

Examiners' Report

June 2022

GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 1A

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Introduction

Introduction GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies, Religious Studies A Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Option 1A – Catholic Christianity.

The paper contributes to 50% of the overall award.

The assessment consists of four questions: candidates must answer all four questions.

This area of study comprises an in-depth study of Catholic Christianity as a lived religion in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

There are four sections:

Beliefs and Teachings

Practices

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification.

Centres are to use this, rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

Notes:

Assessment Objective (AO)

In some questions, marks are available for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation – SPaG:

Sections * marked sections on the specification require candidates to know divergent teachings/beliefs

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.6: The events in the Paschal Mystery: Catholic teachings about the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, including reference to Luke 24; the redemptive efficacy of these events and their significance for Catholics today

The question asked was: 'Outline **three** events of the death and resurrection of Jesus'

In (a) items A01 is assessed and can be awarded to a maximum of 3 marks; one mark for each correct point identified.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

- An example: Outline 3 characteristics of God:
- God is creator (1 mark)
- God is creator, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- God is creator, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and God is creator, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

A significant number of candidates wrote about other events in the Paschal Mystery and not about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many detailed events of Palm Sunday or the Last Supper.

Candidates are advised to:

- write three separate sentences
- use a technique such as starting a new line for each point
- outline three teachings/ways/reasons/beliefs

1 (a) Outline **three** events of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

(3)

The first event is when Jesus
was crucified. The second ~~is~~ event is
when they put Jesus into the tomb.
Lastly, the 3rd event is when they went
to the tomb and the door was
open and the body was in there.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes three sentences outlining three events of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- Jesus was crucified (1)
- Jesus put in the tomb (1)
- The tomb was empty (1)

Total: 3 Marks

This is an example of a candidate using events before the death of Jesus.

1 (a) Outline **three** events of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

(3)

One event of the death and resurrection of Jesus is the last supper. A second event of the death and resurrection of Jesus is ~~the~~ the betrayal when Judas betrayed Jesus. A Final ~~the~~ third event is the trial.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two events that are not part of the death and resurrection, and therefore cannot be credited.

The trial is awarded, because it continues to Good Friday and is part of the death of Jesus.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.1: The Trinity: **the nature and significance of the Trinity** as expressed in the Nicene Creed; the nature and significance of the oneness of God; the nature and significance of each of the Persons individually: God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; how this is reflected in worship and belief in the life of a Catholic today

Candidates were asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed, for 4 marks. If three reasons are given, the two best are chosen.

The question asked was: 'Explain **two** reasons why belief in the Trinity is important to Catholics.'

A number of candidates detailed simply what the Trinity is, or explained when the Trinity has been present – eg at the Baptism of Jesus.

Many responses referred to an individual aspect of the Trinity and why they are important to Catholics.

If candidates separate their reasons, as in the example, it encourages them to give two reasons and search for development.

There is no issue with the development of the problem/reason coming first: this is acceptable and will be awarded accordingly.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why belief in the Trinity is important to Catholics.

(4)

The trinity is important to Catholics as it allows them to see God as one, this is because God is the father, the son and the Holy Spirit. It is important because it ~~shows~~ God is in many forms meaning as God the Holy Spirit will always be with you to guide you in life.

Another reason why belief in the trinity is important is because it provides Catholics with a sense of relationship with God as he is also the son like we the people are the son of God. Helps recognise the power and omnipotence of God as he is also our father.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two developed reasons.

- Reason 1: The trinity is important as it lets them see God as one (1) developed with: meaning as the Holy Spirit he is always with you (1)
- Reason 2: provides Catholics with a sense of relationship (1) developed with: shows God's power (1)

Total: 4 Marks

(b) Explain **two** reasons why belief in the Trinity is important to Catholics.

(4)

The first reason why the Trinity is important to Catholics is because, it tells us that God is the Father and when means he can guide and can hear ^{seen} ~~seen~~ an someone to look up to.

The second reason why the belief in the Trinity is important to Catholics is because God is the Holy Spirit, which means God is always with Catholics and can help them through life.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Two developed reasons:

- Reason 1: tells us that God is our Father (1) developed with: guides us (1)
- Reason 2: God is the Holy Spirit (1) always with them through life (1)

Total: 4 Marks

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.5: The Incarnation: Jesus as incarnate Son, the divine Word, including John 1, **both fully God and fully human**; the scriptural origins of this belief, including John 1:1 – 18 **and its importance for Catholics today**.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked. The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice.

Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

The candidate does not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.

- if the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. Candidates are not held to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and ignore the bracketed reference.
- If a candidate gives the right book but the wrong chapter/verse then the reference can still gain the mark.
- If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not from them, it can not be credited. Eg Moses said to love your neighbour.

The question asked was: 'Explain **two** reasons why belief in Jesus as fully human and fully God is important to Catholics.'

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

AO1 is assessed in this question and can be awarded a maximum of 5 marks.

Candidates tended to focus on examples that show Jesus was either human or fully God. Some candidates were able to link why these events are important for Catholics.

