

# Examiners' Report June 2019

## IGCSE Religious Studies 4RS1 02

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# Introduction

This has been the first year that the new iGCSE Specification in Religious Studies has been examined, and it is pleasing that it has attracted a significant increase in the number of candidates. The overall impression on Paper 2 is that the candidates were very well prepared, and in some cases they showed an exceptional level of knowledge and understanding of the faith they had studied.

A significant majority of candidates chose to answer questions on either Islam or Christianity, and this report will focus on drawing lessons from answers given in these two religions. However, the most important lessons that are underlined will have relevance for centres that prepare candidates for any of the six religions offered in the specification.

It will be helpful here to draw attention to some of those general observations, which will be further highlighted throughout the report.

The a) questions call for knowledge only responses to questions about religious belief and practice. There are 4 marks available, and two examples are always required. In each case, to gain both marks, candidates are required to develop the example given. It is important to remember that where a question asks for an example of a specific practice or belief, that must be provided to gain the first mark. For example, in the Christianity section, one question asked how Christians use the Bible in worship. Unless the candidate identified a specific way in which Christians use the Bible in worship no marks could be gained. It would not be sufficient just to explain why the Bible is important to Christians, because that would not answer the question. However, provided the example has first been given, the extra mark can then be gained for development. The development can consist of further relevant description, but also a development can demonstrate understanding of the significance of the example given.

The b) questions call for understanding of religious faith and practice, and are marked using a levels-based mark scheme. It is important to note that marking is not points-based, because this means that full marks are unlikely to be achieved by offering a series of simple reasons. In fact this could also be true of simply developed reasons, especially when those developments are more descriptive than explanatory. For the top marks in Level 2, candidates will need to have demonstrated a very good level of understanding of the significance of the belief or practice, and to have fully developed the ideas expressed in their answer. The term used in the mark scheme is 'comprehensive' understanding and candidates cannot score the full 6 marks unless that quality is demonstrated.

The c) questions are also marked using a levels-based mark scheme. They look for knowledge and understanding, but also test the candidate's ability to evaluate different points of view. Underneath each c) question there is a series of requirements that candidates have to meet in order to be able to achieve marks in the higher levels. This includes reference to teachings, looking at different points of view, offering a personal view based on reasoned arguments and offering a balanced conclusion. Often candidates will have shown strengths in respect of some of these criteria, but not always in all of them, and this could have prevented them from achieving marks in the higher levels.

The items chosen, along with the brief commentaries and tips, are designed to help centres and candidates meet the requirements of the examination as effectively as possible.

## Question 1 (a) (B)

This question asked for two ways in which the Bible is used in Christian worship. It was essential for the candidate to identify some specific example of worship, such as 'private worship', or 'during liturgical celebrations'. Without this element the response would not have answered the question. For example, answers that spoke simply about Christians using the Bible to find guidance on moral issues would not have gained any marks.

Two examples were needed for full marks, and the examples needed to be developed. Development could be achieved by giving further details of the example chosen, or by explaining its significance.

Overall, the question was well answered. Many candidates referred, for example, to the way the Bible is often used to deliver readings at services, and developed by explaining that priests then used that text when preaching.

It is important to remember that, for full marks, each example needs to be developed.

1 (a) Outline **two** ways the Bible is used in Christian worship.

(4)

1 The Bible is used in Christian worship usually by priests reading out passages and stories to the rest of the Church

2 The Bible is also used to praise and thank God for all of his creations.



This is an example of a 2 mark response. The examples are correct, but in neither case is the example developed. In the first answer, for example, the candidate could have added that in many cases the priest then tries to draw out a lesson for the congregation about how better to live the Christian life.



All a) questions need two responses, both developed

This is an example of a full 4 mark answer. Both examples are correct, private prayer and in church services.

1 (a) Outline **two** ways the Bible is used in Christian worship.

(4)

1 The Bible may be used in private prayers and meditation by an individual worshipper. This helps them improve their own relationship with God outside of organised worship in church

2 In most christian denominations the Bible is read from the lectern in church. This is normally done after hymns or prayers and the Bible can be read by members of the congregation.



There are examples here of two types of acceptable development. In the first case there is an explanation of the value of using the Bible in private prayer. In the second example, the candidate has more simply developed the description, and has explained that the passages can be read by members of the congregation.



The first mark is gained by just identifying the aspect of Christian worship in which the Bible is used.

## Question 1 (a) (D)

This question asked for events that occurred when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The question is focused on the events that took place in the period of the revelation, and immediately afterwards. Almost all candidates understood this, but some wrote about the Hijrah, and subsequent battles, for example, and these answers could not be credited.

As with all a) questions, to gain full marks, the candidates needed to outline two events, as well as developing each of them.

It is important for candidates to read the question carefully, which in this case focused on the revelation of the Qur'an, and not on the wider events that were a part of the Prophet Muhammad's life and legacy. To have allowed a wider scope for the answers would have opened the way for almost any aspect of the life and work of the Prophet to be accepted.

1 (a) Outline **two** events that occurred when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

(4)

1 Prophet Muhammad began to preach against the idolatry happening in Mecca and ~~beginning~~ began to preach to people ~~on this~~ also about Islam.

2 The leaders of ~~the~~ in charge in Mecca did not like ~~the~~ Prophet Muhammad's teachings as people began to follow Islam and they ended getting less money.



The events described in these answers refer to events beyond the scope of the revelation itself, to the period of Muhammad's preaching, and therefore gained no marks.



The most important tip here is also one very well rehearsed by teachers, candidates need to read the question carefully.



This is an example of a four mark answer that focussed fully on the revelation itself.

1 (a) Outline **two** events that occurred when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

(4)

1 The ~~pho~~ Prophet Muhammad (s.A.w) was in ~~the~~ a cave, and he suddenly saw a bright light, he then heard a voice saying "Iqra" (read)

2 Secondly Prophet Muhammad ~~was~~ then strangled by angel Jibril, while saying "Muhammad Iqra", ~~the~~ Prophet Muhammad (s.A.w) was almost out of breath, then angel Jibril left, he then hurried back to his wife shivering.



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Examiner Comments

The first example gives a context to the revelation, that Muhammad was in a cave, and then develops with further information, about the bright light and the voice. Development by adding further description is acceptable when answering a) questions. The same approach is repeated in the second example.



