

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance Religious Studies

Paper 9: Judaism

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 9: Judaism

Grade: A Exemplar

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Q1a(i) Shabbat

On what day of the week does Shabbat begin? [1]

Student's response

Friday

Q1a(ii) What are lit in Jewish homes to mark the beginning of the Sabbath? [1]

Student's response

Two Candles

Q1a(iii) What do the words "Shabbat Shalom" mean? [1]

Student's response

"The Peace of Shabbat"

Examiner's comments

Insert Examiner comments.

Q1a(iv) What is the name given to the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbat?
[1]

Student's response

Hardalah

Q1a(v) When does Shabbat end? [1]

Student's response

Saturday Evening

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 importance of Shabbat for Jews. [5]

Student's response

Shabbat is important for Jews as it is a day of rest. It also reminds them of how God rested after he created the Earth. Jews see its importance through the sense of family and community involvement in the synagogue. In the Torah one of the Ten Commandments is "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy". Most Jews want to follow this as it is God's word.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. This candidate has produced a detailed response showing very good development. There is clear understanding of the importance of Shabbat for Jews.

5/5 marks

Q1c "The teaching that Jews should not work on Shabbat is outdated."

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

Student's response

I agree. Orthodox traditions argue that God's word should be kept exactly how it is written in the Torah. They may also argue that it is a time for rest and a time for family as it is intended; not for work. However, many reformed Jews work long hours to supply their family and find it practically difficult not to work on Shabbat. They believe times have changed and mothers also work even during Shabbat. They believe the Torah's laws can be interpreted.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments on the issue of keeping Shabbat holy. The candidate makes good use of the different views within Judaism to develop key points.

4/5 marks

Q2a(i) Sacred Writings

In which language is the Jewish Bible written? [1]

Student's response

Hebrew

Q2a(ii) Name the first book of the Bible. [1]

Student's response

Genesis

Q2a(iii) In which book of the Bible is the story of the call of Moses retold? [1]

Student's response

Exodus

Q2a(iv) What name is given to the first five books of the Bible? [1]

Student's response

Torah

Q2a(v) Name **one** Jewish prophet. [1]

Student's response

Jerimiah

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 important to read a sacred book in the language in which it was originally written? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes, I do. A sacred book should be read in its original language to pay respect to what its content is. Many people read the book in a Holy Place and wish to be fully committed to its message by reading it in its original language. However, there may be others who don't know the original language but would still like to read it, therefore it is helpful to have the text translated.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. This candidate has produced well-formed and reasoned arguments on the issue of reading scriptures in their original language. The response refers to arguments from two points of view. An additional point could be considered e.g. the words in the original language were inspired by God.

4/5 marks.

Q2c "Sacred books written years ago have no relevance to life today."
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

I disagree. Many people could argue that sacred texts are out-dated and can no longer teach anyone new lessons. However, I strongly believe sacred texts need to be studied by new generations out of respect for their ancestors. Many religions, like Judaism, still find relevance through passing on important messages and allowing people to be informed on their or a different religious history which I believe is still relevant today.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 3. The response contains well-formed and reasoned arguments in relation to the modern relevance of ancient sacred writings. An additional point could be considered e.g. sacred books deal with issues that are no longer relevant (food laws) or they fail to deal with issues that are relevant today (nuclear war).

4/5 marks

Q3a Jewish Marriage and Divorce



<http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk/image/stock-photo-bride-and-groom-exchanging-wedding-vows/LS020696/popup?sq=jewish%20wedding/f=CPIHVX/p=2/s=DynamicRank>

Outline Jewish teaching on divorce. [5]

Student's response

In Orthodox Judaism, the couple who are married cannot get a divorce if a man doesn't agree. The man has to receive a "get" if he wants to divorce. The woman has no power in the decision making of a divorce. The divorce is very much discouraged by Orthodox Judaism as when they are married, in the eyes of God that marriage should last forever. A group of Three Rabbis known as the Bet Din must decide if the divorce can go ahead depending of the circumstances of the divorce. In Reformed Judaism, a woman can divorce a man without the man's permission.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. This candidate has produced a detailed answer which reflects a high degree of knowledge of Jewish teaching on divorce. The response is well-structured with good development throughout.

5/5 marks.

Q3b Explain why Jews believe it is important to marry another Jew. [5]

Student's response

Jews view marriage as extremely important event as it brings two families closer together. It is a happy occasion for the entire community as two Jews can start a family of their own and pass on the Jewish religion to their own children.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. The candidate has produced some accurate and relevant points. However, reference to scripture e.g. the prohibition against marrying a non-Jew in Deuteronomy 7:3 could have been used to further develop the response.

2/5 marks.

Q3c "Orthodox Judaism teaches that sex should be confined to marriage."

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

Student's response

I disagree. Yes, Orthodox Jews could argue that the Torah is God's word and should be kept. Reformed Jews believe that the Torah should be interpreted. Adults should be allowed to have fun without restrictions from the Torah.

Examiner's comments

AO2. Level 2. The candidate gives an opinion which is supported by some reasons. However, the reasons in this response are very generic and reference to teaching on marriage and sexual relationships could be more explicit in the answer.

2/5 marks.

Q4a Religious Practice

Describe some of the ways Judaism is practised in the home. [5]

Student's response

Some festivals such as Pesach and Shabbat are practised at home mainly rather than in the synagogue. Prayer can happen in the home not just the synagogue especially in the morning and evening. Kosher food is kept at home which follows the Jewish dietary laws in the Torah.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. A number of relevant and accurate points on how Judaism is practiced in the home have been considered by this candidate. Reference is made to dietary laws and prayer / festivals. One of the points could have been developed further.

