symbolic importance in the story.

- (b) Explain what the Book of Jonah teaches about repentance. [7]

Once more there were many excellent answers which dealt with both the repentance of the people of Nineveh and well as that of Jonah.

- (c) 'No-one should try to hide from G-d.'

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

[5]

Most answers agreed with the statement citing Jonah as the clear example. Some also wrote that there was no point in trying because it was impossible anyway. Some were able to say that only a non-believer could argue against this.

5 (Exodus 20:8-11)

- (a) What does this passage teach about the ways in which Jews should celebrate Shabbat? [8]

The passage contained all the information which candidates needed to construct their answer though the weakest failed to take advantage of this. Most were able to cover all the main principles.

- (b) Explain the ideas about G-d found in this passage. [7]

Many candidates were able to draw on the information and explain the importance of the passage within the perspective of the Ten Commandments. They also commented on the broader picture of a loving G-d giving people a day of rest.

- (c) 'The Sabbath is the most important Jewish festival.'

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

[5]

There was considerable discussion about the relative importance of the Sabbath in relation to other festivals such as Yom Kippur. However, the general conclusion was that the Sabbath was instituted at Creation and therefore had priority over all other festivals.



**General Certificate of Secondary Education  
(Religious Studies C: Judaism)(1932)  
June 2006 Assessment Series**

**Component Threshold Marks**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Max Mark</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>
01	64	55	49	43	36	29	22	15
02	64	60	54	49	40	31	23	15

**Overall**

	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>
Percentage in Grade	27.8	39.4	16.0	8.1	4.5	2.2	0.9	0.5
Cumulative Percentage in Grade	27.8	67.1	83.1	91.2	95.7	97.8	98.7	99.3

The total entry for the examination was 1131.





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