

Examiners' Report

Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE Religious Studies (4425) Paper 02

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Paper 2: The Religious Community

General Comments

There were some excellent scripts, in which candidates showed a thorough knowledge of their chosen religions, particularly Christianity and Islam.

The purpose of Paper 2 is to assess knowledge and understanding of faith, practice and tradition in the religious communities of the six major world religions. There are six sections, each of which contains five questions which are specific to one of the six religions. Candidates are required to answer two questions, and may answer on the basis of a study of either one or two religions. Each question is divided into two parts, which assess AO1 (Knowledge) in part (a) and AO2 (Understanding) in part (b).

Christianity was by far the most popular option, and although marks covered a wide range, there were many responses of a very pleasing standard. Question 6 was the most popular question, followed by Questions 8, 9 and 7. Few candidates attempted Question 10.

Islam was the next most popular choice. While there was a wide range of performance, there were responses of a very pleasing standard. Question 20 was the most popular question, followed by Questions 16, 17 and 18. Very few candidates attempted Question 19.

A small number of candidates answered questions on Hinduism and Sikhism. Overall, performance was weak. In Hinduism, Question 11 was the most popular question, followed by Question 15. In Sikhism, there were answers to Questions 28, 29 and 30.

A general weakness was a tendency to include descriptive content in (b) responses and evaluative content in both (a) and (b) answers.

Comments on individual questions

Section 1: Buddhism

Question 3

There was one response to this question.

No other questions on Buddhism were attempted.

Section 2: Christianity

Question 6

Although, there were some very good responses to part (a), there was a tendency to focus on worship, and to ignore other features of the Christian celebration of Christmas, such as almsgiving. Some candidates tended to explain why Christmas is significant for Christians, instead of outlining the main features of its celebration by Christians. Part (b) was generally answered well, with many responses achieving the higher levels.

Question 7

Some responses to part (a) did not take account of the fact that the question is about differing Christian attitudes to the role of the laity, not just the role of the laity. Good answers tended to identify specific Christian denominations and then outline their attitudes. Part (b) was generally answered well, with many candidates achieving the higher levels.

Question 8

In part (a), there were responses of a very high standard, but others outlined various aspects of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, instead of focusing on the actual question, which asks for a description of Jesus' teaching about almsgiving. There were some very good responses to part (b), but other responses dealt with God's nature and/or the importance of love in Christianity, rather than addressing the question set, which concerns why the first Commandment is important in Christian life.

Question 9

There were many very good responses to part (a), but also some rather evaluative responses, which did not focus on the question set, which concerns Jesus' teaching about discipleship. Part (b) was generally answered well, but candidates who did not also choose Question 6 were more likely to treat it as a question about the importance of baptism in general, rather than one about why Jesus' baptism is important for Christians today.

Question 10

There were some good responses to part (a), but also ones which did not take full account of the fact that the question concerns differing attitudes to the role of the altar. In part (b), some candidates wrote about internal features of churches/a church, rather than addressing the issue of different styles of architecture.

Section 3: Hinduism

Question 11

In part (a), knowledge of what happens at the Aarti ceremony was generally not well known, while in part (b), candidates showed limited understanding of why Bhakti is important for many Hindus.

Question 12

There was one response to this question.

Question 13

There was one response to this question.

Question 14

No candidate attempted this question.

Question 15

In part (a), answers showed very limited knowledge of what devotees would see in a Hindu temple. Part (b) was not well answered by many candidates.

Section 4: Islam

Question 16

In part (a), candidates' knowledge of birth ceremonies was generally sound or good. In part (b), they were able to explain the importance of Jum'a prayers, although some responses also contained quite a lot of purely descriptive content.

Question 17

In part (a), there were good outlines of the role of the imam in a Sunni community, which achieved the higher levels. However, some responses to part (b) tended to be descriptive and/or evaluative.

Question 18

In part (a), candidates knew about the principle of fard, but were generally less clear about mandub and mubah. There were some good explanations of why the Five Pillars are important in response to part (b), but also descriptive answers.

Question 19

This was not a popular question, and responses showed limited knowledge and understanding of the topics.

Question 20

There were good responses to part (a), which outlined a range of uses. There were also some very good answers to part (b), some of which drew on personal/family experience, but again candidates found it quite difficult to avoid purely descriptive content.

Section 5: Judaism

Question 21

There was one response to this question.
No other questions on Judaism were attempted.

Section 6: Sikhism

Question 28

Responses to part (a) listed (some of) the Five Ks without indicating how they may remind Sikhs of their duties in daily life. In part (b), responses tended to refer to charity/its importance in general, without relating it to Sikhism.

Questions 29 and 30

Answers to these questions showed very limited knowledge and understanding of the topics covered.

No other questions on Sikhism were attempted.

Statistics

iGCSE Religious Studies (4425) Grade Boundaries

Option 1 (paper 1 & paper 2)

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Overall Subject boundary marks	100	84	70	56	43	34	25	16	7

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