

GCSE



CCEA GCSE TEACHER GUIDANCE
Religious Studies

Examinations Support



For first teaching from September 2017

Introduction

This booklet contains examination support for each paper of the GCSE Specification. This booklet must be used in conjunction with Specimen Assessment Materials for GCSE Religious Studies. There is guidance for one question from each section of a paper from the Specimen Assessment Materials.

This booklet and the Specimen Assessment Materials can be downloaded from the CCEA website (www.ccea.org.uk).

Religious Studies

Paper 1

The Christian Church through a Study of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church

Question 1

- (a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)
- (b) Explain why Saint's Days are important for some Christians. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why Saint's Days are important for Christians.

Key points may include:

- Saints provide examples of commitment and loyalty to God.
- Individuals can associate with the lives and experiences of particular saints and find inspiration.
- Some believe that saints can respond to prayers to them.
- Provides opportunities to reflect upon the history of the church through the lives of saints.

- (c) 'There is no need for Harvest Thanksgiving services in the Church today.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the relevance of Harvest Thanksgiving services.

Key points may include:

- Reminds Christians of God's promise to Noah that there will always be seedtime and harvest.
- Thank God for his provision of food.
- Harvest celebrations have little relevance in a secular world.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 6

(a) Describe the ceremony of baptism in a church of your choice. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of the celebration of baptism in a specific church, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Reference to the words expressed by the person who baptises and the candidate for baptism.
- In some case profession of faith by the candidate for baptism.
- The role of godparents or sponsors.

(b) Choose two symbols used in baptism and explain why they are important. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to name and explain the importance of two symbols used in baptism.

Key points may include:

- Water—symbolises cleansing from sin.
- The sign of the cross—reminds Christians of Christ's sacrifice for sin.
- Lighted candle—Christ as the light of the world.

(c) 'Baptism is becoming more of a social occasion rather than an important religious event. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. The question focuses on the extent to which the social significance of baptism is becoming more important than its religious significance.

Key points may include:

- Baptisms have become family occasions for celebration.
- Some support baptism because it is traditional and do not reflect on its religious meaning.
- Baptism retains its religious significance for many.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 2

(a) Christian Church with a Focus on the Catholic Church

Question 2

(a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)

(b) Do you think Patrick was wise to return to Ireland in AD 432? (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the wisdom of the decision by Patrick to return to Ireland.

Key points may include:

- Patrick returned to Ireland in obedience to a call from God.
- Patrick had grown in wisdom and maturity and was spiritually equipped to return.
- It was an unwise decision that could have cost him his life or liberty.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

(c) 'Patrick is a good example for Christians today.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the exemplary nature of the life and career of Patrick.

Key points may include:

- Patrick provides an example of commitment to God and determination.
- Christians can learn from his missionary strategies.
- Patrick on occasions acted rashly and created opposition.

Candidates may argue that Patrick provides a good example for Christians today or that he provides a poor example, or combine positive and negative points.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 5

(a) Outline the main features of the Mass. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of the main features of the Mass, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- The liturgy of the word.
- Reference to the responses of the congregation.
- The sacrificial aspect of the Eucharist.

(b) Explain why celebrating the Eucharist is so important for Christians. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why celebrating the Eucharist is important for Christians.

Key points may include:

- Christ commanded the Eucharist to be celebrated.
- the Eucharist provides spiritual strength.
- the Eucharist reminds Christians of the death and sacrifice of Christ.

(c) 'It is better to use the same order of service each Sunday'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of a religious practice, namely that of a set liturgy.

Key points may include:

- The same order of service contributes to the participation and understanding of the congregation.
- Repetition of the same things encourages learning and furthers knowledge of church teaching and beliefs.
- The same order of service can become boring.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 2

(b) The Christian Church with a Focus on the Protestant Tradition

Question 3

- (a) Describe how the Bible is used in a church service of your choice. Name the denomination. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of how the Bible is used in a church service, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Reading of portions of the Bible.
- Biblical prayers may be used in the service, e.g. the Lord's Prayer.
- Psalms may be sung.

- (b) Why is the teaching of the Apostles' Creed important? (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why the teaching of the Apostles' Creed is important.

Key points may include:

- The creed provides a summary of Christian belief.
- The creed provides a historical link to the early church.
- The creed acts as a source of unity.

(Some candidates may focus on particular doctrines.)