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Examiner Tip

Development in a) questions can be, for example, further description or explanation.

## Question 1 (b) (B)

Question 1b asked why the death of Jesus is important to Christians. Candidates seem to understand the demands of the question, and offered a full range of levels of understanding on the topic.

It is important to be aware that all b) questions are marked according to a levels-based mark scheme. The significance of this is that full marks cannot be achieved with a series of simple explanations. Candidates were required to develop their responses, in order to show a comprehensive understanding of relevant beliefs and their significance. Many candidates did this, but the main weakness was the reliance on a series of reasons that were only simply developed, often by adding a description of the events surrounding Jesus' death. This approach was unlikely to provide evidence of an assured and comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Some candidates offered undeveloped explanations, or relied for development on description rather than a drawing out of the significance of the points they were making. Even a series of such explanations was likely to be judged a Level 1 response. Another reason for remaining in Level 1 was providing a single simply developed response.

(b) Explain why the death of Jesus is important for Christians.

(6)

when Jesus was crucified he took the whole worlds sins, past, present and future, on his shoulders so every single person is forgiven. God sacrificed his only son in order to free the rest of the people in the world. Christians remember this day and thank God for the sacrifice he made. He also resurrected giving Christians their faith in an after life with the holy trinity in heaven.



In this example, a reason why Jesus' death is important to Christians is identified (taking on the world's sins) and developed by referring to this as a sacrifice. But there is no further development. The reference to the resurrection of Jesus would not always be without merit in this question about Jesus' death, but it would have needed to explain more fully how the resurrection helps to explain the death.



Development that uses descriptions of events and practices is a legitimate approach, but will not score as highly as development that refers to the significance of the topic.

This is an example of a response that provided good explanation and which drew out the significance of the ideas being expressed. It will also be noted that there are a number of developed reasons. This alone would not guarantee the top marks in Level 2, but a series of fully developed explanations is an effective route.

(b) Explain why the death of Jesus is important for Christians.

(6)

Firstly, the death of Jesus is important because it proves that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. It shows Christians that God loves us, which is important because Christians believe that God is benevolent. //

Also, Jesus had to die to be resurrected, so the death of Jesus is important because it allows the resurrection to occur; the resurrection shows that there is life after death, a key Christian ~~believe~~ belief. The quote "forgive them father, for they know not what they do" shows we can all have eternal life. //

Finally, the death of Jesus is important because it took away the sin of the world. This means that all Christians effectively ~~can~~ can go to heaven, as long as they ~~live~~ live in a morally good way.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate provides three reasons. Just looking at the first example shows how explanations can be well developed. Jesus's death is a proof of God's love. Jesus was given up in this way so that those who believe will not perish, but have eternal life. It is also proof that Christians are justified in their belief in God's benevolence towards them.

Note also in the second explanation there is reference to the resurrection of Jesus. In this case the candidate does explain how the death and resurrection of Jesus are linked.



There is no single route to the highest marks in b) questions. It is possible that a very fully developed explanation, with development of the significance of the reason, could achieve top marks. Most candidates, however, achieved this with a series of developed reasons,

## Question 1 (b) (D)

This question asked for an explanation of why the imam is important in Sunni communities. The reference to Sunni communities was intentional, and answers that referred to features of the Shi'a belief in the Imamah, such as infallibility and sinlessness, could not be credited. This was generally understood, and most answers focused on the imam's role in the mosque, and as a teacher and leader of the local Muslim community.

Many candidates responded to b) questions by providing a series of brief reasons. Usually brief reasons, without any further development, would gain a maximum of three marks.

(b) Explain why the imam is important in Sunni communities.

(6)

The role of the local imam in a Sunni community is to preach in the mosque on the minbar. The imam will also look after the mosque and help anybody in need of aid. The imams are very important in these Sunni communities as they preach in the mosques. On Fridays the imam will host Juma prayers. This role is similar to a priest in Christianity and is vital for the Sunni communities.



In this three mark example, the candidate offers a number of roles performed by the imam. By simply identifying the roles, the candidate does go some way to answering the question, but to achieve Level 2 there must be some evidence of an attempt to explain the significance of these roles and how they are important to the Muslim community. For example, the answer indicates that the imam hosts Jum'a prayers. They could have then developed that by saying that, during the sermon, the imam helps Muslims to a better understanding of the teaching of the Qur'an in the modern world.



An explanation in a b) answer must be more than just a description of what happens, or of what a person does. It must also address the question about their importance.

This is an example of a full, six mark answer, one in which the candidate offers descriptions of important roles, as well as addressing their significance.

(b) Explain why the imam is important in Sunni communities.

(6)

The imam in the sunni community ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> seen as a person who is well knowledgable about Islam. The imam conducts marriage services in the mosque. He is responsible to keep the message of Islam without corrupting it. He is responsible to teach other people Islam and how to recite the Qur'an. Additionally, the imam serves as a community leader and a ~~source~~ <sup>guardian</sup> of for the people, so that they will follow the Islamic teachings correctly. Conclusively, the imam is responsible to interpret the meaning of the Qur'an and shower in depth meaning of it to the community to ~~lead~~ <sup>lead</sup> a successful and a right life.



There are a number of examples of developed reasons here. For example, the candidate explains that the imam can be seen as a 'guardian' for the Muslim community, trying to ensure that the people understand the teaching of the Qur'an and follow it correctly, later on indicating that this will help them to live both a 'right' life and a successful one.





One way to achieve the top of Level 2, in b) questions such as this, would be to provide just two reasons, but to develop each of them fully, making a series of points that show a comprehensive understanding of the importance of the role.

## **Question 1 (c) (B)**

Question 1c) called for a discussion of the importance of conscience for Christians. It proved to be one of the most challenging questions in the Christianity paper, with some candidates seeming not to fully understand the concept. On the other hand, there were a number of strong candidates who appeared very well prepared for this question and answered it with a good measure of sophistication.

The main approach seen was to compare the role of conscience with the authority of the Bible and Church leaders. The better candidates were able to offer a discussion about an 'uninformed conscience' as well as the perceived errancy of priests, and the mixed messages that can be found in Biblical teaching.

