

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance **Religious Studies**

Paper 5: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Mark

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 5: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Mark

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) Parables and the Kingdom of God

Why did Jesus use parables? [1]

Student's response

to make it easier for ordinary people to understand

Q1a(ii) In the Parable of the Sower, what happened to the seed that fell on the path? [1]

Student's response

the birds ate it

Q1a(iii) In the Parable of the Sower, what happened to the seed that fell among thorn bushes? [1]

Student's response

it was choked

Q1a(iv) Where did Jesus say you should not put a lamp? [1]

Student's response

Under a bowl

Q1a(v) What type of seed did Jesus say was the smallest seed in the world? [1]

Student's response

mustard seed

Examiner's comments

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

Q1b Explain the meaning of the Parable of the Sower. [5]

Student's response

When the seed fell on the path, the birds ate it, this represents when Christians hear Gods message but ignore it. The seed also fell on rocky ground but the soil wasnt deep enough, this represents when Christians hear Gods message, but it does not sink in deep enough and in times of trouble they give up. The seed fell among thorn bushes and was choked this represents when Christians hear the message but their desire for riches choke it and they forget the message it then fell in good soil meaning that people heard the message, received it gladly and beared fruit.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response reflects a clear knowledge and understanding with some development. The candidate is aware of some key features of the parable of the sower and the meaning of it. 3/5 marks.

Q1c "The Kingdom of God should be open to everyone."

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

Student's response

Yes I agree, the kingdom of god should be open to everyone as Jesus taught many different groups/ types of people about entering the kingdom of god through parables for example he taught wealthy – rich man, he taught outlaws and he taught the children Jesus teaches that it is hard to enter the kingdom of god "it is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of god than a camel to go through the eye of a needle." This teaches us that you must be strongly willing to enter but the kingdom of god is always open.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. The candidate makes a good attempt to use evidence from Mark's Gospel to develop the point about the universal nature of the Kingdom. 3/5 marks.

Q2a(i) Discipleship

Name **two** of the twelve disciples.

1. [1]
2. [1]

Student's response

1. *Simon*
2. *Judas*

Q2a(ii) Name **one** thing Jesus ordered his disciples not to take with them on their mission. [1]

Student's response

Money

Q2a(iii) What did Jesus give his disciples authority over? [1]

Student's response

evil spirits

Q2a(iv) Why did Jesus praise the widow at the Temple Treasury? [1]

Student's response

She gave them all she had to live on.

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 it is all right for Christians to be wealthy?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes it is all right for Christians to be wealthy as Jesus' teachings are more important so we should focus on following them. Wealthy people can do this also. Wealthy people can also help us as a community by donating to charities for example trocaire or children in crossfire where people give money to help those who are living in a less fortunate environment. It is alright for Christians to be wealthy as long as they practise their faith regularly by attending mass.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: This candidate gives reasoned arguments to analyse and evaluate the statement. The candidate has made a good attempt to accept the claim that it is all right for Christians to be wealthy but the answer requires greater development.

3/5 marks.

Q2c "The rewards of discipleship are far greater than the cost."

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

Student's response

The rewards of discipleship were greater than the cost as they were rewarded with eternal life when he made the cost of leaving things behind. The disciples got to spend valuable time with Jesus as his companions and they also got to witness amazing miracles such as the paralysed man and the man with an evil spirit. The costs of being a disciple were not high expectations which made it easier for the disciples to follow and accept the rewards that came their way.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: This candidate gives reasoned arguments to analyse and evaluate the statement. This candidate is aware of the reward of eternal life and compares this to the cost of discipleship. However, some points could have been developed further. Some points could also show a greater degree of accuracy. 3/5 marks.

Q3a Miracles: Jesus heals a boy with an evil spirit

¹⁴When they joined the rest of the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and some teachers of the Law arguing with them. ¹⁵When the people saw Jesus, they were greatly surprised, and ran to him and greeted him. ¹⁶Jesus asked his disciples, "What are you arguing with them about?"

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, because he has an evil spirit in him and cannot talk. ¹⁸Whenever the spirit attacks him, it throws him to the ground, and he foams at the mouth, grits his teeth, and becomes stiff all over. I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they could not."

