

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance

Religious Studies

Paper 1: The Christian Church through a Study of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church

This is an exemplification of candidates' performance in GCSE examinations (Summer 2019) to support the teaching and learning of the Religious Studies specification.



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EXEMPLIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

GCSE Religious Studies

Introduction

These materials illustrate aspects of performance from the 2019 summer GCSE examination series of CCEA's revised GCSE Specification in 2017.

Students' grade A responses are reproduced verbatim and accompanied by commentaries written by senior examiners. The commentaries draw attention to the strengths of the students' responses and indicate, where appropriate, deficiencies and how improvements could be made.

It is intended that the materials should provide a benchmark of candidate performance and help teachers and students to raise standards.

For further details of our support package, please visit our website at www.ccea.org.uk

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Finlay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'F'.

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GCSE: Religious Studies

Paper 1: The Christian Church through a Study of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) Sacrament of Baptism

Name **two** different types of baptism.

1. [1]
2. [1]

Student's response

1. *Infant baptism*
2. *Believer baptism*

Q1a(ii) Name **three** symbols used in a baptismal ceremony

1. [1]
2. [1]
3. [1]

Student's response

1. *White gown or clothing*
2. *Oils*
3. *Pouring of water or total immersion*

Examiner's comments

Marks are awarded for factual accuracy and a degree of tolerance is allowed for valid alternatives.

5/5 marks **Test paper marked 4/5**

Q1b Explain why baptism is important for all Christians. [5]

Student's response

Baptism is the outward proclaim of an inward change. It is seen on one of the main initiation of the Christian church. Within baptism we see not just the person being baptised but the whole church take vows. Jesus baptised people and became baptised. The Bible tells us it washes away our sins we had an infants or prior to baptism.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. The response includes several reasons to explain why baptism is so important for Christians. 4/5 marks.

Q1c "Babies should not be baptised."

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I see that some might say this as it should be the person's conscience choice. That they should be saying vows as well. But personally I think they should as it is the parents, Godparents and church stating they will care for this child and be its spiritual leaders. I think it should be the first initiation into the church as it promotes community like the early church.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given on both sides of the debate. Some points could have a sharper focus on whether or not infant baptism is meaningful. 4/5 marks.

Q2a(i) The Role of the Church in contemporary society

Name **two** ways in which the Church contributes to the local community.

1. [1]
2. [1]

Student's response

1. *Host youth clubs in buildings*
2. *Can provide lunches for homeless*

Q2a(ii) What is community cohesion? [1]

Student's response

People from different faiths and backgrounds living peacefully in one community.

Q2a(iii) Name an organisation that supports community cohesion. [1]

Student's response

Corrymeela

Q2a(iv) Name a moral issue that challenges the Church today. [1]

Student's response

Abortion

Examiner's comments

Marks are awarded for factual accuracy and a degree of tolerance is allowed for valid alternatives. 5/5 marks

Q2b Do you think Church leaders have a right to tell people how to live their lives?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I do believe church leaders have the right to tell people how to live their lives. But it is the persons own decisions whether or not to take on the advice given to them from the leaders. Look at Republic of Ireland a majority Catholic country and the change in laws surrounding abortions. Also if the person is a Christian is the minister/priest not a mouthpiece for God?

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4: This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in support of a personal response. The candidate provides a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights on the role of Church leaders in giving guidance on moral issues. 4/5 marks.

Q2c "The Church today is out of touch with modern society."

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

With the declining rates of church attendances in the western world I can see where this argument is coming from. But we have seen churches adapt with modern society for example the change in the Catholic church or in the 1970s the change that women can be ordained in most Protestant churches. Peoples lives are getting busier but church can and has adapted with modern society.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: This candidate has given reasoned arguments to evaluate the relevance of the church today. While the candidate does explain that some churches have tried to change with the times, the response could consider other examples on either side of the debate. 3/5 marks.

