

GCSE

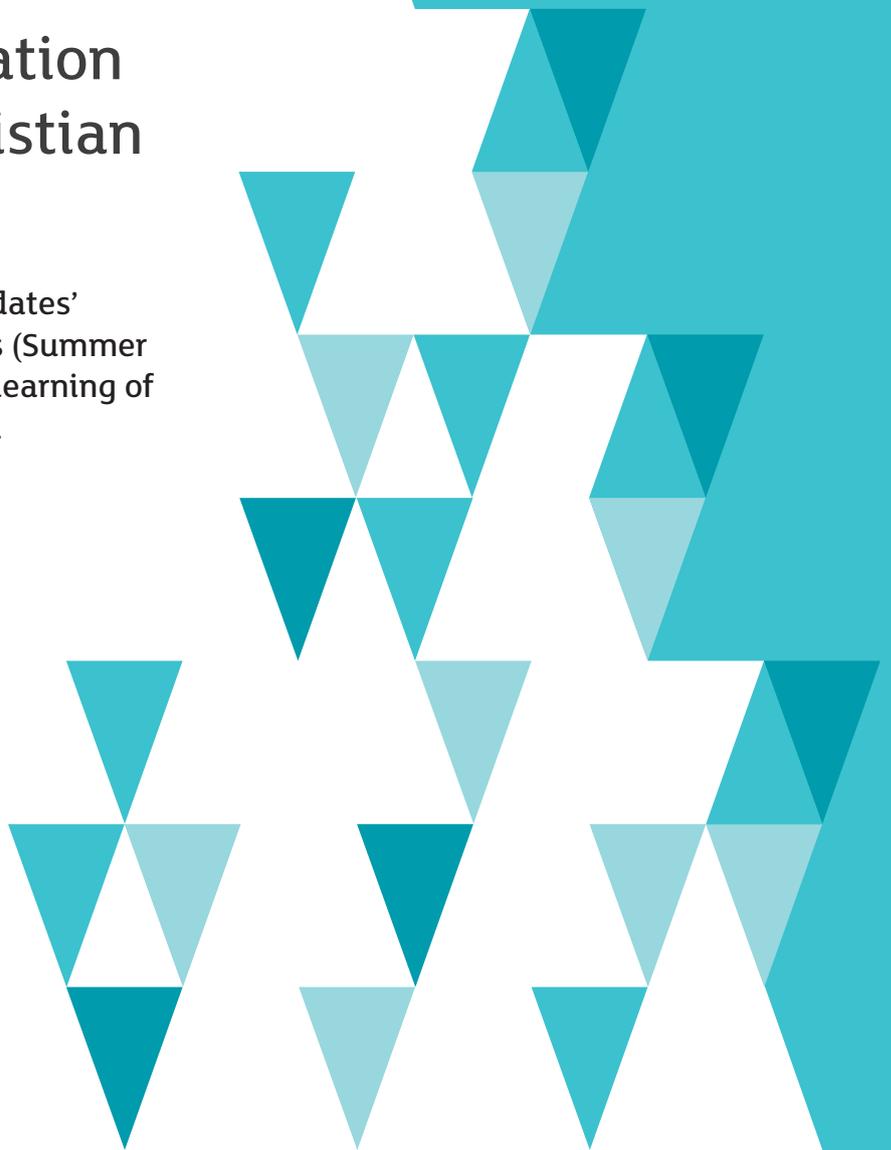


CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance

Religious Studies

Paper 3: The Revelation of God and the Christian 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 3: The Revelation of God and the Christian Church

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) The Christian Church

Name the festival which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. [1]

Student's response

Easter

Q1a(ii) Name the 40-day period leading up to Easter. [1]

Student's response

Lent

Q1a(iii) What event in the Christian calendar is remembered at Pentecost? [1]

Student's response

Coming of the holy spirit

Q1a(iv) How do some Christians celebrate harvest? [1]

Student's response

Give food to foodbanks

Q1a(v) Why do some Christians remember Saints' Days? [1]

Student's response

To remember role models

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 Advent is an important time for Christians. [5]

Student's response

Advent is important for Christians as it's a time for preparation and time for reflection of the birth of Jesus. It is a 4 week period before Christmas and it allows Christians to pray and prepare for the birth of Jesus, as some Christians feel Christmas is over-commercialised and people focus on Santa Claus rather than Christ, this allows them more time to focus on the real meaning of Christmas and have special services focused on the birth of Jesus.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. The candidate is aware that Advent is a time of preparation. However, the significance of Advent for Christians could have been explored in greater detail. 2/5 marks.