- (c) 'All churches should use modern translations of the Bible'.
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the reasons for/against the use of modern translations of the Bible.

Key points may include:

- The language of older versions is difficult to understand.
- Modern translations express the meaning of the Bible more clearly.
- Older translations have stood the test of time.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 7

- (a) Describe the main furnishings and their use in a Protestant church of your choice. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of the main furnishings and their use in a Protestant church.

Key points may include:

- Pulpit—preaching from the Bible.
- Communion table—celebration of communion/bread and wine placed on it.
- Font—used for baptisms.

- (b) Explain why the location of the different furnishings can vary in different churches. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why the location of the different furnishings can vary in different churches.

Key points may include:

- It may indicate the importance attached to different aspects of Christian belief.
- A font may be at the door to denote 'entrance' to the church in the act of baptism.
- The pulpit may be central to show the importance of preaching the Word of God.

- (c) 'Churches could do more to serve the local community.'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the service of the church to the community.

Key points may include:

- Churches provide a range of charitable services to the community.
- Churches serve the good of the community by providing a place for worship.
- The chief aim of the churches should be to spread the gospel.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 3

The Revelation of God and the Christian Church

Question 4

(a) Describe how prayer forms an important part of Sunday worship. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of the importance of prayer in Sunday worship, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- The use of set prayers, e.g. the Lord's Prayer.
- Different forms of prayer: confession, petition, praise, etc.
- The contribution of the minister/Priest in leading prayer.

(b) Do you think readings from the Bible are the most important part of worship?
Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the importance of readings from the Bible in worship.

Key points may include:

- The Bible is the Word of God and has authority for Christians.
- God speaks through the Bible.
- Prayer is more important as Christians speak to God.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

(c) 'Churches need to make more effort to attract young people.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on whether the church makes sufficient effort to attract young people.

Key points may include:

- The church caters chiefly for older people.
- Much of the language is difficult to understand.
- Churches organise special services and events for young people.

Candidates may argue that the churches need to make more effort to attract young people or do not need to make more effort, or combine positive and negative points.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Question 5

(a) Describe the event when Peter made his declaration at Caesarea Philippi. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of Peter's declaration at Caesarea Philippi, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- The question of Jesus to the disciples, 'Who do you say that I am?'
- The response of the disciples: John the Baptist, Elijah.
- The response of Peter, 'You are the Christ...'

(b) Explain why the Transfiguration was an important experience for Peter, James and John.

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why the Transfiguration was an important experience for the disciples who were present.

- The Transfiguration confirmed that Jesus was the Christ.
- The Transfiguration showed that Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets.
- The Transfiguration anticipated the glorification of Christ after his resurrection.

(c) 'Being the Son of God is the most important part of Jesus' identity'.

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the nature of Jesus' identity.

Key points may include:

- Jesus was God in the flesh acting to effect human salvation.
- Son of God is a title that is used by the churches today.
- Reference to other titles that are important, e.g. Christ, Saviour.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 4

Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Matthew

Question 3

(a) Complete the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man as described in Matthew 9:1-8, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Arrived by boat to Jesus' own city.
- Jesus saw the faith of those who brought the paralysed man to him.
- Jesus said, 'Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.'
- An accusation of blasphemy by the scribes.

(b) Explain what the disciples learnt about Jesus from his miracles. (AO2)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, what the disciples learnt about Jesus from his miracles.

Key points may include:

- They learnt that Jesus had power over nature.
- The miracles confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God.
- They learnt that Jesus performed miracles out of love and compassion.

(c) 'It is hard for people today to believe in miracles?'

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the difficulty some people today have in believing in miracles.

Key points may include:

- The laws of nature exclude the possibility of miracles.
- Miracle stories come from long ago when people were more credulous.
- The creator of the universe can also perform miracles.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 7

(a) Describe Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus. (AO1)

This question requires specific and accurate knowledge of Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- As Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
- An earthquake and the appearance of an angel of the Lord.
- The women are told that Jesus is raised.

(b) Explain why the Jewish authorities wanted Jesus put to death. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why the Jewish authorities wanted Jesus put to death.

- Jesus accused them of hypocrisy.
- The Jewish authorities believed Jesus committed blasphemy.
- Jesus challenged their authority.

(c) 'The resurrection of Jesus is more important for Christians than his crucifixion.'
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view.