To achieve the highest marks, candidates need to fulfil all the requirements of the bullet points underneath the question, and for some that was a reason why their marks were limited. Although it is an entirely legitimate approach, it is not sufficient to move beyond Level 2, just to offer a series of simple reasons on either side of the discussion. Those reasons need to be evaluated, and the candidate needs to develop an argument for a particular point of view (even if it is that they are undecided). They also need to provide an effective conclusion, one that balances the strengths of the arguments.

This is an example of a simple response, one that offers an argument on both sides of the discussion, but in a simple undeveloped way. Such an approach, without an attempt to offer any personal point of view, or a conclusion, would often keep the mark in Level 1. This attempt to do both of these things, howsoever thinly, allows the mark to move to 4, low Level 2.

(c) "The individual conscience is the only moral guide a Christian needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

"The individual conscience is the only moral guide a Christian needs." This statement displays that in your mind if you believe in God then you won't need anyone for example a priest to guide you in your faith and path in life.

Another point of view for example may state that you would still need a significant member of the church to help guide you in the teachings that get taught. However, a teaching like, "love thy neighbour as thy self" may occur naturally in someone's conscience as they are a good Christian without having to be taught that this is true.

In my opinion, I believe that this statement is not true as you will need some guidance in terms of for example some Christian teachings.

In conclusion, there are many reasons for and against this statement, as all use comes down

to the type of Christian they are, if there is more independent Christian or a more communal Christian.



The simple 'for' argument is that a person who believes in God may not need anything more than their conscience. On the opposing side, a 'significant' member of the Church may be needed to explain teachings. There is little by way of development, which would have carried the possibility of further marks. However, the conclusion does make a simple distinction between individuality and communality, and that has some merit.



Points of view need to be developed with such things as extra reasoning, or examples of relevant teaching, in order to gain higher marks.

This is an example of a very good response, one that is balanced and developed. It demonstrates a high level of understanding of the issues raised by the question, and the answer is clear and well structured.

On the one hand, the individual conscience is the only moral guide a Christian needs. Conscience is seen as an important source of authority for Christians, offering moral guidance. Christians view conscience as a part of the human spirit; this connection with God suggests that conscience acts as a Christian's morality, not driven by the instincts of the body. Thus, conscience can be the most effective moral guide. \*

However, a Christian's individual conscience can be incorrect and make mistakes. St Aquinas states that ~~an~~ a Christian's conscience can perceive an 'apparent good' as a 'real good'. This implies individual conscience can be false and make wrong decisions. This inability to be always correct suggests that individual conscience cannot be the only moral ~~guide~~ <sup>guidance</sup>.

The Bible and social values are important and necessary for a Christian's moral guidance. Important teachings from the Bible, such as "love your enemy" or "turn the other cheek", and parables act as key factors in influencing a Christian's conscience. Fundamentalists believe that the Bible is the only moral guide because it is the word of God, so must be correct due to God's omniscience. Liberals often use social

values as their moral guide, because they are more tolerable, acceptable and modern in the 21st century. These social values come from family and the law, and are equally important as a moral guide.

To conclude, I think an individual conscience is the only moral guide a Christian needs, but this conscience should be influenced by the Bible and social values, so that it does not make mistakes, perceiving an 'apparent good' for 'real good'. A combination of these influences is best.

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

\*: '~~Imago~~ Imago Dei' suggests that a Christian's conscience is similar to God, and so must be the only moral guidance needed.



It will be immediately apparent that this is a much more developed answer, and one that offers insightful distinctions that help to develop the discussion, such as the one between real and apparent goods. Reference to the ideas of scholars such as Aquinas is not necessary to gain high marks, but it is certainly a legitimate and effective way to add substance to the discussion. The separate points of view are developed, and there is an effective conclusion. This brought the mark to the top of Level 3, 8 marks. It could have gone into Level 4 if there had been more evaluation of the arguments presented, such as the point being made about the significance of understanding humans as made in the image of God.



A sustained evaluation of at least some of the arguments presented is necessary to achieve Level 4.

## **Question 1 (c) (D)**

This question asked candidates to discuss the idea that the Prophet Muhammad is the only teacher a Muslim needs. Candidates seemed to understand the question, and provided a variety of reasons why this might be so. From a number of candidates there was no evidence of an ability to offer a divergent point of view, as demanded by the bullet points underneath the question. Those that did mentioned the important role that is played by parents in teaching their children, and the role of the local imam. Many also focused on the thought that, ultimately, Allah is the only teacher, and Muhammad is simply his prophet, interpreting his words.

All c) questions are marked using a levels-based mark scheme. Very simple answers, that show little or no evidence of development, are likely to be assessed at Level 1. To score beyond Level 1 there must be an attempt to address the requirements in the bullet points under each c) question.



(c) "The Prophet Muhammad is the only teacher a Muslim needs."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

I agree with this statement because of ~~very~~ one reason. As Muslims we learn from the hadith and the hadith were said by the Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him.

During his last sermon the prophet said "Pray the way you saw me praying." What ~~it~~ does that show you, it shows that we learned how to pray from no other than prophet Muhammad.

He also said to his ummah that they should follow his Sunnah and what ~~it~~ does Sunnah mean, it means the things that the prophet used to do that isn't must to do e.g. some prayers are Sunnah and some are

Fardh (obligatory to do) it means that we should follow his teachings and surely he is the only teacher a muslim needs.



This answer makes three valid arguments - that Muslims can learn from the Hadith, that Muhammad said Muslims should pray as he prayed, and that the ummah should follow the Sunnah. These are relevant reasons, but they are simply expressed, not developed, and there is no attempt to look at any other point of view. This is, therefore, an example of a response that cannot go beyond Level 1



Less strong candidates should be encouraged to be sure to offer two different points of view, and write a simple conclusion.

Answers that score above Level 2, thereby achieving between 7 and 10 marks, will look at different points of view, will develop the arguments put forward, and will come to a conclusion based on the evidence.

(10)

"The prophet Mohammed can be regarded as 'the only teacher a Muslim needs.'" This can be said because "the prophet ~~of~~ Mohammed is the prophet that brought Islam to the world as he was the chosen messenger of the Islamic faith from God, ~~at~~ chosen on behalf of Quds. As a result it can be said that ~~the~~ he is the only teacher a Muslim needs because without him the Islamic faith of Islam may never have been born.