A significant number of candidates added a source of wisdom and authority; however, some of these did not match the reason or development given, and simply served as an add-on.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why belief in Jesus as fully human and fully God is important to Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why belief in Jesus as fully human is because Jesus was born like a human, Jesus had emotions like when he saw God's temple being badly mistreated he lost control and was angry, messing up the place, Jesus was also able to bleed like at the time of his crucifixion he was bleeding when he was pinned to the cross.

Second
A second reason why belief in Jesus ~~that~~ ^{as} fully God is important is ~~as~~ Jesus was able to heal people like at the time the sick woman touched Jesus' clothing and she was instantly healed another time was when ^{give} he fed the ~~four~~ thousand. All these are important ^{humans} things show Jesus was just like us but he was also Godly at the same time Jesus also sacrificed himself ^{to} ~~for~~ save us from sin.



This candidate gives two developed reasons, with a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

This candidate makes accurate reference to events in the Bible, which highlights that sources do not always need to be direct quotations.

- Jesus was human and had human emotions (1) developed with the example of losing control in the temple (1)
- Jesus was able to heal people (1) developed with the woman with the haemorrhage (1) and then the feeding of the 5000. (1)

This answer has two suitable sources of wisdom and authority, which enables one to be used as development of the reason given.

Total: 5 Marks



The source must be relevant and used as part of your reasoning

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items.

The candidates were assessed on AO2, Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief.

This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings

Bullet point 1.3: Creation: the nature and significance of the biblical account of Creation, including Genesis 1 – 3; and **how it may be understood in divergent ways in Christianity, including reference to literal and metaphorical interpretations**; the significance of the Creation account for Catholics in understanding the nature and characteristics of God, especially as Creator, benevolent, omnipotent and eternal

The question asked was: “The Creation account is literally true.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor in the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response.

The question is ‘Evaluate’ this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Many candidates gave excellent answers, citing reasons for and against, but not analysing or evaluating them.

Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels. In many cases, the writing frames used encouraged appraisal but the candidates did not understand the demands of the skill. Some candidates wrote: 'This is a strong argument because ...' and repeated the previous point or gave another point.

Many candidates gave incorrect information, with a significant number detailing that Catholic Christians believe in a literal view of creation and reject all science. Many would then argue that liberal or non-conformist Catholics hold a different view. As a result, they were not able to be credited, because there is only one Catholic Church.

*(d) "The Creation account is literally true."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Fundamentalist

~~monothey~~
liberal

(15)

The Fundamentalist view could agree with this statement as they view the bible as the literal word from God himself, the catholic teaching is to follow the bible regardless of if you believe it is literally true. This belief represents God as a divine word omnipotent omnibenevolent God, which leads Fundamentalist Christians to have a higher respect and love for him as he is the beginning and the end.

The liberal view to this would be the bible is written by people in the words of people, they are how they saw God at the time, so therefore there is explanations for the miracles seen and also some exaggerations within the bible, such as the miracle of Jesus walking on water could be him walking on ice, or something heard but not seen from the person writing it. This doesn't stop them believing in God but this does stop them from believing these words with ~~certainty~~ certainty.

no ~~one~~ ^{one} can truly know the things Jesus did in his life on earth but we do know ^{and} his existence and teachings. ^{believe in}

In conclusion, I believe the word of God can never be directly quoted, only heard and possibly misinterpreted, so the bible may record real events. The only certain thing is his existence and care for his disciples. Everything else is to be taken with a grain of salt.



The candidate gains Level 1 because:

The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). There is a simple 'for and against' given. The judgments made are unsupported and generic, no reasons, or weak reasons not supported or justified.

The candidate is awarded 2 marks at the middle of the mark range, because not all the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The response has many irrelevant teachings: these cannot be credited because they are not a requirement of the question.

SPaG is awarded 3 marks in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates in a clear way that does not hinder the answer
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate

Response: 3 Marks

SPaG: 2 Marks

Total: 5 Marks

*(d) "The Creation account is literally true."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Catholics such as fundamentalist would agree with this statement and say everything in the Bible is literal and 100% factual. For example they would say ~~stories~~ in ^{the} Bible such as the creation story happened exactly how it's said like "Let there be light." This means they do not take to consider any other explanation for the creation of the planet such as science.

Similar to fundamentalist there ~~are~~ ^{are} creationists who also believe every account of the creation story is word for word accurate and should be interpreted literally.

However some other ~~denominations~~ christians such as liberals would say the creation is just a metaphor and should not be interpreted as 100% factual. This is a strong argument because they strongly believe that creation tells why we are here and science is left to explain how we are here.

In conclusion, it is evident there are multiple ways that the creation story could be interpreted but it could be argued that liberals have a stronger argument as they take into account science.



The candidate gains a higher mark in Level 1 because:

Although they start with incorrect information regarding Catholic views (this is ignored and not credited, but the candidate does not lose marks) it does show isolated knowledge and understanding.

