

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance **Religious Studies**

Paper 4: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Matthew

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 4: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Matthew

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) Jesus the Miracle Worker

On what day of the week did Jesus heal the man with the paralysed hand?
[1]

Student's response

Sabbath

Q1a(ii) In which building did Jesus heal the man with the paralysed hand? [1]

Student's response

Temple

Q1a(iii) To whom did Jesus say "be clean"? [1]

Student's response

Leper

Q1a(iv) To whom did Jesus say "Courage my daughter! Your faith has made you well"? [1]

Student's response

Bleeding woman

Q1a(v) Who said "Just give the order, and my servant will get well"? [1]

Student's response

Roman officer

Examiner's comments

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

Q1b Using examples from the miracles you have studied, explain why Jesus performed miracles. [5]

Student's response

To prove to his people that he was the Messiah. To prove that everyone is welcome into Gods kingdom, Jews and non-Jews eg roman officer. To show that people who are sick or known as unclean were not sinners eg: bleeding woman. To show that healing a man on the Sabbath therefore helping a man is more important than rescuing a sheap eg: paralysed man.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. This candidate has produced a detailed response and has provided several reasons to explain why Jesus performed miracles. Relevant examples from the Gospel are used to illustrate key points. 5/5 marks.

Q1c "Christians should show love and respect to everyone."

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

Student's response

Christians should show love and respect to everyone because Jesus did. He treated the marginalised with the love and respect that others didn't. To enter heaven Christians must show love and respect to everyone and treat them fairly. Jesus taught Christians using miracles to not treat people as outcasts but with love and respect.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. This candidate gave an opinion on the need to show love and respect to others. There is some development, however, additional development of another relevant point would have improved the response. 3/5 marks.

Q2a(i) Events in the week leading up to Jesus' death

What Jewish festival was taking place at the time of Jesus' death? [1]

Student's response

Ramadan

Q2a(ii) Name the traitor who betrayed Jesus. [1]

Student's response

Judas

Q2a(iii) How much money did the traitor receive from the Chief Priests? [1]

Student's response

30 silver coins

Q2a(iv) Who said "I will never leave you, even though all the others do"? [1]

Student's response

Peter

Q2a(v) Where did Jesus say he would go to after he was raised again to life? [1]

Student's response

Galilee to his disciples

Examiner's comments

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

Q2b Do you think the Last Supper still has importance for Christians?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes as this is when Jesus took the bread as his body and broke it to signify his death. This is when Jesus took the wine and drank it to signify the blood he will shed during his death. This is still celebrated today by Christians through communion to celebrate Jesus' death for our sins. However, some don't know the true meaning behind communion.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed argument in support of the importance of the Last Supper. While the candidate is well informed on the events of the Last Supper, there could be a sharper focus on the actual significance it has for Christians today. 4/5 marks.

Q2c "The events in Gethsemane were the most difficult Jesus had to face."

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

Student's response

Some people may say this is true as his disciples didn't keep watch, fell asleep, fled and Peter cut off a servant's ear which disobeyed Jesus & his patrilism. However, some may say his crucifixion was more difficult for Jesus as he was beaten and flogged to this point he was so weak he couldn't carry his cross.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. The candidate has produced a well-argued response showing evidence of informed insights. The response reflects an understanding of why Gethsemane was a difficult time for Jesus and also shows awareness of other incidents in Matthew's Gospel which Jesus also found difficult. 4/5 marks.

Q3a Parables

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?” ²²“No, not seven times,” answered Jesus, “but seventy times seven, ²³because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants’ accounts.”

Matthew 18 v 21–23

In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant describe what happened after the king cancelled the servant’s debt. [5]

Student’s response

The servant went to his other servants and one came to him with a debt of 100 silver coins and said “But I will pay you.” The first servant throws his servant in prison until he can pay him. The King found out and threw him in prison for not showing forgiveness after the King showed forgiveness to him.

Examiner’s comments

AO1 Level 3. This candidate has given a reasonably accurate account of the parable. In one or two areas, the candidate could have explored what happened in the parable in greater detail. 4/5 marks.

Q3b Explain why parables were an important part of Jesus’ ministry. [5]

Student’s response

They were easy for people to understand. They all had a key meaning which made his people listen more because they were easier to teach than a story as they were shorter. The people thought about them to try and understand them. The parables were how Jews taught important lessons.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 2. The candidate has produced a number of accurate and relevant points with some development. Some additional information on the significance of parables in Jesus’ ministry could have been considered e.g. they reveal spiritual truths about the Kingdom of God. 3/5 marks.

Q3c “Christians should always forgive.”

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

Student’s response

Christians should always forgive for Jesus teaches in the parable of the unforgiving servant that if someone shows you forgiveness you should show it back. Forgiveness is one of the key things Christians should do to enter heaven. However, being hesitant to forgive is understandable if it was something really important or hurtful eg: murder of loved one.

Examiner’s comments

AO2. Level 2. A number of relevant points have been presented on whether or not Christians should always forgive. The candidate does refer to Jesus’ example but evidence from Jesus’ teaching could have been more explicit. 3/5 marks.

Q4a The Great Commission

Describe what happened when Jesus appeared to his disciples for the last time. [5]

Student’s response

Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them to gain disciples from all around the world. Jesus told them to teach about Jesus and his story. This is when Matthew started writing and when Jesus was referred to as ‘Emmanual’ – God with us. This was in Galilee after Jesus was resurrected, appearing to eleven disciples.