Despite this, many Muslims may argue that the Quran is the only teacher needed by a Muslim. Although, the Quran was revealed to Mohammed by God, it can be argued that without ~~the~~ Mohammed it may have been revealed anyway, as this is part of God's plan. ~~the~~ The Quran can be said to be the only teaching a Muslim needs because it brings many important Muslim teachings that dictate how to live a Muslim life, for example: "the Sharia law is derived from the Quran, the five pillars of Islam, the societal role of men and women, funeral services..." Therefore the Quran gives Muslims the teachings, and they are now able to see and may also be open to

interpretation by Muslim scholars or imams to ensure that they may not be misunderstanding what is said.

On the other hand, some Muslims may argue that Prophet Mohammed was the perfect Muslim role model, and teacher. This is due to the fact that many argue if you copy the actions of ~~the~~ Mohammed (Sunnah) and his teachings (Hadith), you will already be living the ideal Muslim life. Furthermore, ~~it~~ it is said that Mohammed upon his death he ascended into the highest level of Heaven, meaning that if one was to copy him they would ~~be~~ succeed in the afterlife.

Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

In conclusion, ~~it is important~~ Although the Quran is the single most important ~~the~~ book of teachings in Islam. Some Muslims may argue that following the Prophet Mohammed may arguably be ~~still~~ ~~more~~ more important than ~~the~~ the Quran.



This is an example of a Level 3 response. It puts forward two points of view. Firstly it argues that Muhammad can be seen as the only teacher needed, specifically because he was chosen for this role by Allah. Later it explains that Muhammad is presented as a role-model. It goes on to say, though, that many Muslims will argue that Allah himself is the teacher, and Muhammad is his messenger. Both these ideas are developed, using reference to Muslim beliefs and sacred texts. The conclusion is rather weak, however, including the unlikely suggestion that some Muslims may consider following the Prophet to be more important than obeying the Qur'an. Further development and a stronger conclusion could have allowed this answer to achieve Level 4.



Candidates should pay attention to the quality of their conclusion, trying to draw out the significance of some of the ideas they have put forward, rather than just repeating them in precis.

## Question 2 (a) (B)

This question asked for two practices performed on a Christian pilgrimage to Bethlehem. Examiners accepted specific references, such as visits to the Church of the Nativity, and more generic ones, such as walking pilgrimage routes (provided there was some reference to Bethlehem in the answer). Overall, it was a well answered question. Those who did less well either failed to refer to Bethlehem specifically, or confused Bethlehem with Jerusalem.

Most candidates scored full marks on this question, and this is an example of an answer with specific reference to Bethlehem and where the answers are developed.

2 (a) Outline **two** practices performed on a Christian pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

(4)

- 1 On a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, Christians will pray at the holy manger where it is believed that Jesus was born, to thank ~~God~~ <sup>God</sup> for ~~Jesus~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> coming and saving us.
- 2 Also, Christians may once again read the nativity story and indeed ~~the~~ <sup>other</sup> parts of the bible in remembrance of what happened here and to remind themselves of Bethlehem's importance in Jesus' life.



The reference to a practice in Bethlehem is clearly referenced in the first answer, visiting the site of the manger, developed with the reference to thanksgiving. The second example is more generic, reading related stories, but the context of Bethlehem is clear, and full marks were awarded.



It is always important to focus on the key words that give the essence of the question - here for example two key words would be 'practices' and Bethlehem.

Generic practices associated with pilgrimage were credited, such as in this answer. But in neither case were the answers developed. It would have been quite simple to add to each practice and score four rather than two marks.

2 (a) Outline **two** practices performed on a Christian pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

(4)

1 Prayer is one practice performed on a Christian pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

2 Singing of hymns is another practice performed on a Christian pilgrimage to Bethlehem.



Praying and singing hymns are certainly practised on pilgrimage, and the candidate does make reference to Bethlehem. But the candidate could have gained marks with simple development. For example, they could have added that pilgrims often gather in the Shepherds' Field to pray together.



The development marks can often be gained quite simply and, with 3 a) type questions, could add six marks to the total.



## Question 2 (a) (D)

In this question candidates were asked to outline practices associated with Hajj. It was a well answered question, with most candidates knowing a range of practices and were able to develop their answers.

Only two practices are asked for in the question, and any given on top of that cannot be credited. Also further examples of practices do not constitute development.

2 (a) Outline **two** practices associated with Hajj.

(4)

1 The Pilgrims go around the Kaabah  
the male pilgrims wear ~~the~~ Ihram  
which is a white cloth.

2 The Pilgrims through stones at the  
Stane of kb li's (denig) the Pilgrims  
also rePent to Allah and ~~they~~  
the males also shake their heads



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Examiner Comments

This answer scored just two marks. On closer reading it will be seen that this is a list of many different (and correct) practices, but there is no development of any of them.



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Examiner Tip

Remember - two examples (practices, beliefs), each developed, is the only way to get 4 marks on a) questions.

Occasionally 3 marks are scored, though this is quite rare on a) questions. This can only happen when there are two examples (beliefs, practices) but with just one of them developed.

2 (a) Outline **two** practices associated with Hajj.

(4)

1 One practice is the running between the two mountains, Safa and Marwa, <sup>this</sup> is done seven times to commemorate the effort of Hagar (Hajar).

2 Another practice associated with Hajj (and umrah) is the shaving of the head ~~at the end of the Hajj~~ afterwards.



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Examiner Comments

The second example, shaving the head, is not developed. The candidate could simply have added what the shaved head signifies, in just a few words, for the final mark.



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Examiner Tip

Develop both answers.

## Question 2 (b) (B)

Candidates were asked to explain why Easter is important for Christians.

There can be some confusion about what constitutes Easter. For some it is Easter Sunday and the period immediately following Jesus' resurrection. Because the specification does not call for an understanding of a distinction between the days of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday to the celebration of the resurrection), Easter will be understood to include all of those days. However, it should be taught that it does not include Lent or Palm Sunday.

Equally, Easter can refer both to the events in Jesus' life, and also the actual celebration of Easter by Christians. Again, either of these two approaches, or a mix of the two, would have been credited.

Candidates tended to write about the death and resurrection of Jesus, often very effectively, with good understanding.

Just as a series of simple explanations will often gain only three marks, a series of simply developed explanations will gain only four marks. This is because simply developed answers do not provide evidence of a comprehensive understanding.

