

# GCSE



## CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance **Religious Studies**

### Paper 2a: The Christian Church with a Focus on the Catholic 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.

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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 2a: The Christian Church with a Focus on the Catholic Church**

**Grade: A Exemplar**



## Section A

Answer **all** questions.

### Q1a(i) Sacrament of Baptism

Who administers the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church? [1]

#### Student's response

*The priest*

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

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

#### Student's response

1. *Oil of chrism*
2. *water*
3. *baptismal candle (fire)*

### Q1a(iii) What role do the Godparents play? [1]

#### Student's response

*They support the child in their faith journey*

#### Examiner's comments

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

5/5 marks.

**Q1b** Explain why baptism is important for Catholics. [5]

### Student's response

*Baptism is important as it allows children to be cleansed of original sin. It allows a person to enter into the catholic church as it is a sacrament of initiation. It is also important as it allows children to grow up learning about the Catholic faith and practices which they can use these teachings later in life.*

### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response shows a clear knowledge and understanding of reasons why baptism is important for Catholics. The candidate could further develop some points.

3/5 marks.

**Q1c** "Being baptised as an adult is better than being baptised as a baby."

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

### Student's response

*I agree because if you are baptised as an adult then it is a personal choice you are making. You will have a better understanding of the commitment as well as the significance of becoming a member of the church. As well as that many who are baptised as children may not grow up to lead very Christian lives and therefore it makes more sense to be baptised as an adult. On the other hand those who are baptised as a baby can later confirm their faith to show that they are serious about being a member of the church.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to evaluate whether adult baptism is better than infant baptism. While not a requirement for this question, the candidate has used arguments on both sides of the debate.

4/5 marks.

**Q2a(i) The Sacrament of Ordination**

Who can receive the Sacrament of Ordination? [1]

**Student's response**

*Men*

**Q2a(ii) Name three symbols used during the ordination ceremony.**

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

**Student's response**

1. *Oil*
2. *Washing of feet*
3. *Candle*

**Q2a(iii) What promise is made during the ceremony of ordination? [1]**

**Student's response**

*To serve God*

**Examiner's comments**

Marks are awarded for factual accuracy and a degree of tolerance is allowed for valid alternatives. In 2(a) part (i), a more specific response was required e.g. 'men who have been recommended by the bishop' rather than 'men'.

2/5 marks.

**Q2b** Do you think a priest should always be a man?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

### Student's response

*No I think that women should also be able to join priesthood. This is because Jesus had a radical attitude towards women showing that he respected them and they should therefore be given the responsibility of becoming a priest. As well as that other demoniations have introduced women to the church For example Libby Lane was made the first female bishop in the Anglican church in 2015. Women would have alot of qualities to bring to the role for example compassion. On the other hand Jesus did chose 12 deciples which were men suggesting they should allow women to have a more central role in the Church.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has produced a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. The candidate has developed a number of relevant points on the case for gender equality within clerical ordination.

5/5 marks.

**Q2c** "Priests should be allowed to marry."

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

### Student's response

*I strongly agree with this statement as although celibacy has its logical points I think that it should be a choice for the priest. Also If priests were allowed to marry then this would encourage more men to take on priesthood. They would also have a greater understanding of family life and so they would be more understanding to those experiencing family problems. As well as that if priests married then their sons may wish to follow in their vocation and there would be more priests.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This is a well-argued response on the issue of clerical celibacy. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the issue.

4/5 marks.

### Q3a Festivals – Holy Week



[http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-christian-easter-background-illustration/610218474/popup?sq=holy week/f=CPIHVX/p=4/s=DynamicRank](http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-christian-easter-background-illustration/610218474/popup?sq=holy+week/f=CPIHVX/p=4/s=DynamicRank)

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

#### Student's response

*On Holy Thursday we remember the last supper where Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. This is when the first Eucharist occurred and Jesus said "Do this in memory of me". On Good Friday we remember how Jesus was made to carry the cross and was then crucified and died to achieve salvation for humanity by making this sacrifice.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has accurately described two events which are remembered during Holy Week. The response reflects a good attempt at development of key points.