Q1c "All Christian festivals are equally important."

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

Student's response

I disagree, as I believe Jesus' death and resurrection are most important, therefore easter would be more important. The resurrection is the central belief of Christianity and it proves to us that God was the Messiah and who he said he was. It also reinforces that there is life after death and helps Christians believe that Jesus really lives inside of us and is alive.

However some Christians do believe the birth to be most important as if Jesus was not born, none of the bible would have actually happened. People also believe that Pentecost is very important as it is the coming of the holy spirit and the birth of the church and without the Church Christians would find it hard to create time to properly worship God together.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced some well-formed and reasoned arguments in relation to the debate on whether some Christian festivals have greater importance than others. 4/5 marks.

Q2a(i) The Birth of Jesus

Name the town where Jesus was born. [1]

Student's response

Bethlehem

Q2a(ii) What does the name Immanuel mean? [1]

Student's response

'God saves'

Q2a(iii) What made the visitors from the East come to Jerusalem? [1]

Student's response

A star rose.

Q2a(iv) What message did the angel give to Mary? [1]

Student's response

She was going to have a baby boy.

Q2a(v) What was the good news brought to the shepherds by the angel? [1]

Student's response

A baby had been born.

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 the birth stories are difficult to accept in a scientific age?
Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I think the birth stories are difficult to accept in a scientific age and this is backed by many due to the fact that atheism is increasing and the society today is becoming more secular. There is also no scientific proof or evidence that the bible is actually God's word. Some people also find it hard to believe as angels were present in the birth stories and angels are seen as a supernatural thing and many people do not believe in the supernatural. However many people have different opinions and believe in the birth stories, as there would be no other person to create the world and who made up the bible.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in relation to how difficult it is to accept the birth stories in a scientific age. The response contains evidence of informed insights. 5/5 marks.

Q2c "The birth stories are the most significant events in the life of Jesus."
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I disagree, I think the baptism, declaration of Faith and transfiguration were more significant. I think this because the baptism was a significant turning point in Jesus' life, when he rose out of the water the earth shaking proves he was who he said he was and it fulfilled the prophets. The declaration of faith was significant as it was when the disciples found out he was the Messiah and after this Jesus began to talk more openly about his death and resurrection. People also believe his arrest to be significant as he didn't try to stop his arrest as he knew this was God's plan, he even told his disciple trying to help him to 'put [his] sword back in it's place.'

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. The candidate has given a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. The candidate has rejected the idea that the birth stories are the most significant event in the life of Jesus and has provided alternative events. There is a clear focus on why these events are of great significance. 5/5 marks.

Q3a The Christian Church



<http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-adult-baptism-in-church/76132317/popup?sq=baptism/f=CPIHVX/s=Default>



<http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-newborn-baby-baptism/523162096/popup?sq=baptism/f=CPIHVX/s=Default>

Describe some of the features of a baptismal service in a church of your choice.

The church I have chosen is [5]

Student's response

The church I have chosen is *baptist church*. *The service begins after the baptismal tank has been opened and filled waste deep. The baptistery is a large tank that normally sits in a central position of the front. The service contains hymns and prayers. Girls wear white to symbolise purity and then the individual can give a testimony. The person will be old enough to answer themselves as it's believers baptism, so the pastor asks them "do you now confess the Christ to be your Lord and Saviour". The person will say I do and they will be fully immersed. Then there would be a hymn sung with the theme of new life.*

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has given a number of relevant points in relation to the features of a baptismal service in the Baptist church. While there is a good attempt to develop key points, the words, 'in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit' are significant within the service and would have enhanced the response. 4/5 marks.

Q3b Explain why some churches baptise infants. [5]

Student's response

Some churches believe in infant baptism as it represents the baby's entrance into the church. They say the bible represents infant baptism and that you must be baptized to take Eucharist, in the Roman Catholic Church. They believe that the child will be guided through life after they're baptised, therefore it should be done early.