There is a simple 'for and against' given.

There is an attempt to justify a simple reason given but it is not supported or developed.

The candidate is awarded 3 marks, at the top of the mark range, because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate

Level 1

Response: 3 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 6 Marks

*(d) "The Creation account is literally true."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Creationists would agree with the statement as they believe that the creation account is as it is said as they believe it is the word of God. That everything which occurred in Genesis such as "On the first day God created light and darkness" which means creationists would believe it as it is written.

Catholics on the other hand believe that the creation account is a metaphor for the big bang as they believe it is to verge to be exactly how God created everything.

I think the stronger argument between the two points of view is the creationists because it is the word of God so therefore must be exact as God is always right.

Creationists would also argue for the statement because they can argue that the creation account can be taken as literally true because anything is possible for God and that it doesn't matter whether it makes sense for

us humans because God is beyond us.

Catholics however feel that the creation account can't be taken literally ~~true~~^{true} as there is no way to comprehend what God has done for humans and the only way to get it is with scientific evidence such as the big bang which makes it more comprehensible. Catholics could also say that it is not all true because in Genesis 1 it states "On the seventh day he rested" which is odd cause God is all powerful and so should not have to rest.

~~In conclusion~~ I feel the better point is big Catholic view because it is very hard to comprehend creation without the idea of the big bang.

In conclusion I strongly believe that Catholics view on the statement is stronger because I feel that it can't be word for word true as it is so vague and can't be comprehended well without scientific evidence and the fact that God had to rest on the seventh day doesn't make sense as he is all powerful and should not have to rest.



The candidate is awarded Level 3

- The candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning that addresses the issues raised by the statement.
- The candidate has given two sides of the argument and they are presented in logical chains.
- There are some reasoned judgments but they are superficial in parts.
- The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some limited appraisal of the evidence.
- The candidate meets all the demands of the Level 2 descriptor but does not meet all of Level 3 requirements fully, and is therefore awarded a mark at the lower end of the Level 3 mark range
- The candidate has provided a limited conclusion.

SPaG receives 3 marks because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall

Level 3

Response: 7 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 10 Marks



Candidates should consider the arguments they give 'This is a strong argument because...' in many cases did not add anything to the answer. In many answers it was clearly part of a writing frame and candidates used it without understanding what they were trying to achieve

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.4: Prayer as the 'raising of hearts and minds to God': the nature and significance of different types of prayer; the Lord's Prayer, including Matthew 6:5 – 14, set (formulaic) prayers and informal (extempore) prayer; when each type might be used and why; **the importance of prayer** and the importance for Catholics of having different types of worship.

The question asked was: 'Outline **three** reasons why Catholics may pray.'

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items.

Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark. Refer back to the generic comments given in 1(a).

This question was well-received, with many answers detailing reasons for praying and some using subject-specific words. A small number of candidates gave examples of different types of prayer.

This response shows a full-mark answer.

2 (a) Outline three reasons why Catholics may pray.

(3)

One reason is to strengthen their relationship with God, as they are directly communicating with him. Another reason is to ask for forgiveness of sins, through prayers of repentance, which will remove the spiritual discomfort they may feel. Another reason is to give thanks to God, for anything they may be grateful for.



This candidate gives three reasons:

- Strengthening their relationship with God (1)
- Ask for forgiveness (1)
- Give thanks to God (1)

Total: 3 Marks



On an 'outline' question there is no need to develop points, it will not receive credit.

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.2: Liturgical worship within Catholic Christianity: the nature and significance of the Mass for Catholics, including its structure and the Eucharist as the 'source and summit of Christian life', with reference to Lumen Gentium paragraph 7; divergent Christian attitudes towards the practice and meaning of liturgical worship, including its significance for Catholics and the less structured worship in evangelical Christian denominations.

This question is in the specification: the use of the command word '**describe**' is in the Specimen Assessment Material (SAMS) especially for this type of question. It has not been used on 1RA0_1A. However, candidates were ill-prepared and were continuing to answer it as an 'explain' question.

Working with this, there are some key points to note.

The question asked was 'Describe **two** different attitudes towards liturgical worship in Catholic Christianity and other forms of the main religious tradition of Great Britain.'

The question asked for the 'differences', therefore the development is the comparative difference (second side of the difference).

Candidates tried to explain both sides of the difference in many cases. However, this could not go beyond 2 marks, because candidates were developing the information about the religious belief, not the difference.

1 mark could be awarded for one side of 'a difference' even if the difference were not identified; for example, if a candidate described a Christian belief about the Eucharist (and in some cases developed it) but went no further.

(b) Describe **two** different attitudes towards liturgical worship in Catholic Christianity and other forms of the main religious tradition of Great Britain.

✱

(4)

One attitude towards liturgical worship in the Catholic faith are good. Following all the rituals during mass brings you closer to God. Catholics standing whilst the priest says the Gospel is a sign of respect to God.