(b) Explain why Easter is important for Christians.

(6)

The Easter story of Christ tells many different lessons to Christians like: acceptance, as Jesus cries in the garden he knows what he must do and he goes through with it; forgiveness, he forgives Judas for what he has done; he blesses the Romans that he put him to death and forgives criminals beside him as well; it shows us God's power over death and that with faith you can rise to heaven no-matter the amount of sins you carry. Easter shows many ideas and lessons on how to live your life which are still important for Christians today.



This answer gains four marks. There is certainly development, but each time it is simple. For example, the candidate explains that the Easter story teaches about forgiveness, and then provides a description of three occasions when Jesus forgave. To gain more marks the candidate needed to explain why forgiveness is such an important concept for Christians, perhaps referencing Jesus' teaching, or developing the idea of how it might help to heal communities, or indeed both. With such additions, this explanation would be close to what is meant by comprehensive.



Development by adding description is certainly development, but it is simple development. It is better to add development by drawing out the significance of the reason given.

This answer provides an example of comprehensive development, and the answer gains six marks.

(b) Explain why Easter is important for Christians.

(6)

Easter is important to Christians because it symbolises new life and hope. ~~After~~ <sup>Before</sup> the resurrection of Jesus, and his eventual ascension up into heaven, Jesus took on the sins of the world and held them upon his shoulders. After his death, the world had been cleansed and after his resurrection given hope for the future and an afterlife. Thus, Easter is important. Easter is also important for Christians because it includes holy week, which is the week of Jesus' death. Jesus taught many lessons in holy week, including selflessness and sacrifice. These lessons and ~~the~~ holy week make Easter important. Finally, it is important because it demonstrates Jesus' power and that he truly was the Son of God. He knew Judas would betray him and ~~defeat~~ <sup>take</sup> death. This omniscience has never been seen before, and the omnipotence. Therefore, Easter acts as proof for Jesus' power and claims to be God's son, so it is important.



One useful example of an extended development occurs in the middle of the answer. Jesus took on the sins of the world, his death brought cleansing, and his subsequent resurrection brought the hope that people can look forward to life after death. There are then further well developed reasons, including the teaching and example of selflessness and sacrifice, and the demonstration of the power of God. Overall it is assessed that the candidate does indeed have a comprehensive understanding of the importance of Easter for Christians.



The key word to keep in mind when developing ideas is 'comprehensive'.

## Question 2 (b) (D)

This question asks about the importance of the city of Madinah for Muslims. Many candidates understood well the importance of the city. Some, however, confused Medinah with Makkah.

Fully comprehensive answers demonstrated an understanding of the role of Madinah in the development of Islam, allowing the Prophet and his followers to establish a strong Muslim community. Weaker answers relied on a simple description of events that took place there. Whilst such descriptions can underline importance, they are more likely to provide evidence of knowledge rather than understanding.

This answer starts with a reference to the Hijrah, but it does not answer the question about the importance of the city itself. That means that what is left is a simple, if valid, point, and it can gain just one mark.

(b) Explain why Madinah is important for Muslims.

(6)

Madinah is important for Muslims  
because :-  
\* The Prophet's pilgrimage from Makkah  
to Madinah started the Islamic  
calendar.  
\* The Prophet's pilgrimage to Madinah  
has helped the Prophet call  
more people towards Islam & helped  
spread the message.



In the second example, although the candidate also refers to the Hijrah rather than the city, the substance of the reason is valid - it was from Madinah that the Prophet was able to spread the message of Islam. It is clear from this second point that the candidate does understand the importance of the city, and with more commitment to answering the question could have added to their marks.



Candidates should be encouraged to say what they think they know, even if they are uncertain. All answers are positively marked, and no marks are deducted for wrong answers.



By way of contrast, this is a fully developed answer, one that shows a comprehensive understanding of the importance of Madinah.

(b) Explain why Madinah is important for Muslims.

(6)

~~Madinah~~ When the Prophet Muhammad wanted to escape the persecution of the people of Mecca, he was warmly invited and offered refuge by the people of Madinah. Thus he was given a chance, for the first time, to proclaim the message of Islam freely without any fear of persecution. This significantly contributed toward the spread of Islam. Secondly the ~~Prophet~~ first thing the Prophet Muhammad did ~~was~~ when he arrived in Madinah was to build the first mosque of Islam; ~~therefore~~ providing Muslim communities with a ~~place~~ <sup>a tranquil</sup> atmosphere to worship Allah in congregation. Thus Madinah is viewed by Muslims as being the birthplace of the <sup>many</sup> mosque which spread around the world. Initially Madinah ~~was~~ also viewed as Muslims as the first Muslim welfare state. Under the leadership of the Prophet Madinah flourished into a peaceful state where people of all colors and religions were treated as equals. Thus it provides the Muslim community with the perfect example on which to base the Muslim communities.



There is an example of a well developed reason in the middle of the answer. Muhammad was able to build mosques in Madinah, this allowed Muslims to congregate for prayer in peace, and to engage in the key job of the worship of Allah. So Madinah was the birthplace of the mosque, which became important as Islam was spread around the world. Equally there are developed reasons about spreading the message of Islam and of developing a welfare state.



Although there are always some time pressures in exams, candidates should feel encouraged that it is possible to provide a series of comprehensive answers in the time allowed.

## **Question 2 (c) (B)**

This question called for a discussion of whether Christmas is the most important Christian festival. The very nature of the question meant that, to offer an alternative point of view, candidates could refer to other festivals and explain their importance. This was the approach taken by many. It was important for them to explain why another festival was important, and why that level of importance might be weightier. Other candidates opposed the view by arguing about the commercialisation of Christmas, and how it may have lost its religious significance, which was also a legitimate approach.

This was a well answered question, and many candidates were able to offer a balanced discussion.

It would be useful to compare a good answer, one that provides a balanced discussion, but without any comprehensive development, with one that achieves the top of Level 3. This first example is a good Level 2 response.

(c) "Christmas is the most important Christian festival."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

On one hand, yes, Christmas is the most important festival. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. Literally, without Jesus' birth, he cannot live, nor die to save humanity. And so, his birth is the most important thing to celebrate. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and I am the life" without birth he is neither, and so, he cannot teach. All he does of love, forgiveness and humility which he did in his life. From our modern perspective Christmas is easily the most celebrated and hyped festival though, this is a reflection on our Western consumer capitalist economic models not, the Christian Faith.

