

# GCSE



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

### Paper 2b: The Christian Church with a Focus 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.



*Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright holders may have been unsuccessful and CCEA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgement in future if notified.*

# 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](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Finlay". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'D' and 'F'.

Donna Finlay

Education Manager, Religious Studies

Email: [dfinlay@ccea.org.uk](mailto:dfinlay@ccea.org.uk)

Telephone: 028 9026 1200 ext. 2105



## **GCSE: Religious Studies**

### **Paper 2b: The Christian Church with a Focus on 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. *Believers Baptism*

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

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

### Student's response

1. *Light*
2. *Water*
3. *New life*

### Examiner's comments

Marks are awarded for factual accuracy and a degree of tolerance is allowed for valid alternatives. 4/5 marks.

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

### Student's response

*Baptism is important for Christians as it is the symbolic washing of water which initiates people into the church. Jesus also instructed people to get baptised in the New Testament. Baptism also represents the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as you leave your old sinful life behind as you go under the water and enter a new covenant with God as you rise out of the water. Baptism is also a public statement to others that you have a faith in God.*

### 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 important for Christians. 5/5 marks.

**Q1c** "Babies should not be baptised."

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

### Student's response

*I disagree with this statement as I feel baptism is experiencing the grace of God and babies shouldn't be excluded. It is also the baby entering into the Christian community and a spiritual journey with Jesus. However, on the other hand, some people may feel that the child is too young to know what they are doing therefore it's not as meaningful. Some also feel that baptism should be the full immersion of water to represent the death/burial and resurrection of Christ rather than the sprinkling of water on the head of the child.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in support of a personal response. There is evidence of a clear focus on infant baptism and the candidate provides personal evaluation based on informed insight.

5/5 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. *Embrace NI*
2. *Nightlight*

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

**Student's response**

*Bringing communities together*

**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**

*Homosexuality*

**Examiner's comments**

Marks are awarded for factual accuracy and a degree of tolerance is allowed for valid alternatives. 3/5 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

*No, as I feel that church leaders have no special authority within the church to dictate peoples lives. I also feel that God is a perfect example as he always gives us a choice and never forces us to do anything e.g eternal life is available for all but it's a choice. However I feel that church leaders have the right to have an influence on people's lives through sermon's by making them relevant to today. I also feel that God uses (preachers) people to communicate his voice to others which church leaders should do as it is God speaking through them.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. 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. 5/5 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

*I disagree with this as I feel the church does many things such as outreach or 'Nighlight' to connect with people in the modern society. I also feel that some churches will teach on things that the world is struggling with to try and help the people. However some may argue that the church teaches too much from the Bible which is too dated and not relevant to todays issues.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. This candidate has given reasoned arguments to evaluate the relevance of the church today. While the candidate does attempt to consider a range of points, some points could have been developed more fully. 3/5 marks.

### Q3a Festivals



[http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-christian-cross-and-the-crown-of-thorns-of/512907696/popup?sq=holy week/f=CPIHVX/s=DynamicRank](http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-christian-cross-and-the-crown-of-thorns-of/512907696/popup?sq=holy+week/f=CPIHVX/s=DynamicRank)

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

#### Student's response

*Holy Thursday is remembered during Holy Week. In this they remember the events of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. Some churches remember this through communion. Holy Saturday is also remembered in Holy Week which was the day when Jesus' body was taken down from the cross.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. The candidate has produced one relevant point on Holy Thursday which is well developed. The candidate could have had sharper focus on an accurate second event which is remembered during Holy Week. 3/5 marks.

**Q3b** Explain why Epiphany is important. [5]

### Student's response

*Epiphany is important as it is the remembering of the wise men coming to visit Jesus shortly after his birth. Epiphany teaches us how we should live our lives like these wise men who gave up everything in pursuit for Jesus which is what a lot of Christians are lacking today. We can also learn how valuable Jesus is to the world we live in today by seeing how the wise men treated him by giving gifts of gold, frankincense and myrror.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. The response reflects clear knowledge and understanding of why Epiphany is important. However, to help develop the response, the candidate could have considered the meaning of the gifts brought by the Magi. 3/5 marks.

**Q3c** "Harvest Thanksgiving services no longer have any value."

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

### Student's response

*I disagree, as I feel that we should also be thankful for God's provision. We still see today how much Harvest is celebrated in churches around the world therefore I feel this shows they still have value. I also feel they have value as we are constantly reminded how fortunate we are and blessed when we see developing countries struggle for food. Harvest Thanksgiving services also have great value for the developing countries as there is usually an opportunity to give money for the provision of food for developing countries.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2. Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments to analyse and evaluate the statement. There is a well-structured argument on the value of Harvest services and key points are well developed. 5/5 marks.

#### **Q4a St Patrick**

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

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

*Patrick was brought over to Ireland at the age of sixteen as a slave. He often prayed up to 100 times a day and night. He then escaped 6 years later and returned home. Patrick then had a dream with a man in it handing letters with one title 'the voice of the Irish'. The man in the dream also said "we ask you holy boy to come and walk once more among us". Patrick obeyed this call and returned to Ireland where he baptised thousands and ordained many priests however was often threatened to be killed, murdered, or enslaved. Patrick also wrote a letter to the prince corotichs after he had destroyed many of the Christians in Ireland. Patrick is extremely upset in this letter.*

#### **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. The candidate is well informed on Patrick's own writings. 5/5 marks.