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This candidate has only given one difference:

- following all the rituals of mass brings you closer (1)

Total: 1 Mark

(b) Describe **two** different attitudes towards liturgical worship in Catholic Christianity and other forms of the main religious tradition of Great Britain.

(4)

In Catholic Christianity, liturgical worship like mass is celebrated through the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the eucharist. There is a set structure to mass. ~~This is where~~ Catholics believe in transubstantiation which is where the body and blood of Jesus is present in the bread and wine which is immediately consumed. Other Christians such as Protestants do not have a set structure of mass and read any bible passage, they do not believe in transubstantiation and consume the eucharist when they arrive at their seats.



This response shows two contrasting differences.

The candidate has given two different attitudes.

In this example they have given two Catholic views in the first paragraph and two contrasting views in the second paragraph.

- Attitude one: ...set structure (1)
- Attitude two: Transubstantiation takes place (1)
- Different attitude: no set formal structure (1)
- Different attitude two: do not believe in transubstantiation (1)

Total: 4 Marks



Remember that questions marked * require you to know divergent teachings/beliefs

Question 2 (c)

Question 2 (c) Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.3: The funeral rite as a liturgical celebration of the Church: practices associated with the funeral rite in the home, the church and the cemetery, including reference to 'Preparing my funeral' by Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; the aims of the funeral rite, including communion with the deceased; the communion of the community and the proclamation of eternal life to the community and its significance for Catholics.

The question asked was: "Explain **two** purposes of the funeral rite for Catholics."

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples.

The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked. The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

Many candidates were unable to answer this question because they did not understand the term 'funeral rite'. Many gave a generic answer about 'sending people off' and 'saying goodbye'.

Candidates who received higher marks for this question understood what the purpose of the funeral rite was, and could connect it with life after death and being in communion with the dead.

The most-able candidates were able to explain the liturgy used in the communion rite as development and a source of wisdom.

A few candidates confused the funeral rite with the sacrament of anointing the sick.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of the funeral rite for Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Purpose is to Make Sure family and friends get to say their goodbyes before they don't ever see them again.

My last Purpose is to Celebrate the life of the dead family or friend and to always be remembered.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate receives no marks, because the answer given does not contain any relevant details concerning why the funeral rite is important to Catholics.

Total: 0 Marks



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Understand the difference between a secular funeral and the Catholic funeral **rite**

(c) Explain **two** purposes of the funeral rite for Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One purpose of the funeral ^{or Cereals} rite is to allow communion between the family and the deceased. This means that families can be assured that death isn't the end and they can still speak to the deceased. The Catechism states the nature of the requiem mass teaches the family to live in communion with the one who has fallen asleep with the Lord.

Another reason is to show the relationship between the Church on heaven and the Church on Earth. This is done through the rite of Committal.

It shows that the deceased enters heaven with witnesses of people who see the Lord face to face and shows Catholics there is eternal life - death is not the end.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate is awarded marks for two developed purposes, plus a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

- Reason 1: allow communion between dead and the family (1) developed with death is not the end (1) and a source is given 'fallen asleep in the Lord' (it is a paraphrase of the words used in the rite) (1)
- Reason 2: connection between earth and heaven (1) developed with the committal (1)

Total: 5 Marks

Question 2 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices

Bullet point 2.5: **The role and importance of forms of popular piety**: the nature and significance of the Rosary, Eucharistic adoration and Stations of the Cross; how each of these might be used and why; the importance of having different types of worship for Catholics including reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 1674 – 1676; divergent Christian attitudes to these forms of piety.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

The question asked was: “Popular piety allows a deeper connection with God.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

This question engaged candidates of all abilities and produced a wide range of marks. However, some candidates answered the question as if it were asking 'is popular piety the best way of connection with God' – which is not what the question asks.

In addition, many candidates argued that popular piety did not allow a deeper connection with God but pilgrimage does. Candidates should be made aware that pilgrimage is a form of popular piety, as detailed in the Catechism.

Less-able candidates did not know what popular piety was and confused it with the Mass, or stated that it was better to pray.

(d) "Popular piety allows a deeper connection with God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Ref for
Rosary
prayer

arguing
Prayer
prayer is
needed
for
salvation

standing
of Cross

murder
he who
sings
praises
more

(12)

~~I~~ I ~~disagree~~ agree disagree with the statement as prayer allows for a stronger connection with God. This is because, prayer is considered a form of communication with God and can be both formal and extempore. This is supported by St. Padre Pio who states that 'prayer is food for the soul'. This is a strong argument because it logically enforces the relationship between God and humanity and how it can be established through prayer.

Others may disagree by stating that the Rosary Prayer is an ideal piety to allow a deeper connection with God. This is important because the Rosary Prayer allows for an insight in Mary's opinion and views when watching her son die, which creates a stronger connection to God through Mary. This is supported by the CCC which states that the "expressions of piety extend the liturgical Church life but do not replace it". This is a strong argument because

it logically establishes the importance that Popularity has to offer in the Catholic way of life.