On the other hand, one other festival highlights its self as the most important from a Christian point of view - Easter. At Easter we remember the most important parts of Jesus' life (listed in 2b) and so, it must be the most important

Festival. "God gave his one and only son" - thus, happens at Easter when Jesus died and rose again before ascending to heaven. To once again look literally at the problem, without Easter there is no salvation, so, no humanity saved and so, no festivals at all. Thus, Easter is the most important. Lastly, Easter brings with it the Last Supper and so, Mass/Eucharist. The idea of transubstantiation built the Catholic Church and so, must be important.

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)

To conclude, I believe that Easter is a more important Christian festival as it commemorates much more important ideas from Christianity about salvation, forgiveness and leads to the act and prayers of communion.



This answer provides a number of good reasons why Easter may be considered the most important Christian festival. There are a number of ideas, and some attempt to develop them. It is weaker on the pro side, and would certainly have benefitted from some attempt to argue that case more effectively. In effect it just says that, without Jesus' birth, all the things he went on to do and say would not have been possible. Reference to the meaning of the incarnation, for example, would have enhanced this side of the discussion, though it should be stressed that there is no absolute requirement in c) questions for the number of reasons on each side to be equally balanced.



In c) questions it is not necessary for the candidates to match the number of arguments/reasons on both sides of the discussion. However, there is a requirement for a balanced discussion and candidates should be aware of the need to argue effectively from both perspectives.

This is an example of how candidates can develop a discussion fully, and take their answer to Level 3 and beyond.

Many Christians, especially more liberal, modern Christians, would suggest that Christmas is the most important Christian festival. They would cite the Nativity Story to prove this, as the Bible reading's magnitude is so blatant that its supreme importance is undeniable. It signals the moment that God incarnate entered the material, human world and is a central teaching to the Church as it highlights Jesus' continued humility, in being born in a stable, and signals the start of the redemption of humanity when Jesus dies for us on the cross. Although the symbolism of this is of huge importance, the experience of Christmas is also crucial. It is often marked with a Midnight Mass or Christmas Day service which allows Christians to reconnect with the story of their God and thus reaffirm their faith. Meanwhile, Christmas, along with the preceding period of advent, is about giving both material and spiritual gifts and is thus the most important Christian festival as it reminds us, even in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, of Jesus' central

teachings of giving to others (eg. in the parable of the Rich Young Man) and 'loving thy neighbour' (eg. in the parable of the Good Samaritan).

However, other conservative Christians, such as Roman Catholics or American evangelicals, might argue that Holy Week and Easter are more important than Christmas. They would argue that the tale of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday is a greater example of his ~~power~~ Godly omnipotence in returning from death and are more important for followers (Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)

of the Christian Covenant who want to reaffirm their faith by showing that they believe in this humanly-impossible story. They may also suggest that, in the Western world, Christmas has become so overly commercialised that it has lost its Biblical and scriptural meaning and is merely a celebration of material possessions. Thus, they would argue that Christmas is not the most important Christian festival.

In conclusion, although Christmas has been heavily commercialised by Western corporations and may not hold as deep a scriptural significance as Easter and Holy Week, I would argue that Christmas is the most important Christian festival as it truly allows people to relate to and reconnect with the story of Jesus and encourages selflessness more than any other Christian festival throughout the year.





An examination of this answer will reveal the candidate's ability to develop ideas, and to draw out their significance. For example, on the pro side, the candidate says that the action of Jesus, and its symbolism, is important, and that this is then reflected in the Christian response, because it allows them to reconnect with the story of God's incarnation, and that strengthens their faith. This quality is repeated in other aspects of their answer. This is the level of understanding that needs to be seen for candidates to access the higher levels of marks. This quality is not as much in evidence on the opposing side of the discussion, hence it is top of Level 3, 8/10 marks, rather than a Level 4 response.



As a rule, to reach the top levels, candidates should be encouraged to create layers of development in their answer. That means that they should try to go beyond giving a reason for a point of view, and supporting it with a single piece of development. By drawing further significance from what they have written, they are demonstrating a more comprehensive understanding of the issues involved.

## **Question 2 (c) (D)**

This question asks whether Eid ul-Fitr is the most important Muslim festival. Responses that compare the importance of Eid ul-Fitr with that of other Muslim festivals is a legitimate approach, one that was taken by many candidates. Some were able to offer developed reasons for both sides of the discussion, but others used a good deal of description in their responses, saying for example that Eid ul-Fitr is more important because Muslims do this and this... without really explaining how these actions enhance their understanding of the importance of the festival.

It will be useful to look at a weaker answer, but also at one which provides a well-developed balanced discussion.

This is an example of an answer that describes what happens at Eid ul-Fitr, but it does not go on to offer much by way of explanation as to why these actions enhance the importance of the festival. It is therefore a Level 1 response.

(c) "Eid ul-Fitr is the most important Muslim festival."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

Eid-ul-fitr is an important day for muslims<sup>(10)</sup> all around the world. It is a day of love, ~~peace~~ peace and giving food to the less fortunate.

It is a ~~day~~ holiday for muslims after the holy month of ramadan where muslims fast for 30 days. On this day muslims wear new clothes, cook good food and feast with their friends and family.

It is a day of forgiveness and love.

It is a really important festival for all muslims should participate on this day.

It is celebrated by praying two rakats in the morning then afterwards, muslims feast.

It is not the most important ~~day~~ festival for muslims, as there is more festivals which are equally important such as, Eid-ul-Adha.

All muslims festivals are important and there is no festival which is more important than the other.



In effect, this is a list of actions - wearing new clothes, praying, giving to the less fortunate. There is a simple attempt to explain, such as that it is a day of forgiveness and love. But this is insufficient to take the answer beyond Level 1, not least because there is really no alternative point of view argued for.



All candidates should be encouraged to argue from two points of view, even if they can only do so simply, offering a reason in support, and against. They should add a conclusion, explaining why they conclude as they do. Even done simply, this would take the candidate towards the Level 1/Level 2 borderline.

This is a good example of a top Level 3 response, one that shows the candidate has a good understanding of the meaning of the Muslim festivals, and that they are able to offer well developed arguments.