Mark 9 v 14–18 (GNB)

Complete the rest of this story. [5]

Student's response

"How unbelieving are you people? How long must I stay with you?" Jesus asked then he said "Bring the boy to me!" They brought the boy to Jesus and as soon as it seen Jesus it threw the boy into a fit. He began foaming at the mouth Jesus said, the man said "Teacher I do not have faith help me to have more" "how long has he been like this, only faith can drive this out" "Deaf and dumb spirit, come out of the boy" The spirit came out and gave a loud scream. Jesus took the boys hand and helped him to his feet when they left the disciples asked Jesus "Teacher why could we not drive out the evil spirit" "only prayer can drive that sort out" he answered.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate provides a detailed answer showing very good development. The account of Jesus healing the boy with an evil spirit is accurate and is written with a high degree of coherence and clarity. 5/5 marks.

Q3b Explain what can be learnt from the attitude of the boy's father in this story. [5]

Student's response

We can learn that the father was willing to do anything for his son, he was a compassionate man. He showed honesty in his attitude when he said "I know that, I do have faith, just not enough, help me to have more" the father doesn't try to hide his lack of faith yet asks for help to have more. The father's positive attitude of believing that his boy could be healed was rewarded and he will continue to grow his faith because of the experience.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate provides a detailed answer showing very good development. There are several relevant and accurate points about the attitude of the boy's father and the response is well structured. 4/5 marks.

Q3c "The miracles of Jesus did not please everyone."

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

Student's response

Yes I agree as the miracles of Jesus didn't please the Jewish leaders. This was because he broke the law of keeping the Sabbath day holy by healing the man with a paralysed hand. The Jewish leaders also didn't like Jesus' miracles as he healed outcasts and gentiles such as the Syrophenician woman's daughter and the man with a dreaded skin disease. Jewish leaders considered these people as unclean and didn't associate them with them.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: This candidate does attempt to develop a number of relevant points in relation to the conflict surrounding some of Jesus' miracles. While reference is made to a number of miracles within Mark's Gospel, the candidate needs to develop the points more fully. 3/5 marks.

Q4a The Identity of Jesus

Outline the events surrounding Peter's declaration about Jesus at Caesarea Philippi. [5]

Student's response

Peter James and John were with Jesus he asked them "who do people say I am?" this happened throughout peters declaration. Before peters declaration took place he was baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus Jesus asked them who do you say I am, then Peter spoke up and said 'you are the Messiah.' When he asked them who do people say I am they replied "some say you are are of the prophets, others Elijah and others John the Baptist."

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response shows clear knowledge and understanding of the events surrounding Peter's declaration with some development. Parts of the response could be clearer and the answer also requires greater development. 3/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think Messiah is an appropriate title for Jesus?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes I do as the title Messiah means "the holy, anointed one". From this we can tell that Jesus was special and that he had got something important to say. In the transfiguration the voice tells us to "listen to him". Messiah is an appropriate title for Jesus as it fufils the prophecies as the Messiah was meant to come as a decendant of King Davids. King David was highly respected and therefore people respected Jesus too.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: Reasoned arguments are given in favour of Messiah being an appropriate title for Jesus. The reference to the Transfiguration could be clearly related to the title Messiah, however, the candidate does present some accurate and relevant information. 3/5 marks.

Q4c “Jesus was a good teacher and nothing more.”

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

Student's response

Jesus was a good teacher as he taught through parables to explain to the ordinary people what gods message was. He knew that talking to them about something they enjoyed would make them interested and want to listen. Jesus set a very good example and therefore leaving it easier to understand his good works through teaching 2000 years later. His teaching was so good that generations have continued talking about it for almost 2000 years after his lifetime on earth.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: This candidate gives an opinion on Jesus as a good teacher and some reasons are considered. The candidate could focus on the 'and nothing more' element of the question. 3/5 marks.

Section B

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

Q5a The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Retell the story of Jesus' burial. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5b Explain the significance of the women finding the empty tomb. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5c "You cannot claim to be a Christian if you do not believe in the Resurrection."

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

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6a The Teachings of Jesus

Describe what happened when some people brought children to Jesus. [5]

Student's response

People brought their children to Jesus for him to lay his hands on them. The disciples were angry and told them to leave again. When Jesus heard this he told them to come back he said "let the children come to me, the kingdom of god is theirs, anyone who doesnt enter the kingdom of god as a child will never enter it" The children all came to him, he layed his hands on them and gave them all a blessing

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: The candidate has given a detailed account of Jesus blessing the children. This candidate's accurate knowledge of Mark's Gospel is evident and this is communicated effectively. 5/5 marks.

