

Examiners' Report Summer 2007

GCE O Level

GCE O Level Religious Studies (7560)

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at www.edexcel-international.org.

Summer 2007

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2007

Contents

1.	7560 O Level Religious Studies Examiners' Report	1
2.	Statistics	5

O Level Religious Studies (7560) Report

The revised format of the question paper and specification meant there were very few rubric errors this year, a sharp contrast to previous series. Candidates should know that part (a) questions ask for facts or a narrative, part (b) questions for explanations, and part (c) questions require reasoned arguments in response.

Section One: The Hebrew Scriptures: A study of certain religious leaders against their historical background

Part (a): Abraham to David (up to the birth of Solomon)

This part of this section was popular.

Question 1 was attempted by many candidates, but with limited success on the whole. Most were only aware of circumcision. Candidates studying this section should be aware that there are still observant Jews and that reference to their continuing obedience to the Covenant would have been relevant here. Many candidates seemed to be under the impression that Christian practice is a continuation of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Question 2 was popular. A few candidates confused the stories of the birthright and the blessing, but otherwise it was well answered by most.

Question 3 was also popular, and elicited some very good answers, especially to part (c). Some candidates had problems with part (a).

Question 4 was the least popular, and few candidates produced good answers to part (b).

Question 5 was very popular, and most candidates answered it well.

Part (b): Elijah to Jeremiah

This section attracted very few candidates. Of the candidates who attempted this section Questions 6 and 10 were the usual choices and were handled well on the whole.

Section two: The Life and Teaching of Jesus (according to St. Luke, with Matthew 5, 6 and 7)

This section attracted many candidates.

In Question 11, many simply did not know the text well enough to earn high marks.

Question 12 was usually well answered, although a few candidates confused Levi with Zaccheus.

In Question 13, several candidates were insufficiently familiar with the text to score high marks in part (a). Those who did know the text often then struggled with parts (b) and (c).

Question 14 produced many good responses, although some struggled with part (b).

Question 15 was generally well addressed, although some candidates recounted the wrong parable, some had difficulty with parts (b) and (c) and responses were often brief.

Section three: The Growth and Problems of the Early Church (Acts 1-21 and I Corinthians 1-13)

This was one of the less popular sections. Most candidates attempting this section answered Question 16. They knew the story of Ananias and Sapphira but often were unsure of the reasons for the appointment of deacons. Few candidates answered the other questions in this section, so general comment is not possible.

Section four: The Qur'an

There were relatively few candidates responding to questions from this section.

In Question 21 some candidates lacked sufficient textual knowledge to fully answer part (a).

Question 22 attracted few candidates.

Question 23 was usually answered well, as was Q24.

Once again, a lack of textual knowledge caused problems for some candidates in Question 25 part (a).

Section five: Personal and Social Relationships and Problems

This section was, as usual, the most popular section on the paper.

Part (a): Home and family relationships

Question 26 was hugely popular and usually well answered.

In Question 27, many of those who answered were simply unaware of religious teaching on human fertility treatment. Those few who knew the facts coped well.

Part (b): Work, leisure and money

Question 28 was popular, but in part (a) many wrote only of giving to charity. Religious teaching also says that one should care for oneself and one's dependents, among other things. Candidates writing from an Islamic perspective tended to handle this better. There were some good answers to part (c), most of which reiterated (possibly unknowingly) the arguments of Major Barbara, George Bernard Shaw's eponymous heroine.

Question 29, also popular, was handled confidently but too many candidates emphasised which occupations were unacceptable, while part (a) asked for acceptable ways to earn a living.

Part (c): Problems of national and international relationships

In Question 30, candidates often struggled with part (b). Candidates should be aware of the possibility that religious believers might feel the need to object to some laws, eg to oppose legal abortion, or, in some cultures, the death penalty.

Again, some candidates struggled with part (b) in Question 31, knowing of the types of prejudice within societies but unable to explain the reasons why such prejudices exist.

Section six: Some Other World Religions

Part (a): Islam

This part of this section was, as usual, popular.

Question 32 was usually well answered but candidates often overlooked the exemptions from fasting.

Question 33 part (a) sometimes attracted only a list of words, often in Arabic. Candidates should be reminded that all answers must be in English as stated on the front of the Question Paper. What was required here was a brief description of the movements made during a rak'ah. Part (b) was often well done, and there were some thoughtful and interesting answers to part (c).

In Question 34, it was heartening to see that most candidates do now know the difference between Lesser and Greater Jihad - although some were still confused. Few candidates knew the rules about not damaging crops, endangering non-combatants, etc. A minority were adamant that Lesser Jihad could be fought in order to spread Islam - which is of course not true.

Most candidates coped well with Question 35 parts (a) and (b), but a significant number struggled with (c), often confusing "practical" with "fashionable".

Question 36 attracted many answers, most of which were of high quality.

Part (b): Buddhism

Buddhism attracted a small number of candidates, although the popularity of this section seems to be growing.

Question 37 was the most popular and generally well answered.

In Question 38, the duties of the householders were not well known to some candidates.

Some good answers were seen on Question 40.

Part (c): Judaism and Part (d): Hinduism

There were few, if any, candidates for the sections on Hinduism and Judaism.

Statistics

Overall Subject Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Overall subject grade boundaries	100	68	60	52	47	41

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Regional Offices at www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/schools/regional/

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel-international.org/quals
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at www.edexcel.org.uk/ask or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH