

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance **Religious Studies**

Paper 6: An Introduction to Christian Ethics

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 6: An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) Personal and Family Issues

Personal and Family Issues [1]

Student's response

When a person is attracted to someone of the same gender.

Q1a(ii) Name **two** different types of family. [1] [1]

Student's response

- *Nuclear family*
- *Extended family*

Q1a(iii) Give **one** reason why a marriage might end in divorce. [1]

Student's response

Affair/Adultery

Q1a(iv) Give **one** quality a Christian might look for in a marriage partner. [1]

Student's response

Loyalty

Examiner's comments

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

Q1b Explain Christian teaching on marriage. [5]

Student's response

Marriage is the bringing together of two people who love each other and see each other as equals. Christianity teaches Christians to be loving and show compassion to each other. Faith is part of marriage as God is thought to be the one to approve of marriages within a church. In Christian weddings, God acts as a witness between the union of two people who would be assumed to be faithful and loyal to each other just as they are to God.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: This response demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding with some development. The candidate is aware of some key aspects of Christian teaching on marriage. Some reference could be made to Bible and/or Church teaching on marriage. 3/5 marks.

Q1c "Living with a partner is preferable to getting married."

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

Student's response

I agree as by living with said marriage partner, one would often interact with the other, allowing the two to bond and continue to have conversation as living together would be part of marriage being the tie between two people. It is also preferable for the couple to share their ownership of a home, this being another symbol of their bond between the two. Marriage is the bringing together of two people and so by doing so, living together brings them together face to face.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This is a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. The candidate makes several points to develop the argument on marriage versus cohabitation. 4/5 marks.

Q2a(i) Contemporary Issues in Christianity

Name **two** different types of prejudice. [1] [1]

Student's response

- *Stereotyping*
- *Racism*

Q2a(ii) Give **two** reasons why some people live in poverty. [1] [1]

Student's response

- *Flooding/other natural disasters damaging the infrastructure*
- *High taxes*

Q2a(iii) Name a Christian organisation helping to fight poverty and injustice. [1]

Student's response

Christian Aid

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 Bible teaching on helping people in need is still relevant today? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

In the new testament, Jesus teaches Christians to be kind, caring and compassionate. Even on the Sabbath Jesus chose to heal many who were suffering and help them. His actions are relevant today by people showing acts of kindness by helping/volunteering and donating to charities. It is an example that the bible teaches for Christians to follow after as well it teaches that all people are equal.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 1: The candidate presents some relevant information and does attempt to link Biblical teaching to contemporary society. However, the response could explore specific references from the Bible that are still relevant to helping people in need today. 1/5 marks.

Q2c "Christians should make more effort to buy fair trade products."
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I agree. Jesus taught Christians to help others in times of need. Buying Fairtrade products gives the producer of the ingredients of the products a better life and better pay. In doing so Christians can follow after Jesus and his example: Looking after people on the Sabbath. These actions of buying fairtrade would help those in need. It is a way of directly helping someone's life especially when given the option to do so for a small price.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2: The candidate gives an opinion, which is supported by some reasons. The response could develop more fully the reasons why Christians should buy fair trade products. 3/5 marks.

Q3a Developments in Bioethics



<http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-closeup-of-professional-in-vitro/648380114/popup?sq=K|in%20vitro%20fertilization|115899/f=CPIHVX/s=DynamicRank>

Describe how IVF treatment can help a couple to have children. [5]

Student's response

When a couple want to have a child but are unable to due to health reasons such as one of the parents being infertile or scared of passing on genetic diseases, IVF can help by mixing sperm and eggs together to make them fertile to then implant inside a woman. It gives the couple a chance to have a child even if health problems may arise.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 2: The candidate displays a clear knowledge and understanding of what IVF treatment is and why it is required. The ways in which IVF can help infertile couples to have children could be developed e.g. through the use of donors it can help couples, including same sex couples, to have children. 3/5 marks.

Q3b Explain why IVF treatment is a controversial issue for some Christians. [5]

Student's response

Some Christians believe that the killing of an egg is killing a potential life. In the process of IVF, several eggs are needed in case some fail to fertilise, however, this meant that some eggs would have to be destroyed. One of the ten commandments taught Christians "Do not kill," and so this would be against that. Some Christians believe that by fertilising an egg unnaturally is against the will of God and is going against his plan. If a couple was unable to have children then that is God's will.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate had produced a well-structured response with good development of reasons why some Christians are against IVF. One point is very well developed using a relevant scripture reference. 4/5 marks.

Q3c "Human surrogacy can be an act of Christian love."

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

Student's response

By a woman offering to be a surrogate, it could be seen as showing compassion to another person. Christians are taught to love others unconditionally and care for each other while showing compassion. I agree as if a person was able to act as a surrogate, they should share their gift given by God to help others in times of need. However surrogacy can also be seen as involving a third person into a marriage which could also be seen as adultery making it seem inappropriate to some Christians.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has produced a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. The idea of surrogacy as an act of compassion is a very valid one and this is a well-reasoned point within the response. There is also reference to a counter-argument. 4/5 marks.

Q4a Euthanasia

Describe how a religious faith can help someone cope with serious illness.
[5]

Student's response

Keeping faith while having a serious illness can give a person hope for example a Christian who continued to believe in their faith could see it as a test from God or a better life after and so to cope with said illness would be part of his plan. Religious faith gives a person hope and can relieve them from the stress of the illness. Faith can give the person something to hang onto during dire times, knowing that God was beside you the entire time.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing some very good development. Key points are considered on how faith can help a person cope with serious illness e.g. life after death, suffering as part of God's plan and how faith gives hope. Some points are very succinct and could have been developed further. 4/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think doctors should be allowed to help patients to die?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I believe they should. If a person was suffering immensely then carrying out euthanasia is a way to relieve them of that suffering. It allows the patient to die with dignity and end how they would wish. Euthanasia can be seen as a way of showing compassion to a person. However if treatment is possible or if the condition of the patient is not serious I don't think it should be carried out as it would be a waste of life.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has given well-formed and reasoned arguments in response to this question. There is also evidence of differing viewpoints. An additional point could be considered e.g. the patient's right to autonomy or the sanctity of life argument. 4/5 marks.

Q4c “Christians should always look for an alternative to euthanasia.”

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

Student's response

I disagree. Euthanasia allows the patient to be relieved from suffering it can also be seen as an act of compassion and, in a way, 'healing' to the patient if they are in a severe state. Jesus taught people to be compassionate to others and heal others. However in the 10 commandments it is written, "Do not kill". Euthanasia could be seen as going against that commandment and so most Christians may not support euthanasia.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3: This candidate has produced a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights. Two points of view are considered and reasoned arguments are used on both sides of the debate. 4/5 marks.

Section B

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

Q5a Abortion

Describe some of the decisions to be made when facing an unwanted pregnancy. [5]

Student's response

The decisions a woman must make when facing an unwanted pregnancy are whether she should get an abortion or not and terminate the pregnancy, who should take responsibility of the pregnancy; whether it was rape or an accident and if she were to carry out the pregnancy, what would happen to the child and who would look after it or deal with the expenses of the child or if it is to be put up for adoption. The decisions vary especially if the woman is unable to have the child due to medical reasons. There is also the chance of the mother and child each having low survival rates following the birth.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has produced a detailed answer showing very good development. There is a good attempt to focus on some of the decisions to be made when facing unwanted pregnancy rather than simply listing the options such as abortion, adoption or keeping the child. 4/5 marks.

Q5b Explain why some Christians are against abortion. [5]

Student's response

Some Christians see abortions as the killing of a potential life which is against their teachings. In the 10 commandments they are told 'Do not kill'. Abortion would be seen as deliberately going against this commandment. In Christianity, Jesus also teaches others to be kind and heal others. Abortion would again be going against this. It is also believed, the sanctity of life, that each person has a purpose and are all equal. Each person is made in the image of God and so abortion would be going against the will of God and his plans for each person.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate has provided a number of relevant points with development. A good attempt is made to consider how abortion violates the commandment 'Do not kill' and violates the Sanctity of Life principle. An additional relevant point could be explored e.g. reference to Biblical teaching that life begins at conception or reference to the views of a Christian denomination. 4/5 marks.