Q3a Festivals – Holy Week



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Describe **two** events which are remembered during Holy Week. [5]

Student's response

On Good Friday we remember Jesus death on the cross with some people fasting on this day. On Easter Sunday we remember Jesus' triumph over death, some churches hold dawn services and Easter eggs are given out to represent that the tomb was sealed. We celebrate his resurrection

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: The candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. The response makes clear reference to two events from Holy Week and reflects a good degree of accurate knowledge of the events. 4/5 marks.

Q3b Explain the purpose of Lent. [5]

Student's response

Lent is the forty day period before Easter. It remembers that Jesus fasted in the forest. Therefore people fast and give up certain food items. It lets us experience some of the suffering Jesus went through. Preparing for Easter mental with meditation and prayer

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: The response reflects clear knowledge and understanding with some development. This candidate has a good knowledge and understanding of what Lent is, however, the response could have a sharper focus on the idea of Lent as a time of preparation. 3/5 marks.

Q3c "Celebrating church festivals is a waste of time."

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Some might say it is a waste of time as doing practical Christian work is more beneficial. They can argue that the commercialization of festivals have meant they have lost their meaning. But some festivals bring in people to the church. Most represent significant moments of Jesus' life that deserve to be remembered and learnt from. Most festivals are key beliefs in Christian faith. They also can help the community with Christmas being charitable.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. There is a well-structured argument on how meaningful church festivals are. Points on both sides of the debate are considered. 4/5 marks.

Q4a St Patrick

Outline the main events in Patrick's life. [5]

Student's response

St Patrick was taken from his home to work as a slave in Ireland at the age of 16. He worked as a shepherd. Six years later he escaped and went back home. He had dreams where a man gave him letters one being called 'The voice of the Irish' He got ordained and went back to Ireland. He converted many Irish to Christianity. The Prince of Wales slaughtered and captured many of his followers he wrote a letter to him. He wrote his 'Confessions' and died in Ireland homesick.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed response showing a very good level of accurate knowledge of some of the main events of St Patrick's life. 5/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think Christians today can learn from the life and the teachings of Patrick?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I do St Patrick taught us 'reach to greater things and do better'. That Christians should always aim to be better even today. He taught us 'Compelled by concern for God and the truth of Christ and out of love for neighbour'. Telling us to speak out against injustice. He also taught us murders and thieves are put outside of church. He said 'they will be slaves of Hell in everlasting punishment...they are estranged from me and Christ my God.'

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This response shows evidence of informed insights. While the candidate is aware of Patrick's teachings, there could be a sharper focus on what Christians today can learn from them. 4/5 marks.

Q4c “There is nothing religious in the way St Patrick’s Day is celebrated today.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student’s response

I can see why some would agree with this especially refering to the USA. With traditions of alcohol and lepricons. But I believe they have turned it into Ireland day not St Patricks. With the use of the definite ‘nothing’. I disagree on some would celebrate it very religiously especially in Ireland. Even with paredes people get reminded of St Patrick and primary schools teach his life near the day.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 2: Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the religious significance of St Patrick’s day. Some points could have been developed more fully. 3/5 marks.

Section B

You must answer **two** questions from this section.

Q5a Ordination/Leadership in the Church

Describe the qualities which are needed to be a good minister/pastor/priest.
[5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5b Explain why fewer people choose to be ordained as ministers/pastors/priests. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5c “Women should be encouraged to play a greater role in all Christian churches.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6a Worship

Outline the order of a Sunday service in a Protestant tradition of your choice.
[5]

Student's response

In a Baptist church it starts with welcoming and announcements. Then prayer, followed by praise with a hymn. There can then be a Bible reading, followed by the children address. There would then be the sermon focused on the minister's reading. The offering would follow. Then communion and the benediction. Although they follow a non-liturgical style of worship so these can be altered as well as other to items added.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. Accurate knowledge of the order of a Sunday service in the Baptist tradition is evident from the response and is presented within a coherent structure. 5/5 marks.