Firstly, some Muslims would agree that Eid-ul-Fitr is the most important Muslim festival because it marks the end of the Ramadan fasting. Fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam, in order for Muslims to learn to empathise with the poor and is compulsory. It is also a sunnah of the prophet which meant Muslims have to fast and celebrate and have a feast afterwards as Eid-ul-Fitr. It is a great opportunity for Muslim families can come together, share food and dress in new clothes. Eid-ul-Fitr ~~also~~ also involves visiting cemeteries in remembrance of passed loved ones. It is a festival of joy, forgiveness and to follow the Prophet's footsteps and intentions of Allah, so they can achieve salvation. However, some Muslims may think that Eid-ul-Adha is more important than Eid-ul-Fitr as it shows faithfulness and willingness to serve Allah.

Some Muslims would disagree that Eid-ul-Fitr is the most important Muslim festival because Eid-ul-Adha is also important. Eid-ul-Adha marks the end of Hajj, which is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is in remembrance of a significant event in Islam history where Ibrahim shows faithfulness to ~~God~~<sup>Allah</sup> when he was willing to sacrifice his son, Ismail, but Allah is compassionate and didn't want Ibrahim to sacrifice his son to Him. Instead, Ibrahim sacrificed a sheep. This practice ~~will~~ shows faithfulness and willingness to serve Allah. "It is your righteousness that reaches Him". <sup>There are</sup> Some Muslims believe that

this festival is just as important as Eid-ul-Fitr. However, some people might not be able to go on Hajj and can't participate in this festival and sacrifice but everyone can fast and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

In conclusion, having evaluate both sides, the strongest argument is that Eid-ul-Fitr isn't the most important festival because Eid-ul-Adha is just as important and may be seen as more important because it allows Muslims to show willingness to serve Allah. The weakest argument is that Eid-ul-Fitr is the most important festival because even though it is also a pillar of Islam, it isn't directly tied to significant events or directly show faith for Allah. I think that Eid-ul-Fitr isn't the most important festival because I think Eid-ul-Adha is more important, as Muslims show their faithfulness towards Allah. Therefore I disagree with the statement. **(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)**



An example of a well-developed argument can be found in the second paragraph. It points out how Eid ul-Adha remembers a key moment in Muslim history, and explains why it is important (Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son) and how it commemorates Allah's compassion. It then goes on to say how the festival is therefore an expression of Muslim fidelity and submission. This is the quality of argument that marks out a top Level 3 response. A more extended discussion on both sides would have taken the answer into Level 4.



It is certainly possible to gain full marks to c) questions in the space provided. These more able candidates will be economical in their use of description, and focus as fully as possible on drawing out the significance of the arguments they are making.

### Question 3 (a) (B)

This question asks candidates to outline two aspects of the Christian marriage ceremony. Two key terms here are 'Christian', and 'ceremony'. Christian marriage does not involve some of the aspects that candidates may have seen in films and on TV. The colour of clothes, for example, is not an aspect of a Christian marriage. However, we have accepted the signing of registers because that is normally part of the marriage ceremony in Christian churches in the UK. The word 'ceremony' indicates that candidates were expected to focus on aspects of the ceremonial, and not only on why marriage is important in Christianity (though this kind of explanation could form part of development).

Overall, this was a well answered question, and most candidates focused on the exchange of rings and the marriage vows.

This example is included to emphasise that teaching needs to be focused on the essentially Christian aspects of the marriage ceremony. It is not possible to accept all aspects of wedding ceremonial that have formed part of contemporary culture, unless they have become an integrated part of Christian marriage.

3 (a) Outline **two** parts of the Christian marriage ceremony.

(4)

1 The kissing of the couple. This is when the Bride and Groom have been officially pronounced husband and wife.

2 The swearing ~~of~~ of each other's vows. When the Bride and Groom make promises to each other on how they will treat each other in the future.





This answer scores just two marks because the element of the bride and groom kissing is not part of the Christian marriage ceremony. It may well take place on some occasions, but it has no specific Christian significance. The same cannot be said about signing the civil registers, because in some countries this has formed part of the essential nature of marriage, so that the marriage is recognised in the eyes of God, and is lawful.



It is always important for candidates to focus their answers on specifically religious belief and practice.

This is an example of the most commonly offered response, with the aspect of the ceremonial indicated and with development in both examples.

3 (a) Outline **two** parts of the Christian marriage ceremony.

(4)

1 The exchange of the rings thus signifies the endless love in the marriage and shows how the two are bound to become one.

2 The declaration of vows, commitment to love and cherish, in sickness and health, for rich for poorer. Shows / reflects the love Jesus has for the Church and its followers.



The first mark is given in each case for the identification of an aspect of Christian ceremonial (the exchange of rings and the declaration of vows). In the first case this is developed by explaining the significance of the rings. In the second case it is gained by including some of the vows that are declared during the ceremony.

In fact, the end of the second example, about this showing the love Jesus has for the Church and its followers, is not self-evidently an explanation of the significance of the vows. But the marks had already been gained.



It is important to ensure that the development always relates to the example.

### Question 3 (a) (D)

This question asked for an outline of aspects of Jum'ah prayers. On the whole it was well answered, with many candidates gaining full marks. It will be useful to use this question to stress the need for development in a) questions and a reminder of how this can be achieved.

It will be evident that this answer can only gain two marks, and it can illustrate how simply development could have been added.

3 (a) Outline **two** practices associated with Jum'a prayers.

(4)

1. Praying 2 rakaa

2. Listening to the 2 khutbah.



In the first example, an extra mark could have been gained simply by saying, for example, that these prayers and movements show submission to Allah.

In the second example, the development mark could have been gained by pointing out that the sermons often focus on how to apply Muslim teaching in the modern world.



All candidates are encouraged to try to add development. There is nothing to lose, and on the whole of Paper 2, question a) development can be worth a total of 6 marks.

This is a full 4 mark answer. There is, if anything, more information than is needed. For full marks these answers can sometimes be quite brief.

3 (a) Outline **two** practices associated with Jum'a prayers.

(4)

1 A person attending the Jum'a prayer must ensure purity (shower before going), apply ~~oil~~ Scent and wear clean clothes - ensure that He/she is in state of wud'u.