4/5 marks.

**Q3b** Explain the purpose of Lent. [5]

### Student's response

*The purpose of lent is to fast for 40 days so that we can reflect on the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert. It is period of waiting for Easter to come and during this time we should reflect on our lives and seek penance for our sins. We should be charitable and give money to organisations which target poverty for example Trocaire.*

### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response shows knowledge and understanding of some of the reasons why Lent is important for Christians. The candidate is aware of reasons such as the importance of giving alms but could have developed the idea of Lent as a time of preparation and a period of prayer and fasting.

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

*I disagree as they allow us remember key events from the history of our faith. They allow us to reflect on these events and to think about our lives and how the festivals should affect our lives for example Easter as a day to be thankful that our sins have been absolved. They allow us to celebrate our faith in different ways within the church e.g through confession*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has produced a well-argued response on whether Church festivals are meaningful. Several reasons are given and some development is provided.

4/5 marks.

#### **Q4a St Patrick**

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

#### **Student's response**

*Patrick was kidnapped from his fathers villa in Britain when he was 16. He was brought to Slemish in Ireland as a slave where he shepparded sheep. He said "100 prayers a day and as many at night". He escaped on a boat and went back to his family however had a dream that the voice of the Irish called him back saying "Come holy boy, and walk once more among us", to which he did. He trained as a bishop and returned to Ireland where he spread Christianity.*

#### **Examiner's comments**

AO1 Level 3: The candidate had produced a detailed response showing a good level of knowledge of the main events of Patrick's life.

4/5 marks.

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

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

#### **Student's response**

*I strongly agree that Christians today can learn alot from Patrick. For example the forgiveness he showed towards the Irish following his kidnapping is something that Christians should try to live by. Also Christians today should try to live their lives by the gospel values just like he instructed for example 'love your neighbour'. He also taught that greed is a sin which should be condemned however the sinner should be called to repentance, which has a strong meaning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

#### **Examiner's comments**

AO2 Level 2: Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the relevance of Patrick's teachings. While the candidate is well informed on the teachings of Patrick, what Christians today can learn from this teaching could be explored further.

3/5 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 agree to an extent as St Patrick’s day has become more commercialised. People nowadays use it as an excuse to party and drink and therefore forget to celebrate the true meaning. However there are those who still follow through on the religious aspects of the day and go to mass and pray to Patrick. There are also still those who acknowledge that without Patrick Christianity may never have made it to Ireland. Also the religious image of the shamrock is still used to celebrate St. Patricks and this reminds us of the doctrine of the trinity.*

### Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 3: Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to evaluate the significance of St Patrick’s Day. The candidate makes a very good attempt and while not a requirement for this question, reasons on both sides of the debate are considered.

4/5 marks.

## Section B

Answer **two** from **three** questions.

### Q5a Worship

Outline the **five** main types of prayers which are used during the Mass. [5]

#### Student's response

*There are prayers of adoration which are used to praise and worship God for example the Gloria. There are prayers of petition in which you ask God for things that you need (physically or spiritually). There are also prayers of thanksgiving in which you thank God for all that he has provided for you, for example Grace before meals. As well as that there are prayers of intercession in which you pray on the behalf of another, an example is prayers of the faithful which are said for the Church community. There are prayers of confession used to confess your sins and ask for forgiveness from God. An example is the Confiteor.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development of key points. The response demonstrates very accurate knowledge of the five types of prayer used in Catholic worship.

5/5 marks.