However, I disagree with the statement as music is an important and effective method to form a stronger relationship with God. This is important because, church music reinforces the history and tradition of the Catholic Church and it is viewed as a method of prayer and communication with God. This is supported by the gospel which state that "he who sings prays twice". This is a strong argument because it logically reasons the importance that music has in the church. This music allows a deeper connection with God.

In conclusion, prayer and music establish a strong connection with God as they allow personal feelings to communicate with God, ~~established~~ ~~established~~ a more devoted ~~relationship~~ relationship with the Lord.



This response reaches Level 3.

The reasons for this are that the candidate:

- gives two sides of the argument
- deconstructs the religious information and issues. The arguments include a logical chain of reasoning
- shows an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- provides a conclusion. However, this is not fully justified or explained

Level 3

Total: 9 marks

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Bullet point 3.6: The meaning of the four marks of the Church: the nature of the Church as one, **holy**, catholic and apostolic including reference to the Nicene Creed and the First Council of Constantinople; how the marks may be understood in divergent ways within Christianity; why they are important for Catholics today.

The question asked was (a) Outline **three** reasons Catholics believe that the Church is holy.

This question was generally well-answered by candidates who knew what the **Church** was: the majority of these were able to outline three beliefs. Some candidates had read the answer as church and had detailed events in the building and, as a result, gained no marks.

3 (a) Outline three reasons Catholics believe that the Church is holy.

(3)

The church is holy as it belongs to God.

The church is also holy as it has sacraments.

Another reason the church is holy is as the Nicene creed say's "I believe in one, holy, Catholic, Aposthistic church".



This candidate states that the Church is Holy because it is in the Nicene creed – this is not a reason why Catholics believe it is holy but where they confirm belief when they say the creed.

There is one developed reason.

The candidate receives two marks for:

- belongs to God (1)
- has the sacraments (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Bullet point 3.7: Mary as a model of the Church: the significance of Mary as a model of the Church – joined with Christ in the work of salvation, as a model of discipleship and **as a model of faith** and charity, including Luke 1:26 – 39 and Catechism of the Catholic Church 963 – 975; the implications of this teaching for Catholic life today

The question asked candidates to 'Explain **two** reasons why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith.'

Some candidates did not address the 'model of faith' and wrote simply about Mary being the immaculate conception. Some candidates developed this by saying that Catholics should try to be born without original sin, so that is why she is a model of faith. This is not possible nor correct, therefore no marks were awarded for these answers.

This response does not answer the question.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith.

(4)

Firstly, one reason why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith is because she was the immaculate conception. This is important because Catholics believe she was born with no original sin.

Secondly, another reason why Catholics think Mary is a ~~role~~ model of faith is ~~4~~ because she ~~was~~ conceived Jesus without sex. This is important because she is the virgin Mary and it was one of God's miracles.



This answer is about Mary and her being the immaculate conception – this is not a reason why she is a model of faith. This answer receives zero marks.

Total: 0 Marks

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith ^{charity} ^{discipleship}. (4)

One reason as to why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith is because she shows discipleship ~~because~~ and was the first disciple ~~because~~. This is because when Angel Gabriel was sent ~~to her~~ by God to inform Mary that she would bare Jesus, she did not object and had faith in God.

Secondly, another reason as to why Catholics think Mary is a model of faith is because she helps with charity. This is because, she was there to tell Jesus to turn the water into wine, and as Catholics we are told to help those in need and Mary is the perfect example for us.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This answer has two developed reasons:

- Reason 1: She shows discipleship (1) she did not object and had faith in God (1)
- Reason 2: She helps (1) she told Jesus to turn the water into wine (1)

Total: 4 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Link examples to the reason given: this is a good form of development

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Bullet point 3.4: The Second Vatican Council: the nature, history and importance of the council; the nature and significance of the four key documents for the Church and for Catholic living: Dei Verbum, Lumen Gentium, Sacrosanctum Concilium and Gaudium et Spes

The question asked was: 'Explain **two** changes that followed the Second Vatican Council.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.'

Many candidates were able to give two changes, and a significant number was able to develop at least one of them.

(c) Explain **two** changes that followed the Second Vatican Council.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

The Second Vatican Council made changes to Mass such as that it would be in the language of the people instead of in Latin. The Catechism teaches 'that all should be included with one another' stating that this change will help different generations be more inclusive in Mass now that they can actually understand it. It also allows people to build a more deeper, and meaningful relationship with God.

Another change was that two people of the same-sex could get married in the name of the church. This allowed a larger range of people get more involved with the church. This also spread God's message of 'love thy neighbour' saying that the Church welcomes everyone.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response shows a developed change.

- Change 1: Mass could be in the language of the people (1)
developed with more inclusive in Mass now that they could understand it. (1)

The quotation given does not relate to the Second Vatican council or the reasons given.

The second change given is not a correct change and is not credited.