Q6b Explain the importance of music and singing in Christian worship. [5]

Student's response

We see in the New and Old Testament the importance of music and singing in worship. It brings adoration to God. It also can be appreciated by all generations and enjoyed. With many churches with a band for younger generations and an organ for older. We learn from the Bible that the earlier church used singing and music for a lot of their worship. It also provides active engagement in a service.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed response showing very good development of key points. Several relevant and accurate points are presented on the importance of music and singing in Christian worship. 5/5 marks.

Q6c “There is more to being a good Christian than regular church attendance.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10]

Student's response

I agree with this statement. But I can see that some might say that you must be ‘Holy on the Sabbath’ from the ten commandments. Also that the Christian faith is one of community. But others might say that this time would be better suited for practical Christian work. Like helping in your local community. In some areas a church might not be accessible or too dangerous meaning if this statement is false that is saying they aren't good Christians. Likewise if a person is ill or has a condition where they can't attend or don't like attending church the same logic applies. Your beliefs and religion can be an extremely private act. I believe that a ‘good Christian’ is someone who acts on the Christian principles and beliefs. I also see that to go to church is to worship God and learn more about him. But I think this helps you become a better Christian not automatically makes you into one. You can have someone who never misses a day of church but pays no attention, doesn't act on any of it and think that that they are a good Christian. But realistically there could be someone who has never been to church worships themselves and is an incredible Christian.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4: This response shows reasoned consideration of different points of view. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the importance of attending church services. The information is presented in a mature style of writing with a coherent structure. 7/10 marks.

Q7a The Early Church

Describe what happened on the day of Pentecost. [5]

Student's response

On the day of Pentecost all the Apostles gathered in a house in Jerusalem where they heard a violent wind. Then the Holy spirit entered them and tongues of fire appeared above their heads. They were gifted the 'gift of tongues' and began to speak in different languages. People gathered outside their house. The apostles went outside and preached God. These people pondered these people are Galileans how can they speak our language. Around 3000 people converted to Christianity that day after witnessing the glory of God.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed response showing an accurate knowledge of the events which occurred on the day of Pentecost. 5/5 marks.

Q7b Explain why St Paul compared the Church to the human body. [5]

Student's response

St Paul compared the church to the human body because people were getting jealous of each other and the gifts they received from God. So he wrote in a letter to Corinth that the church is a body. In a body nothing is more important than another part. Saying that without one another we don't work as well as we do together. He was teaching them the lesson of unity.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This is a well-structured response. The candidate is able to explore several reasons why Saint Paul compared the Church to the human body and the answer contains evidence of a good level of accurate knowledge and understanding. 4/5 marks.

Q7c “The first Christians set a good example of Christian living which is still relevant today.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10]

Student's response

Early Christians didn't consider themselves a new religion just as Jews who wanted to live like Jesus. I think we can learn a lot from them. Their main focus was on community and worshipping God. I sometimes think that with everything in modern society we sometimes lose that, lacking of the true meaning of church just to worship God as a community. If you look at Christianity today you can see how we lack this by just looking at all the different branches of Christianity today. Within the small town that I live in there are six different churches. We do try and intergrat and hold joint events but the separation in our community alone through that is massive. We all share the same basic beliefs yet we call them 'them' the exclusive pronoun. As we don't include them as one of 'us'. Although I can see that some could say that it was created in a different society and therefore shouldn't exist in ours. But I would argue it should but like a cactus adapted its leaves into spines it should adapt certain policies which it has such as women and being ordained in most protestant churches. I also believe that the religious leaders need to have less political power like they had in Jesus' time but that not being Christianity. I believe they should be allowed to guide there followers not lay down the laws.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4: This response shows evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the relevance of key characteristics of the early Church/first Christians. The candidate employs a mature style of writing with a coherent structure. 8/10 marks.