4/5 marks.

Q4b Do you think it is important for families to pray together?

Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student's response

Yes, I do. Families should spend time together to strengthen their own relationship even when praying. It brings families closer together as well as the entire community.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. An opinion is given on the importance of family prayer and this is supported by a developed reason. The candidate could consider other benefits of praying together to develop the response.

2/5 marks.

Q4c “Following a religion like Judaism influences everything you do in life.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5]

Student’s response

Yes, I do agree. Especially with Orthodox religions who follow all 613 Mitzvah changes your life. The people you associate with is impacted in Orthodox religions due to the laws of the Torah. Your diet is influenced due to the Kosher Laws of Kashrut.

Examiner’s comments

AO2 Level 2. The candidate has given reasoned arguments to evaluate how religion influences life and behavior. The candidate could consider additional reasons to fully develop the response.

3/5 marks.

Section B

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

Q5a The Law of God

Describe what Jews believe about the Mishnah. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5b Explain the significance of the Talmud for Jews. [5]

The candidate did not select this question.

Q5c The most important religious teaching is to love your neighbour.”

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

The candidate did not select this question.

Q6a The Synagogue

Describe the inside of a synagogue. [5]

Student's response

The synagogue from the outside is not a very ornate building. Inside there are pews where the congregation sits. There is the Ark where the sacred scrolls are kept with the everlasting light above it symbolising God's constant presence. The Bimah is where the Torah scrolls are read from by the Rabbi. The Bimah is in the Rabbi's Podium which is a raised platform where the Rabbi delivers his services. The Rabbi's chair is where the Rabbi sits when he is not speaking. There are many symbols such as the menorah, the Magen David and the stone tablets which are all representative of Judaism. The synagogue always faces towards Jerusalem.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has produced a number of relevant and accurate points with development in a well-structured manner. There is evidence of clear knowledge of the interior features of a Synagogue.

5/5 marks.

Q6b Explain the role of the synagogue in Jewish life. [5]

Student's response

The synagogue is the central place of Jewish worship. Orthodox Jews pray three times per day which is often at the synagogue. The synagogue is a community centre for all Jews and hold events such as services, lessons for children and marriage and rites of passage. The synagogue can also be a place of companionship when coming to pray.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has produced a detailed answer showing good development. There is a reasonably good explanation of the role of the Synagogue in Jewish life.

4/5 marks.

Q6c "You should not be considered a Jew if you do not attend the synagogue."

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

Student's response

I disagree. Orthodox Jews believe that Reformist and secular Jews have betrayed the Jewish way of life and its ideals. Orthodox Judaism teaches that you should attend a synagogue often to respect and become closer to God. However, reformed Jews may not have the time to attend a synagogue due to work. They still consider themselves Jewish even though they do not follow every word of the Mitevo in the Torah. They see it as practically impossible as times have changed since the Torah was written. Secular Jews, while not following Jewish law or celebrating any festivals or rites of passage, are still proud of their Jewish faith and consider themselves to be Jewish even though they do not practise.

Examiner's comments

A02 Level 3. Good reasoned arguments are used to evaluate the importance of synagogue attendance in the life of a Jew. While two points of view have been considered, there could be sharper focus on the statement throughout the response.

6/10 marks.

Q7a Religious Practice and Society

Give an account of Jewish dietary laws. [5]

Student's response

Jews follow the “ laws of Kashrut” to make themselves stand out from other religions. The Kosher dietary laws are documented in Leviticus and Numbers of the Torah. It states that animals with a split hoof must not be eaten such as a pig. Meat and Dairy cannot be eaten together. “Must not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.” The meat of an animal must be slaughtered with no impurities if it is to be eaten and all the blood must be drained from it. This is conducted by special Kosher butchers. Birds of Prey are forbidden to eat as well as seafood without fins such as prawns and shellfish are also forbidden to be consumed. Trout and salmon are allowed and chickens, turkey and pheasant are also allowed. Wine has to be prepared in a Kosher way and most hard cheeses are forbidden.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. This candidate has produced a very detailed, well-structured and accurate account of Jewish dietary laws.

5/5 marks.

Q7b Explain how a Jewish prayer shawl (Tallit) and a Tefillin (Phylactery) remind Jews of their religious beliefs. [5]

Student's response

A tallit can be decorated with Jewish symbols such as a Star of David. When praying Jewish men wear these to symbolise wrapping God’s laws around them. A tefillin is a leather box with a section of the shema prayer or a passage from the Torah inside it. Jewish men wear two of them: One on their left arm facing the heart and one on the forehead. This is to represent God being in their heart soul and mind. The tallit also has tzitzits on it which is a fringe of string. Many believe each one represents one of the 613 mitzvah from the Torah.

Examiner's comments

AO1 Level 3. The candidate has given a number of relevant and accurate points in a well-structured response with good development. There is a good explanation of how a prayer shawl and Tefillin remind the Jews of their religious beliefs.

5/5 marks.

Q7c “Religious people contribute most to society.”

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

Student's response

I disagree. Many places of worship have set up charities and raise money for the community. Many key figures such as Mother Theresa is a religious figure who did alot for the community. Jews help their respective communities as well. However, many people believe you do not need to be religious to help the community. Many Jewish people help the community as God teaches, “love thy neighbour”. But many help their community because of their own morals and willingness to be a good person.

Examiner's comments

AO2 Level 2. The candidate presents some relevant points; however, the arguments are limited and could have been developed further. A sharper focus on the question would have improved the response.

4/10 marks.



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