Total: 2 Marks

(c) Explain two changes that followed the Second Vatican Council.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One change that followed the Second Vatican Council is that the Mass was now in the local language of the people making it simpler for the congregation to understand and participate in Mass. *

A second change that followed the Second Vatican Council is that there was a chance for non-Christians and non-theists to be included in Salvation. Pope John XXIII said 'I want to throw open the windows of the Church so we can see out and the people can see in' this emphasises the inclusive nature of the Church after the ~~second~~ council.
Second Vatican Council).

* This is part of the Sacrosanctum Concilium document.



This response has two developed reasons and a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

- Change 1: Mass was in the local language (1) developed with allowed the congregation to understand (1)
- Change 2: chance of salvation (1) Pope John XXIII's statement about "throwing open the windows of the church" (source of wisdom and authority) (1) developed with shows the inclusive nature of the Church. (1)

Total: 5 Marks



Identifying the two different changes/teachings/beliefs in two different paragraphs is good practice

Question 3 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark. The question is: 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Bullet point 3.8: Sources of personal and ethical decision making: the example and **teaching of Jesus as the authoritative source for moral teaching**; Jesus as fulfilment of the Law, including Matthew 5:17 – 24; divergent understandings of the place and authority of natural law; virtue and the primacy of conscience; the divergent implications of these sources of authority for Christians today.

The question asked was: "The teachings of Jesus are all a person needs to make ethical decisions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that candidates were required to give different Christian points of view.

Most candidates were able to recognise and explain the impact of Jesus on decision-making and how Jesus' life and teachings has impacted on ethical decisions made today.

More-able candidates were able to connect conscience and the teaching of the *magisterium*, with the most-able bringing in situation ethic and natural law. A few candidates were able to evaluate the changes or appraise their argument.

AO2 needs to be evidenced in (d) items. Candidates must use their knowledge and understanding to put forward arguments for and against, and then they must assess the validity of their argument.

Many candidates gave excellent answers, giving reasons for and against, but not analysing or evaluating them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

In many cases, the writing frames used encouraged appraisal but the candidates did not understand the demands of the skill. Some candidates wrote: 'This is a strong argument because ...' and repeated the previous point or gave another point.

*(d) "The teachings of Jesus are all a person needs to make ethical decisions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I agree with this statement as throughout the Gospel Jesus acts as a role model on how to live a good life. One example is servant hood ~~there~~ as Jesus teaches us always to be humble. ~~the~~ This is logical to say as not only did he teach these things but he also showed them like washing the feet of the ~~disciples~~ Disciples in the story of the Last Supper. From this Catholics learn to never think you are above someone as in all situations Jesus tried to serve others.

Some people say that while Jesus does teach many good virtues it is also important to refer to other scripture. This is a strong argument because of the Magisterium who re-interpret many teachings. Through this, the teachings become modernised meaning it's fair to say that by referring to their interpretations we are able to make contextual decisions. An example of this is Vatican II that tells us ~~on~~ how to act in regards to modern issues like abortion that Jesus' teachings cannot effect since

it wasn't a thing then.

Another reason I agree with the statement is because of Jesus' constant displays of love and forgiveness in the Gospels. This is ~~also~~ a strong argument as in the Gospels Jesus shows how to live and even in his darkest hours while being crucified he said 'Father, forgive them' which ~~also~~ shows the ultimate ~~an~~ quality to have is forgiveness. Jesus' showings of love and forgiveness are ~~a~~ valid points as these are what shape ~~many~~ many catechism teachings so it would make sense to only look at these teachings of Jesus.

On the other hand, Jesus ~~sometimes~~ once got angry and destroyed a market place which ~~demonstrat~~ demonstrates he didn't always stay calm. This means that ^{it is logical to say} other sources are always useful and should be ~~be~~ used in times of serious decision. ~~Therefore~~ as they have time to review things and come to justified conclusions just as you should.

In conclusion, I believe that Jesus' teachings are ~~all~~ ^{all} a person may need because they cover many topics and teach people what values they should have. These values can then be applied to a range of ~~or~~ situations ~~on~~ and will help a person make the correct decision.



This response reaches the higher end of Level 3.

- The candidate deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints
- These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. The candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question.
- Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion.
- The appraisal of evidence demonstrates that the candidate recognises that the question is asking for two different viewpoints. This implies that they do not accept each other's reasoning in relation to the question.

The answer provides a logical chain of reasoning that goes beyond one side of the argument.

The candidate:

- develops and supports points with examples and current issues
- is discussing the arguments not the statement: this is appraisal

Level 3

Response: 9 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 12 Marks



3 marks are available here for SPaG

Always take care with:

- spellings
- key words
- paragraphs
- punctuation

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Bullet point 4.1 **The common** and divergent **forms of architecture**, design and decoration of Catholic churches: how they reflect belief, are used in, and contribute to, worship, including reference to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1179 – 1181.

The question asked was: 'Outline **three** architectural features of a church.'

The majority of candidates answered this question well, with many outlining the shape and position of the church.

Some candidates confuse architectural features with interior design, as shown in the example.

4 (a) Outline **three** architectural features of a church.