### Q5b Explain why some Catholics might find it difficult to pray. [5]

#### Student's response

*Some Catholics may find it difficult to pray without any aids to prayer, such as rosary beads which will help them to focus and reflect on the prayers. Some Catholics may also find it difficult to pray following a difficult point in their life as they believe that following this God is no longer with them. It can also be hard for Catholics to pray while outside of the Church as the Church is Gods house and Jesus is present in the Communion however they may not have time to attend and so they may just not bother praying at all however God is everywhere and so it shouldn't matter. Some Catholics may also not have a deep enough faith and so they find themselves drifting away from God and the Church making It harder for them to pray.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer with a very good level of development. The response outlines several reasons why some Catholics may encounter difficulties when trying to pray.

5/5 marks

**Q5c** “The Bible has no impact on young people today.”

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 as many young people think that the bible isn't relevant to their lives. Many young people do not wish to go to Church as they see it as a waste of times. They may also think that the homily can be boring even know the priest is trying to relate the bible to their lives. Most young people would much rather go shopping etc than pray or reflect on the bible as they do not believe that the events really happened. Young people today do not live by the teachings of St Patrick and therefore they do not live their lives based on bible values.*

*On the other hand there are many teenagers who do see the bible as important and they try to lead good lives. Some young people that the bible reading can be seen as spiritual food as “man cannot live on bread alone, but by every word from the mouth of God”. There are also many young people who strive to be charitable in life and who try to help others with their problems. Many young people today help out at Church with readings and liturgical groups and it therefore clear that although many young people are not affected by what is taught in the bible there are those that are.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4: This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in this evaluation question on the impact the bible has on young people today. There is evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view showing informed insights and an accurate knowledge and understanding of religion.

8/10 marks.

**Q6a The Role of the Church in Contemporary Society**

Describe ways in which the Church can support young people today. [5]

**The candidate did not select this question.**

**Q6b** Explain why community cohesion is often very difficult. [5]

**The candidate did not select this question.**

**Q6c** “Religious faith is no longer the main focus in people's lives.”

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.**

### **Q7a Public Worship**

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

#### **Student's response**

*The disciples were all together in one place when a sound like a violent wind filled the house. Suddenly tongues of fire appeared on each of their heads and they were filled with the holy spirit. They went outside where there were many "God fearing Jews from every nation under heaven". They became confused and awed that the disciples could now suddenly speak in and understand different tongues as they were filled by the holy spirit.*

#### **Examiner's comments**

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer with very good development of the key events which occurred on the day of Pentecost.

4/5 marks.

### **Q7b Explain why Saints' Days are important in the Catholic Church. [5]**

#### **Student's response**

*Saints days are important as they give us time to reflect on the life of the saint. They also allow us to remember the great deeds and miracles performed by these saints. On saints days we can also pray to the saint and ask them to intercede on our behalf. Saints days also give Catholics a chance to be influenced by the saints as they are seen to be role models as they had such strong faith in God. Many even became Martyrs and died for their faith for example St. Stephen.*

#### **Examiner's comments**

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a very detailed response with very good development of the reasons why it is important to honour saints in the Catholic tradition.

5/5 marks.

**Q7c** “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 strongly agree as I believe that being decent and kind is more important than regularly going to church. You can be a good Christian though charity and putting others needs before your own. I also think that being a good Christian should be based on your ability to stand and recite prayers. Also there are many Christians who have a strong faith but simply don't have the the time to attend church services and similarly there are those who attend church regularly but do not have any faith and are simply going for the sake of appearances. Many Christians would rather worship privately as they can deepen their relationship with God but prefer not to attend mass. Also God is everywhere and so Christians should be able to worship him wherever they want without being labelled as not being a good Christian.*

*On the other hand it is still important to go to Church so that you can learn more about the history of our faith and the life of Jesus. Aswell eucharist can be an important part of being a Christian as you are acknowledging that Jesus died for us. Altogether though I don't believe it is the most important part of being a good Christian*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4: Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the importance of attending church services. The candidate considers different points of view, however, one side of the debate is briefer than the other. The candidate uses a mature style of writing with a coherent structure.

8/10 marks.