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the importance of the resurrection relative to the importance of his crucifixion.

Key points may include:

- The resurrection showed that Jesus was the Son of God.
- The resurrection provides hope of a future resurrection and eternal life are well grounded.
- The crucifixion is more important as this is when sin was overcome.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 5

Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Mark

Question 1

- (a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)
- (b) Explain why faith is important in the miracles of Jesus. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why faith is important in the miracles of Jesus.

Key points may include:

- Faith shows that the person believes in Jesus and that he has the power to perform miracles.
- If you do not believe then you do not expect miracles to happen.
- Faith is central to the Christian life.

- (c) 'It is difficult to believe in miracles in the 21st century.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the difficulty some people today have in believing in miracles.

Key points may include:

- The laws of nature exclude the possibility of miracles.
- Miracles stories come from long ago when people were more credulous.
- The creator of the universe can also perform miracles.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 5

(a) Describe the baptism and temptations of Jesus. (AO1)

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of the baptism and temptations of Jesus, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- The role of John the Baptist.
- The descent of the Spirit.
- A voice came from heaven, 'You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.'
- Temptations in the wilderness.

(b) Explain why the baptism of Jesus is such an important part of the Gospel story. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain the reasons, with appropriate development, why the baptism of Jesus is such an important part of the Gospel story.

- Jesus is endowed with the Spirit.
- Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his ministry.
- Jesus identified with humankind and their sinfulness.

(c) 'It is impossible for Christians to resist temptation today.
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view.'

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the idea that Christians cannot resist temptation.

Key points may include:

- Temptations are increasing in the modern world as people become more independent of the community.
- The influence of the media and commercialism.
- The Spirit of God helps Christians to resist temptation.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 6

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Question 1

- (a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)
- (b) Explain how hospices care for people. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, the nature of the ways hospices care for people.

Key points may include:

- Hospices provide care and show compassion for those who are terminally ill.
- Hospices attend to the mental and spiritual health of those who are ill.
- Care and counselling are available for relatives.

- (c) 'It is my right to decide when I should die.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the issue of euthanasia.

Key points may include:

- It is an individual's own life and their right to decide.
- Euthanasia puts an end to pain and suffering.
- God gives life and only he has the right to take it away.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 5

(a) Give some reasons why couples might choose to live together rather than get married. (AO1)

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of the reasons couples live together rather than get married, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Living together is much less expensive.
- A couple may be trying to find out if they are fully compatible.
- One partner may be awaiting a divorce.

(b) 'Explain Bible and Church teaching about sexual relationships. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, Bible and Church teaching about sexual relationships.

Key points may include:

- Sexual relationships should be confined to marriage.
- It is sinful to have sex outside marriage.
- Some may comment that the Bible forbids homosexual relations.

(c) 'The idea of celibacy is outdated.'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the idea that celibacy is outdated.

Key points may include:

- Celibacy is outdated.
- Reliable contraception is now available and the danger of pregnancy was one of the arguments for celibacy.
- Christian teaching confines sexual relations to marriage.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 7

An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

Question 2

(a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)

(b) Do you think that near death experiences are proof of an afterlife? (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the proof of an afterlife.

Key points may include:

- People can remember details of their former lives.
- Similarities of description give support to the credibility of near death experiences.
- Such experiences are subjective.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

(c) 'It is better to focus on this life rather than the afterlife.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on whether people should focus on this life rather than the afterlife.

Key points may include:

- This life is all there is; there is no afterlife.
- How we live in this life is what matters.
- Life is a preparation for the next life.

Candidates may argue that this life is more important or that the afterlife is more important, or combine positive and negative points.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Question 6

(a) Describe an example of special revelation from one world religion you have studied. (AO1)

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of an example of special revelation, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- The reception of the Qur'an by Muhammad.
- The role of the Angel Gabriel.
- The compilation of the Qur'an after the death of Muhammad.

(b) Explain the purpose of sacred texts in one World Religion you have studied. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, the purpose of sacred texts.

Key points may include:

- The Qur'an provides guidance on how to live.
- The Qur'an is the Word of God.
- The Qur'an teaches how to escape judgement and gain a heavenly reward.

(c) 'People no longer need God'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the idea that people no longer need God.