(3)

one architectural features of a church is the altar where body and blood of christ is kept on during mass.

Another architectural feature of a church is the crucifix which represents the cross that Jesus died on for salvation.

Another architectural feature of a church is the lectern where the Bible is read on during mass.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives 1 mark for a correct architectural feature – the altar.

The other two features identified are internal decorations and not architectural features.

Total: 1 mark

4 (a) Outline **three** architectural features of a church.

(3)

One architectural feature of a church is that it is cruciform shaped in the shape of a cross to reflect Christ's resurrection. A second is the church faces east, this is where Jesus rose from the dead. A third is the tall ~~roofs~~ ceiling this is to reflect the belief that it helps prayers reach Heaven if they are closer to God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlines three correct features:

- Cruciform shape (1)
- Faces east (1)
- High/tall ceilings (1)

The candidate has developed the features, but this is not necessary on an 'outline' (a)-style question.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Outline questions do not need to be developed

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Bullet point 4.8: The nature and **use of traditional** and contemporary styles of music in worship: hymns, plainchant, psalms and worship songs including reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 2641; the way different music is used to express belief and the divergent ways in which it may be used in church (including the Mass) and other settings.

The question asked was: 'Explain **two** reasons why some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship.'

The question raised some issues for candidates, who did not know the meaning of the word 'traditional'. The language of the specification should be familiar to candidates.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship.

(4)

Some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship, firstly because it was accepted by the Church, unlike ~~sec~~ secular music. Secondly, ~~some~~ ^{some} people believe this, because



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one reason with no development.

- ...accepted by the Church unlike secular music (1)

Total: 1 Mark

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship.

(4)

One reason some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship is because most music such as hymns contain important messages from the Bible. This can be shown through hymns such as 'Here I am Lord'. This shows Catholics that they are worshipping and learning about God whilst expressing their beliefs.

Another reason why some Catholics believe traditional music is the best music for worship is because it unites Catholics as a community to express their faiths. This can be shown through the plainchant which is an acoustic way of prayer or singing. This can be used as a way for Catholics to enjoy worshipping whilst strengthening their belief in God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate explains clearly why traditional music is the best.

The candidate gives two developed reasons:

- Reason 1: contains important message from the Bible (1) developed with an example (1)
- Reason 2: traditional music unites the community (1) developed with the example of plainchant (1)

Total: 4 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Separate the reasons into two separate paragraphs

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Expression of and Ways of Life

Bullet point 4.6: The purpose and use of symbolism and imagery in religious art: the cross, crucifix, fish, ChiRho, dove, including Catechism of the Catholic Church 701, Eagle, Alpha and Omega, symbols of the four evangelists; the way this symbolism is used to express belief, and the divergent ways in which they may be used in church and other settings.

The question asked was: 'Explain **two** ways religious symbols express Catholic belief.'

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.'

Candidates were successful at answering this question, being able to explain one way. Many found it difficult to use a suitable source of wisdom and authority.

There were some interesting answers giving explanations of the symbolism of the fish and pelican.

(c) Explain **two** ways religious symbols express Catholic belief.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One example of a symbol is the crucifix, this symbol reminds us of the pain and suffering Jesus endured for us. This can help us express our thanks to him for taking the sacrifice.

In the Bible Jesus calls on two young men and says follow me I will make you fishers of men. This refers to the fish symbol this can help us express how we are asked to leave everything behind and follow Jesus placing our full trust in him.

The candidate gives two ways and develops them. However, the second way is incorrect and is not credited.

- 1st way: crucifix reminds of the suffering (1) developed with express thanks for the sacrifice (1)

The second way is not a correct symbol.

Total: 2 Marks

(c) Explain **two** ways religious symbols express Catholic belief.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Firstly, one way is through the Alpha and Omega which symbolise the God, and Jesus, are eternal from the start to the end.

This is important because it allows for Catholics to feel the eternal, everlasting love that Jesus has for us, showing clear evidence of the nature of God and angels.

This can be supported by the Bible which says that Jesus says "I am the Alpha and the Omega", relating to how He is the first and the last.

Secondly, another symbol is the dove which has links to peace but also to Baptism to show purity of a belief.

This is important because it allows for Catholics to be reminded of the teaching from God to spread love and peace, which reinforces the teaching and key beliefs of love.



The candidate gives two developed ways, plus a source of wisdom and authority.

- 1st way: Alpha and Omega shows God and Jesus are eternal (1) developed with allows you to feel the love of God's nature (1) supported with 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' Source of authority (1)
- 2nd way: Dove a symbol of peace (1) developed with serves as a reminder to Catholics to spread love and peace (1)

Total: 5 Marks



Gain more marks – use a source of wisdom

Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life Bullet point 4.4:

The meaning and significance of paintings, fresco and drawings within Catholicism with reference to two specific pieces and Catechism of the Catholic Church 2502 – 2503: the divergent ways these are used to express belief by the artist and those who observe the art, and the divergent ways in which paintings, frescos and drawings may be used in church and other settings.