Examiner’s comments

AO1 Level 2. This candidate has produced a satisfactory account of Jesus last appearance to the disciples. Reference to the final words of Jesus in ‘The Great Commission’ would have improved the response. 3/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think it was easy for the first disciples to follow Jesus?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes, because they were known as outcasts so it must have felt nice to be wanted for once. However, they may have hesitated incase they were judged or hurt for following Jesus as some believed he was committing blasphemy. Also they had to give up their whole life to follow Jesus which might have been difficult to do for some.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. The candidate does make an attempt to consider the challenge of being one of the first disciples. However, the points are very general and there could have been a sharper focus on concrete examples such as the cost of discipleship and the extent of renunciation that was expected of the early disciples. 3/5 marks.

Q4c "Actions rather than words are the best way to spread the Christian faith today." Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Some may agree by saying people can donate to charities eg: Salvation Army and make a difference. Some may apply to CAP and help people with debt. However, talking about faith and God is how Jesus taught in his day. Telling stories can spread the Christians faith again but may be too outdated today for people to listen.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. The candidate has produced some well-formed and reasoned arguments to evaluate the statement. There is a clear attempt to engage with the task. An additional point on either side of the argument would have improved the response. 4/5 marks.

Section B

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

Q5a The Birth of Jesus

Describe what happened when the visitors from the East came to Jerusalem. [5]

Student's response

After the birth of Jesus, Magi came and asked, "Where is the one born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Herod was disturbed and called together all the chief priests and teachers of the law and asked where the Christ was to be born. Herod asked the Magi what the exact time was that the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me so I may too go and worship him. "The Magi followed the star ahead which stopped over the child, they were overjoyed. They worshipped him and presented him with Gold, Incense and Myrrh. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they returned to their country another route.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has produced a very accurate and detailed account of the events described in Matthew 2:1-8. The information is presented in a well-structured manner. 5/5 marks.

Q5b Explain why Matthew used Old Testament prophecies throughout his gospel. [5]

Student's response

Jesus always quoted the Old Testament eg: during his temptations. All the important messages for Christians on how to enter heaven are in the Old Testament. Jesus referred to Old Testament prophecies to teach about faith and God to his people.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 1. This response displays elementary knowledge of the question area. The candidate could have considered reasons why Matthew used Old Testament prophecies throughout his gospel e.g. he was writing for a Jewish audience. 1/5 marks.

Q5c “God still speaks to people today as he did in the past.”

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

Student’s response

Jesus was God incarnate so during the time of Matthew’s gospel he spoke to people in person however he doesn’t do that today. Some people believe God speaks to them through visions or dreams eg Lady at Knock. We don’t know of that happening in the past except for angels who aren’t God. Some Christians believe God speaks to them through his word in the bible or through ministers or preachers. In the past Jesus did preach to people also, so God did speak through Jesus a preacher. In Matthew’s gospel people may have believed God spoke through Jesus’ miracles. Also some Christians today believe God speaks to them in miraculous situations eg: incurable to curable person with disease.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 4. The candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments in order to analyse and evaluate how God communicates with people. The candidate makes a good attempt to compare how God has spoken to people in the past with today. There is consideration of different points of view. 8/10 marks.

Q6a **The Identity of Jesus**

Describe the event when Peter made his declaration at Caesarea Philippi. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6b Explain why the Transfiguration was an important experience for Peter, James and John. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6c “The Son of God is the best title for Jesus.”

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

The candidate did not select this question.

Q7a The Trials of Jesus

Describe the trial of Jesus before the Jewish Council. [5]

Student's response

Jesus was taken to the Jewish Council at night and they asked him if he was the Messiah. Jesus replied "You have said so." This angered the Jewish Council, two false witnesses came and one said, "He told me I could knock down the temple and rebuild it in three days." They spit at Jesus and charged him with Blasphemy which was executed through death by the Roman Law. The Jewish Council asked the crowd if they want Jesus or Barabbas free, they chose Barabbas.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. This candidate has produced a reasonably accurate account of the Trial before the Jewish Council. While knowledge of certain aspects of the trial is clear, the account could have been improved by including greater detail in some areas e.g. additional details on what the High Priest and Jesus actually say at the trial. 3/5 marks.

Q7b In what way was the trial before the Jewish Council unfair? [5]

Student's response

Trials held to this standard were not usually at night but this one was. Jesus did not have a chance to testify. They made up his charge. They didn't usually free others. The Jewish leaders have wanted Jesus gone for a long time. Normally during trials they didn't ask for the crowds opinion.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2. This response contains some relevant and accurate points although there may be some confusion with events at the trial before Pilate. A sharper focus on how the trial before the Jewish council was unfair would have gained higher marks e.g. the use of violence at the trial and Jesus having no defence. 3/5 marks.

Q7c “It is wrong to blame Pilate for Jesus’ death.”

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

Student’s response

Some would agree with this statement as Pilate did not decide Jesus’ fate, the people did. This is known because his wife had a dream and told Pilate she believes Jesus is innocent so didn’t want him to get involved. Pilate asked the crowd what they wanted to do with Jesus, they shouted “crucify him!” Pilate washed his hands to indicate that the decision had nothing to do with him. The crowd replied, “The blood is on our hands and our childrens.” Therefore Pilate wasn’t to blame for Jesus’ death, the people were.

However, during the time of Matthew’s gospel the Jewish council and Pilate didn’t usually ask for the crowds opinion so since Pilate was such a coward to ask the crowd, it is Pilate’s fault because he believed Jesus was innocent so he could have saved Jesus’ life.

However, some would blame the Jewish Council for Jesus’ death as they falsely charged Jesus, so from this point of view it is wrong to blame Pilate for Jesus’ death.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 3. The candidate has made a good attempt to provide reasoned arguments to evaluate Pilate’s responsibility in relation to the death of Jesus. Two points of view are considered; however, in parts of the response the candidate’s focus on the statement could have been more explicit. 6/10 marks.