Examiner's comments

AO1 level 2. The candidate has given a number of relevant points on the reasons for infant baptism. Some points could have been explored in greater depth to ensure greater clarity. 3/5 marks.

Q3c "All Christians need to be baptised."

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

Student's response

I agree as Christians should follow Jesus' example and he was baptized. In the great commission Jesus also says, "baptized them in the name of the Father and of the son and the holy spirit", therefore he supports baptism. Baptism proves that you are committed to God as it is a public confession of faith, so if you are a Christian why would you not want to get baptized anyway? However some Christians argue there is no need for baptism, as I can still worship God the same way people that are baptised can.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in support of the importance of the ceremony of baptism in living a Christian life. There is some reference to other points of view. 4/5 marks.

Q4a The Teaching of Jesus

Retell Jesus' parable of the sower. [5]

Student's response

Jesus was sitting on a boat when a crowd gathered round him and he told a story of a farming planting some seed. He said that the farmer threw some onto the path, but it did not grow, he threw some onto the thorn bushes and it grew up quickly but was choked by the thorns, he threw some onto a rocky path and it grew up quickly but was torched by the sun. He threw some onto good soil and a good crop was produced. He said the path represented someone receiving God's word, but not listening to it. The rocky path represented somebody hearing God's word, but when challenged he failed. The thorns represented somebody who received God's word, but worried of his wealth and the good soil represents somebody understanding and practicing God's word.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has produced a detailed answer showing good development. Knowledge is generally accurate; however, the response could have been sharper on some key details e.g. what happened to the seed that fell on the path? 4/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think Jesus' parables are still relevant for people today?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I think Jesus parable's are still relevant today as they can all be applied to modern situations. They are easy to understand. We can easily put into actions all his teaching on forgiveness, such as "not seven times but seventy seven times". The parable of the sower is easily interpreted into people in today's word. We can also use the parable of the rich young man to understand that materialistic things should not be a priority. However some people think Jesus' parables are out of date.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in support of the relevance of Jesus' parables for people today. A number of examples from scripture are considered and used to support points in the argument. 5/5 marks.

Q4c “You cannot be a follower of Jesus unless you are prepared to make personal sacrifices.”

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

Student's response

I agree as Jesus said 'if you do not hold your cross you cannot be my follower'. People may struggle to forgive. Jesus taught that forgiveness should be unconditional. Such as Julie Nicholson who couldn't forgive the suicide bombers. People may find it hard to sacrifice money and possessions as Jesus said 'if you want to be perfect you must give all your possessions to the poor.' You must also be prepared to sacrifice pride and be humble as Jesus said 'those who exalt themselves will be humbled'. You must also sacrifice time to go to church, pray and to read the bible.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has made a good attempt to consider various points related to the need for followers of Jesus to make personal sacrifices. This is a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. 4/5 marks.

Section B

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

Q5a The Christian Church

Describe some of the ways a church can contribute to the local community.
[5]

Student's response

A church can contribute to society and the local community by providing normal church services. They can hire out halls to hold sports events such as volleyball. They can contribute to the community as being a destination for giving blood each month. They can also contribute to the name of the community by being a marked historical building that people may want to see. Churches can also hold youth events such as Xpression in the summer months and girlguiding and boy's birgade.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has given two or three relevant and accurate points with some development. The response has a good focus on various ways in which the church premises can be used by the local community in a positive way. 4/5 marks.

Q5b Explain why some churches use a set order of service each week. [5]

Student's response

Some churches such as baptist churches that used a structured service and the Roman Catholic that use a liturgical set up prefer to have a set order of service. This allows the congregation to be at ease, as they know what to expect going to the service and also what will happen next. It also allows them to play an active role in the service. It will be organised by holy people, which means it will be well organised and respectful of God. Some argue that there's no variety each week but the structured style doesn't use set prayers, and has lots of opportunity for variety through what is being preached and the hymns song.

Examiner's comments

Ao1 Level 3. A well structured response with good development. The candidate has given a good explanation as to why some churches use a set order of worship each week and is well informed in relation to the advantages of liturgical worship.
5/5 marks

Q5c “Churches need to update their teaching on moral issues.”