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

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

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

*Yes, I feel Christians today are in similar circumstances as in Christianity is often rebuked by the people in our society today. This then means we can learn from St Patricks teachings and see how he handled these situations. However others may feel that Patricks teachings our out of date and were written at a time where circumstances were different therefore it isn't relevant to today. Some may also think that Christianity has evolved since then and that the values/beliefs St Patrick had are different than to what Christians believe today.*

#### **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 agree with this statement to a certain point as I feel that like Christmas, it has been very commercialized. I feel people have taken the focus away from what it should be as it is now often seen as a time for going out and drinking. Instead it should be celebrated for what it was and how Patrick changed how Ireland is today through his obedience and faith in God. On the other hand I do appreciate that some churches celebrate St Patrick’s Day for the true meaning which more people should do.*

### Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 3. The candidate has produced some well formed and reasoned arguments to evaluate the religious significance of St Patrick’s day. Some points could have been developed more fully. 4/5 marks.

## Section B

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

### Q5a Church Government/Leadership in the Church

Describe the main leadership roles in the organisation of a Protestant church of your choice. [5]

#### Student's response

*Presbyterian Church:*

*The minister plays a main role in the church as he is involved with preaching/teaching in the church. The minister also has a role to do weddings, baptism's, funerals and other pastoral duties. Elders also have an important role in the church as they have the same authority as the minister. They are involved in the serving of communion, pastoral duties and backing the minister. Deaconesses/Deacons also have an important role in the church as they have some role as minister however they aren't envolved in communion, baptism or preaching/teaching.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has produced a number of relevant and accurate points with development in a well-structured manner. The response contains knowledge and understanding of leadership roles and the associated responsibilities within the Presbyterian Church. 5/5 marks.

### Q5b Explain why fewer people today want to become ministers or pastors. [5]

#### Student's response

*People are too afraid of the scrutany ministers/pastores come under in the world of today. People also feel like there isn't enough money in the role of a minister/pastor. People also don't like the responsibility of leading a church and the sacrafices that come with it. Some people may also feel like the job is too repetitive and can be too boring.*

#### Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. The candidate has produced and has attempted to develop some accurate and relevant points. Reasons why fewer people are deciding to become ministers or pastors are considered but overall, additional development was required. 3/5 marks.

**Q5c** “Women should be encouraged to play a greater role in Protestant churches.”

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 I feel that God created men and women in his likeness, not just men. Jesus had a radical approach to women at a time when he shouldn’t have so we should too. There is evidence in the Bible of women preaching in Judges 4 and 5 where we see Deborah preaching. The Bible also states in Galatians 3:28 that you shouldn’t be treated differently because of your gender. However on the other hand, people feel women shouldn’t be allowed to play a greater role in the church as it is a tradition that goes back to the Early Church and we should follow it. Some churches also base their views on women on Paul’s teachings where he teaches that men should be superior. It also says in the Bible in 1 Timothy 25:8-15 that men are superior to women and that men should lead. Others also feel that there are other roles for women in the church where they are valued much more rather than greater roles in the church.*

### Examiner’s comments

A02 Level 5. This candidate has produced very well-formed and reasoned arguments in order to analyse and evaluate the role of women in the church. There is reasoned consideration of different points of view and scripture is used effectively to develop key points on both sides of the debate. 9/10 marks.

**Q6a** **Worship**

Outline some of the differences between liturgical and non-liturgical worship. [5]

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

**Q6b** Explain why speaking in tongues is still practised by some Protestant churches. [5]

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

**Q6c** “Too much emphasis is placed on preaching in the Protestant faith.”

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 The Early Church**

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

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

*On the day of Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit was released. It occurred after Jesus's death in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. It was described as a noise like a strong wind and it came on to each of the people in the room as tongues of fire. It also made them start speaking in different languages. Jews then started to celebrate on the streets and offer animal sacrifices to God in the temple which was central to their faith. Peter then began his preaching and claimed Jesus was the Messiah. Many people were baptised (3,000 people) and became the first members of the church.*

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

A01 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 a human body as the church is made up of the people and is the people rather than the building. The church has individual people that have their own individual qualities that come together to make the church function greatly. No one is better than each other and no one is regarded as unimportant. He often used the example of if you take away a part of the body e.g leg or hand it has an impact on the rest of the body to emphasise his point on how everyone is important.*

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

A01 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 very good level of accurate knowledge and understanding. 5/5 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

*I agree as I feel they were very obedient and faithful e.g. sacrificing animals on day of Pentecost which is what people in the church today are lacking. I also feel like they gave Christians today inspiration and hope as Christians today can look back in the Bible to stories of when the early Christians seen miraculous signs and wonders. Their bravery is also something Christians can learn from as they were the first people to enter into Christianity which takes courage as most people back then were Jews or worshipped other Gods. However, on the other hand, some may argue that the circumstances that Christians face today are different to the issues the early Christians faced therefore they aren't relevant. Some may also feel that stories of the early Christians may not be true due to human errors of translators/writers therefore Christians today don't have a true reflection of the early Christians. Some Christians today believe that God doesn't move in the ways he did years ago when the early Christians were alive therefore it would be wrong to use them as an example for Christians today. The Bible also tells us stories of the early Christians when they sinned and disobeyed God meaning they aren't a 'good' example for Christians today to follow. For example when the israelits were looking for the Holy Land they started to dont God and therefore it took them a lot longer to find than it should have due to their disobedience.*

### Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4. This response shows evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the relevance of the example of the first Christians. 8/10 marks.