Q5c “Northern Ireland should have the same abortion laws as the rest of the UK.”

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

Student’s response

I agree. In the New Testament, Jesus taught people that all human beings are equal such as in the story about the man with leprosy. By having the same abortion laws it allows all women in Northern Ireland to have the same rights as other women. Women are equal to men and so by allowing the same laws, it gives women their own rights, again making them equal. It is unfair for only Northern Ireland having different abortion laws to the rest of the UK, this goes against that equality described in the bible.

Giving N.I. the same abortion laws gives women free choice over their own bodies. Jesus taught others to be kind and compassion. Allowing abortion would be a way of ‘healing women’ who, physically, were unable to carry out an abortion due to health problems or mentally for those who could not cope with a pregnancy.

However some believe that allowing the same abortion laws in NI, would be the same as letting people kill more potential lives which would be against one of the 10 commandments and against the will of God who is said to have a plan for each individual and that by carrying out this abortion it would be the same as disobeying his will. God’s orders were “go forth and multiply.” Abortion would be the same as going against this order.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 4: Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate the statement. Different points of view are considered and a very good attempt is made by the candidate to refer to relevant Christian teaching to develop key points on both sides of the argument. There is a clear focus on the question throughout the response. 8/10 marks.

Q6a Justice and Punishment

Describe some of the different aims of punishment. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6b Explain what the Bible teaches about justice and punishment. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6c “The death penalty is the best way to punish serious crimes.”

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

The candidate did not select this question.

Q7a War and Peace

Describe some of the different types of pacifism. [5]

Student’s response

Pacifism is the believe that violence is wrong and that only peaceful methods should be used there are three types.

- *Absolute pacifism; which is to be against all violence in all circumstances*
- *Selective pacifism, which is when one only accepts violence of certain kinds for certain reasons e.g against terrorists.*
- *Conditional pacifism, which is when only under certain conditions does a person accept violence.*

Example of pacifists are Martin Luther King and Gandhi who were also conscientious objectors.

Examiner’s comments

AO1 Level 3: This candidate is clearly aware of the different types of pacifism and does attempt to develop each type using examples. The candidate should have avoided the use of bullet points in this response. 4/5 marks.

Q7b Explain how the Just War theory sets guidelines for armed conflict. [5]

Student's response

The Just War theory sets guidelines for a 'fair' war and whether it should be carried out or not, guiding a country or state. Under this theory a war can only be carried out if it is a last resort, there is a reasonable chance of success; civilians will not be involved and that the country only carries out war if it is in self-defense. These reasons were put in place so that a single person could not carry out war for no reason and so that people would not lose their lives especially those not involved. It, again, allows for a 'fair' war; allowing those wishing not to partake, to not be involved.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3: The candidate had produced a detailed response showing very good development. Rather than outline or simply list conditions associated with the Just War Theory, this candidate has tried to address the question from the outset. The candidate has provided a well-developed explanation of how the theory sets guidelines for armed conflict. 5/5 marks.

Q7c “Wars always cause more problems than they solve.”

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

Student’s response

I agree. Often at times people are seen to become unreasonable during war and common sense begins to fade. Tragic events have occurred during war in which people unnecessarily lose their lives over another person’s mistakes such as in Nagasaki when a nuclear bomb was dropped/released killing thousands of lives. In the bible, in the Old testament justice is often mentioned and that it should be carried out. “Eye for an eye, tooth for tooth”. However the 10 commandments also forbid killing anyone. ‘Do not kill’. Killing is considered wrong and especially to Christians who are taught to be kind and loving to each other. “Love thy neighbour as you love yourself.” This is also taken on by pacifists who believe violence is wrong and that it would only end with more violence such as Gandhi. “An eye for an eye and the world shall soon be blind.”

However at times war is necessary such as during the times when Nazi Germany killed Jews. In times of defense and freeing captives/helping others, war is considered inevitable in order to help, especially when one side is unwilling to be reasonable with the other.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 4: This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments. Different points of view are considered although the counter-argument is briefer. The response is well informed and Biblical teaching is used to support points on both sides of the debate. The idea that war can solve problems could be explored in greater detail. 8/10 marks.