The question asked was: “Paintings help the Church to share belief.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

This question does not require different Christian or non-religious points of view.

The question is ‘Evaluate’ this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades). Many candidates wrote excellent answers giving reasons for and against but not analysing or evaluating them.

Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels. In many cases, the writing frames used encouraged appraisal, but the candidates did not understand the demands of the skill, writing: 'This is a strong argument because ...' and repeating the previous point or giving another point.

This question worked well for those who read the question. The question asked for Catholic beliefs: many candidates used other Christian beliefs in their answers, such as 'Protestants think' and, as a result, these were not credited.

A proportion of candidates confused stained glass windows with paintings, and many had unfinished answers.

Those who achieved high marks used examples of paintings to explain their points.

(d) "Paintings help the Church to share belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Catholics believe this statement because in ~~the~~ ~~the~~ some paintings they express the teachings of the church. For example in Michelangelo's 'creation of Adam' he demonstrates the nature of God in the creation story by painting him muscular to show he is omnipotent. This is a weak argument because paintings can be interpreted in many different ways.

On the other hand, some Catholics would say that using a painting to understand your beliefs would mean you are worshipping it. The catechism forbids anyone to worship pictures or images because God is the only one who can guide us. This is a strong argument because idolising a painting about your faith is not as important as worshipping and sharing beliefs about God in other ways.

In conclusion I think paintings can help the church share belief because they express a visual image of Jesus' teachings and the Bible evoke pictures that share his belief to be in all churches.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response reaches Level 2.

- The information/issues are identified and superficial connections are made among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief in some parts and limited examples of understanding in others.
- The judgements made are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
- The answer fulfils all of the Level 1 descriptors and in some parts the understanding was more than isolated knowledge and demonstrated some limited understanding.

Level 2

Total 4 Marks

Candidates are encouraged to write an answer for every question.

A 'for and against' the statement, with a conclusion, can often take the response into Level 2.

(d) "Paintings help the Church to share belief."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

aid in worship - level of Jesus
distraction

(12)

In this essay, I will evaluate whether "Paintings help the Church to share belief."

Catholics may agree because it helps aid in worship which helps with our meditation and reflection towards God and therefore help develop our relationship. It also shows everyone through ~~art~~ our Christian beliefs so anyone can reflect on our Christian messages it ~~can~~ whether they see it briefly or not. An example would be the Icon of Jesus which shows Jesus being fully divine and fully human. It would greatly show others from the golden halo as well how he is holy and the book he's holding (the Bible) has major importance to our belief. Another example would be the sacred heart of Jesus where the thorns can show his passion and the fire showing his eternal love for us. The Catechism also states how paintings can help express the artist's emotions. ~~helps everyone~~ This argument is strong and logical because it shows how anyone (despite what other religions they may believe) can look at a Christian painting and somehow reflect in some way of ~~from~~ what the paintings would be about. It also shows how strong paintings could effectively express our belief to others.

However, ^{some may} ~~an argu~~ argue how paintings can be distracting ~~instead~~ and instead ~~could be~~ of reflecting on worship or aiding it. paintings could distract us through admiring things unrelated to the message such as the use of mediums. This would be true because humans aren't perfect and rather than using it to help aid with reflection, our minds can wander which rids the purpose of the paintings. ~~Other~~ People from other religions may not be able to reflect on the meaning of our paintings due to this distraction and ~~do~~ again defeats the purpose of spreading Christian beliefs. ~~on~~ This argument is valid because it takes into account the fact humans aren't perfect and therefore would be distracted enough to not think ~~about~~ our beliefs but it also shows how perhaps paintings can be distracting that others ^{from other} ~~many~~ religions won't take into account about the Christian faith which therefore means paintings aren't needed.

In conclusion, Arguments for the statement is stronger due to the fact it is more coherent and logical with ~~many~~ examples to help back up the argument. It is alongside the catechism evidence to support it. The argument against is logical and valid however lacks more reasonings and evidences.



This response reaches Level 3

The reasons for this are that the:

- candidate has given two sides of the argument
- candidate has deconstructed the religious information and issues
- candidate has shown an accurate understanding of religion and belief
- argument, which is clearly based on evidence from observations, does not have sufficient detail or evidence to take the appraisal any further
- candidate has provided a conclusion. However, this is not fully justified or explained

Level 3

Total: 8 Marks



Always answer every question – you might receive some marks

You will receive 0 marks, if you leave a blank

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Answer (a) items in outlines ie full sentences. Incorrect words or sentences should be crossed out with one neat line through
- Provide three sentences for (a) items, each on a separate line
- (b) items should have only two developed reasons
- (c) items are like (b) items but should also use a source of wisdom and authority as a fifth mark
- (d) items should appraise the reasons given, for and against the statement
- Understand the command words, particularly 'describe'
- Read the questions carefully, to ensure that they are answering the question set
- Look at the bullet points in the (d) questions, to ensure that they are meeting all the demands of the question and to avoid adding alternative views that the question does not require

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