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

Student's response

I think churches do need to update their teachings on moral issues. They should understand that society is changing and becoming more secular, even Christians can interpret things differently now. Many young people will be brought up with different views or have their own opinions and churches should understand this and include everyone as we 'are all one in Jesus.' For example with the issue of abortion many churches still are fixed on pro-life, but there are probably many within the church that have an element of pro-choice belief. On the other hand some people believe that morals will never need updated as they are based on the bible and what Jesus teaches, so they'll always be relevant. Churches may only be pro-life as they follow 'do not murder.' Some people think that within the church all opinions will be the same as everyone should follow the bible. I think however that churches should update their teaching on moral issues and be more inclusive.

Examiner's comments

AO2 level 4. Different points of view have been considered by this candidate on the continuing relevance of Church teaching on moral issues. The response reflects informed insights and accurate knowledge and understanding of religion. For higher marks to be awarded, the candidate could have considered a wider range of moral issues e.g. sexual relationships, divorce, euthanasia and evaluated the relevance of church teaching in relation to these issues. 7/10 marks.

Q6a The Encounters of Jesus with Others

Retell the incident when Jesus met Zacchaeus the tax collector. [5]

Student's response

Zaccheus climbed up a tree to see Jesus as Jesus was very short. Jesus shouted "Get down immediately as I am going to stay in your house tonight." This took everyone by shock as Zaccheus was a tax-collector and everyone hated tax-collectors as they stole and worked for the Romans. They said 'he has gone to be in the hands of the sinner.' Zaccheus admitted all of his wrong doings to Jesus and said that he would give half of his belongings to the poor and give back four times as much as what he'd stolen from people. Jesus said, "the lord has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. A detailed answer on Jesus encounter with Zacchaeus showing very good development of key points within the narrative. 5/5 marks.

Q6b Explain why tax collectors were unpopular. [5]

Student's response

Tax collectors were unpopular as they were considered unclean and they worked for the Roman Government. They charged extra money for tax and kept the extra money for themselves, so people very much disliked the tax collectors. They judged others. However Jesus practiced universalism and forgave the tax collector zaccheus and in the synagogue when they said, "Forgive me Lord a sinner".

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. The candidate has shown some clear knowledge and understanding of why tax collectors were unpopular and two relevant and accurate points are considered. However, the reasons for their unpopularity at the time of Jesus could be developed further e.g. they worked for the Romans who were an occupying force in Palestine. 2/5 marks.

Q6c “Christians should treat everyone equally.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. You should refer to relevant Bible passages in your answer. [10]

Student's response

I agree that Christians should treat everyone equally as this is what Jesus done. Jesus forgave the tax collector as he beated his chest, looked at the ground and admitted to being a sinner. He also forgave the tax collector even though tax collectors were unpopular, he treated them fairly. Jesus was not afraid to be criticised for talking to women, he spoke to them frequently, had women followers and it was women that appeared to him after the resurection. Jesus also healed people with leprosy. Leprosy sufferers were seen as outcasts but Jesus told them to 'go show yourselves to the priests' and then he said, "Go your faith has made you well." He treated people that were seen as outcasts with respect. When a women was caught in the act of adultery he said to the people looking to stone her, "You without sin can be the first to throw a stone at her." This protected the women as everyone has comitted a sin in their life. Jesus also treats everyone equally as he told a rich young boy that to be perfect he must sell all his possesions to the poor. He said to his disciples, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle that a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven." We should forgive as we are only human and everyone makes mistakes. Jesus taught that we should forgive 'not seven times but seventy times seven.' On the other hand there are people such as rapists that should not be forgave and we must be selective of who we forgive. Overall I think that Christians should forgive just as Jesus forgave.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 4. This candidate makes a very good attempt to develop reasons why it is important for Christians to treat all people equally. The response displays accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant scripture passages which are used effectively to support the argument. Different points of view are considered; however, one view is much briefer than the other. The style of writing is relatively mature with an accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar. 8/10 marks.

Q7a The Death of Jesus

Describe what happened at the Last Supper. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q7b Explain why the events in the Garden of Gethsemane were difficult for Jesus. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q7c “The example given by Jesus during his suffering and death can help people today.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. You should refer to relevant Bible passages in your answer. [10]

The candidate did not select this question.



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