Key points may include:

- Belief in a God belongs in a pre-scientific era.
- People can have happy lives without God.
- People still turn to God when suffering occurs.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 8

Islam

Question 3

(a) Describe how Muslims celebrate the festival of Eid-ul-Adha. (AO1)

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of celebrate of the festival of Eid-ul-Adha, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- At the end of the Hajj (annual pilgrimage to Mecca), Muslims throughout the world celebrate the holiday of Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice).
- Early in the morning prayers are recited by them to remember God and then the day begins with a special breakfast.
- After breakfast an animal is sacrificed and then the meat of the slaughtered animal is distributed among the neighbours, friends, family and poor people.

(b) Explain the importance of Eid-ul-Adha for Muslims.

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, the importance of Eid-ul-Adha for Muslims.

Key points may include:

- Instils a sense of community.
- Celebration of the festival is commanded by God.
- One gains blessing from God for obedience.

(c) 'Animal sacrifice is always wrong.'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.

You should refer to the teachings of Islam in your answer.

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on animal sacrifice. Reference should be made to Islam in answers.

Key points may include:

- Animal sacrifice is cruel.
- Animals should only be killed for food.
- Animal sacrifice is commanded by God.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 5

(a) Describe the differences between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of the differences between Sunni and Shi'a Islam, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Shi'a Muslims believe that following the Prophet Muhammad's death, leadership should have passed directly to his cousin/son-in-law, Ali.
- Shi'a Muslims believe that the Imam is sinless by nature, and that his authority is infallible as it comes directly from God.
- Shi'a Muslims often venerate the Imams as saints and perform pilgrimages to their tombs and shrines in the hope of divine intercession.

(b) Explain the reasons that led to the division between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, the reasons for the division between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.

Key points may include:

- The issue of succession.
- The 'Four-Rightly Guided' Caliphs.
- The role of Ali and Hasan and Hasayn.

(c) 'Religion is a cause of conflict in the world'

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. You should refer to the teachings of Islam in your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the idea that religion is a cause of conflict. Reference should be made to Islam in answers.

Key points may include:

- Disagreements between religions: Jews/Muslims/Christians; Muslims/Hindus.
- Conflict within religions: 16th century wars of religion; Catholic and Protestant conflict/contemporary Sunni and Shi'a conflict.
- Neither world war was about religion.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.

Religious Studies

Paper 9

Judaism

Question 2

- (a) The different parts of this question test factual knowledge: one word or short sentence responses only are required. (AO1)
- (b) Do you think the synagogue is the most important place for Jews?
Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the importance of the synagogue for Jews.

Key points may include:

- It is an opportunity for Jews to worship God personally.
- Allows Jews to worship as a group.
- Some candidates may contend that other places are more important, e.g. the Temple, the home.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

- (c) 'You can worship God better on your own rather than in a group.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (AO2)

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument. The question focuses on the comparative merits of individual and group worship.

Key points may include:

- In a group people are reminded of the needs of the community.
- People encourage each other to worship.
- Worship is a personal experience.

The question is open ended and candidates may respond positively or negatively (or combine positive and negative points). It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the viewpoint adopted.

Question 6

(a) Describe how Jews celebrate the festival of Sukkot. (AO1)

The answer requires specific and accurate knowledge of the Jewish celebration of Sukkot, expressed in continuous prose.

Key points may include:

- Many Jews choose to live outside in booths.
- The use of lights and fruit to decorate the booths.
- The form of celebration in the synagogue; some choose not to work on certain days, etc.

(b) Explain the importance of Sukkot for Jews. (AO1)

This question tests understanding and the skill of selecting and utilising knowledge. The answer requires the candidate to present and explain, with appropriate development, the importance of Sukkot for Jews.

Key points may include:

- A day of release from sin; therefore the day is joyous and happy.
- Provides people with a new start in like, free from the sins of the past year.
- Reinforces human accountability before God.

(c) 'Religious Festivals have simply become occasions for Jews to enjoy themselves'

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

The candidate is required to express an opinion, which is supported by reason, evidence and argument, while taking account of and referring to at least one other different/contrasting point of view. This question requires the evaluation of the idea that festivals have simply become occasions for Jews to enjoy themselves.

Key points may include:

- People use religion as an excuse to indulge.
- Many Jews are secular and view festival as occasions for enjoyment.
- Many Jews still take the festivals seriously and reflect on their meaning.

The question is open-ended. It is the quality of argument that attracts marks rather than the opinion expressed.