Q6b Explain Jesus' teaching and example on how to cope with temptation. [5]

Student's response

Jesus explained that it would be better to cut your hand off and enter heaven with one hand than to go to hell, with both hands. He said the same about legs and eyes. His teaching shows that it is better for us to sacrifice something for Jesus and maybe lose it than to never do or sacrifice anything for Jesus or the gospel and enter hell. This was a harsh story for Christians which made them think about their religion more seriously, leading them to make the best decisions and do the right things.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response demonstrates a clear knowledge and understanding of Jesus' teaching on how to cope with temptation. The response shows signs of development; however, the candidate could develop Jesus' example on how to cope with temptation. 3/5 marks.

Q6c "It is difficult to have faith in God today."

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

Student's response

Yes I agree it is difficult to have faith in god today as there are so many distractions in todays world including social media, celebrities, and materialistic goods. The distrations such as our phones makes it hard to concentrate on the important things and we get caught up on silly things. It is also difficult as young people may be critisised for their faith in God as it is 'uncool' to attend mass or holy pilgrimages. However on the other hand we can use our advancements in technology today to help spread the word of god through social media increasing faith in god. Christians can also carry symbols such as holy medals, prayers or rosary beads which make it easier to have faith in god today, bringing us closer to god. Religious groups and missionary circles improve how we can have faith in god by inviting us in and talking about our faith, making us realise the importance today. Another example for agreeing that it is difficult to have faith in god today is when we sit exams and we ask god for help and guidance through prayer, but we feel as if our prayers are unanswered making us lose faith.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: The candidate makes a good attempt to present relevant points. Several points are developed, and a counterargument is considered. However, for the candidate to access higher levels, the response must consider the relevance of Mark's gospel to the statement. 4/10 marks.

Q7a Miracles

Retell the story of a man with a dreaded skin disease. [5]

Student's response

Jesus was walking and a man with a dreaded skin disease came up to him and said "Teacher if you want, you can make me clean" Jesus said "I do want to now 'Be clean'" At once the disease left the man. Jesus said to him "Do not let anyone that I have healed you yet go to the priests and let him examine you to prove you are clean, then come and follow me" The man left and began preaching the good news to every body in Galilee. He told so many people that Jesus couldnt enter a town publically and many people came to him for healings.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: The response provides a detailed account of the healing of the man with a skin disease. There is very good development of key points and the response is very coherent. 5/5 marks.

Q7b Explain why some people were marginalised from society in the time of Jesus. [5]

Student's response

Many people were marginalised from society in the time of Jesus as many illnesses were seen as unclean, for example "the man with a dreaded skin disease". Gentiles also known as non-Jews were seen as outlaws as seen in the Syrophoenicians womans daughter when Jesus refers to her as a dog. Many occupations such as tax collecting were marginalised as they were thought to be stealing money off the people. Levi the disciple was also a tax collector.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: The candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. The candidate is aware of the sick, gentiles and tax collectors being treated as outcasts but could be clearer when explaining the reasons why they were treated as such. 4/5 marks.

Q7c “The teaching of Jesus is more important than the miracles of Jesus.”

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

Student’s response

Yes I agree the teachings of Jesus were more important than miracles as Jesus taught many people at once meaning that they could go and spread the word of god. Christians should follow the teachings of Jesus, so that they can follow in Jesus ‘ footsteps and therefore lead a better Christian life. The teaching of Jesus has a meaning and a purpose so that Christians can use this to help others. Jesus taught through parables so that Christians had a better understanding. On the other hand the miracles performed by Jesus were more important as they made people who had an unfair disadvantage to life for example the woman with a haemorrhage, well again so that they could live their lives to be best they could without having limits they couldnt go over the miracles were also important as it teaches us that our faith is important in order to stay healthy. The miracles teach us that Jesus was a man of compassion, he played a great example for us to follow today and we can see how important it is to be kind and compassionate to others.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate demonstrates the ability to give an opinion, which is supported by several developed reasons. Relevant and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the statement. While the candidate does make fleeting reference to Mark’s gospel, this feature of the response could be developed further. 6/10 marks.