2 During the Jum'a prayers the imam delivers sermons in Arabic as well as in the language <sup>people</sup> are most ~~familiar~~ familiar with, on Islamic affairs ~~with~~ ~~with~~ ~~with~~ relation to day-to-day matters.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

In the first example, the ceremonial is washing, and the development is that it is a sign of purity before praying. In the second case, the imam delivers a sermon, which relate teaching to day to day matters. All the rest, although correct, is unnecessary.



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Examiner Tip

If there are time constraints, candidates should recall that in a) questions the identification of 2 practices, and simple development, is sufficient for full marks.

### Question 3 (b) (B)

This question asked why Baptism is important for Christians. Most candidates focused on the ceremony of Baptism, though some also included reference to the baptism of Jesus, which was a legitimate approach and was marked accordingly.

The question was well answered, and many candidates were able to refer to such related matters as Christian initiation, original sin, membership of the Body of Christ, rites of passage, and so forth. It will therefore be useful to use this question to illustrate the difference between a low and a high Level 2 response.

One of the features of a low Level 2 response is that it includes a number of reasons, but each of them are only simply developed.

(b) Explain why baptism is important for most Christians.

(6)

Baptism represents a cleansing of the soul and forgiveness for sins. For Baptists, it is important for the forgiveness for any sins they committed in their life, and gives a clean slate on which to start again - this happens when they are adults, because that is when Jesus was baptised. For Catholics, baptism represents cleansing of original sin, and is done on small children to change their ~~evil~~ evil nature, inherited from Adam and Eve. Without baptism, some Catholics believe that people will go to hell, and so it is very important to be baptised.



In this answer the candidate focused on the importance of Baptism for two distinct religious groups, Baptists and Catholics. That is an acceptable approach, as the two different perspectives were very likely to provide a variety of reasons for the importance of Baptism. The weakness of this answer is that, in each case, it gives a reason, develops it simply, and then moves on to the next reason. For example, for Baptists who practise adult Baptism, it is important because it forgives the sins of their life and allows them to have a clean slate. For Catholics, who baptise babies, it is for the cleansing of original sin. The final explanation is a true belief, to an extent, for most Christians. It adds a little, but is not sufficient to take the answer above 4 marks



Although there can be no hard and fast rule, because each answer must be judged on its merits, candidates should be aware that two simply developed reasons will often score a low Level 2 mark.

This is an example of a full six mark answer, which shows how responses can be fully developed.

(b) Explain why baptism is important for most Christians.

(6)

Baptism is important for most Christians as it was performed by Jesus. ~~was~~  
This is important as Christians should follow the example of Jesus. Jesus  
was baptised by John the Baptist in the River ~~Jordan~~ <sup>Jordan</sup> and when  
he rose from the water the Holy Spirit descended <sup>to him</sup> in the form of a  
dove and God's voice was heard: 'This is my son, whom I love. With  
him I am well pleased.' This is important as it shows that during  
baptism God ~~will~~ <sup>guiding us both morally and spiritually</sup> will be present and the Holy Spirit will be with you  
after baptism.

Baptism is also really important for Christians as it cleanses away  
our sins and allows us to enter Christianity. For example in high  
churches (eg. Roman Catholic Church) they believe in original sin,  
and through infant baptism sins will be cleansed as the baby is welcomed  
~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> the Christian community. In low churches (eg. Baptist Church) they believe  
in believer's baptism and they perform full immersion, representing dying from  
their old life of sins and entering their new life - a Christian life.  
This is important as the person is now a Christian after baptism and it is a sacrament.



The first part of this answer refers to the baptism of Jesus, and develops this aspect. It points out that Baptism follows the example of Jesus. It provides detailed reference to the Gospel account. It draws the conclusion from that account that God is himself present when people are baptised, and finally that the Holy Spirit will act as a guide throughout the baptised person's life. This is a good example of how an explanation can be fully developed. The second paragraph is similarly developed and, although it is difficult to read all of the final words, it is clear that the full six marks have already been merited.



### Question 3 (b) (D)

This question asks why the five daily prayers are important for Muslims. This was a well answered question, and candidates were able to refer to the obligation to pray that is placed on all Muslims, for example in the Five Pillars of Islam, on the example of the Prophet, and of the rewards that come from prayer, such as a closer relationship with Allah. Some candidates offered isolated simple explanations, and it will be useful to contrast an example of that with a good Level 2 response, and to be fully aware of the difference.

This is an example of a Level 1 response, and it serves as a reminder that b) questions are marked using a levels-based mark scheme, which means that a series of simple answers cannot go beyond Level 1.

(b) Explain why the five daily prayers are important for Muslims.

(6)

The five daily prayers - Fajr, Zuhar, Asr, Magrib and Isha are made obligatory / Fard ~~and~~ on all Muslims by Allah. They are important because they each help us to get away from the ~~at~~ daily hustle of life and remember/praise and ask forgiveness from Allah. ~~It~~ Throughout the day.



Because this is an 'explain' question, there are no marks for knowing the names of the five daily prayers. However, had the candidate spoken of the value of prayer first thing in the morning, and last thing at night, for example, that could have gained marks. The idea that they are important because they are obligatory was credited. The strongest reason is that they help Muslims to get away from the hustle of life to focus on the forgiveness of Allah. This final point could also have been developed by saying something about the relationship between prayer and the inner jihad, for example, the struggle throughout life to avoid wrongdoing, and submit to Allah.



Knowledge of beliefs and practices is only going to receive credit in a b) question when it is used to illustrate or develop an explanation.

This is a good Level 2 response, and it will be immediately evident that the explanations are fuller, and show greater insight into the topic.

(b) Explain why the five daily prayers are important for Muslims.

(6)

Five ~~to~~ daily prayers are important because Allah says in the Quran that we should establish prayer. It is ~~the one of~~ ~~the~~ most one of the most important ways in which we get closer to Allah and that our faith and iman gets ~~strong~~ stronger. The ~~to~~ Prophet also used to pray and the Prophet never did anything that was not related to the Quran. The Prophet also said that 'Pray as I pray pray'. So we should pray five times a day.



This answer also refers to the obligatory nature of prayer in Islam, as mandated in the Qur'an, but it then develops the response. It is a way of getting closer to Allah, and thereby it is a way in which a Muslim's faith, their iman, gets stronger. There is a similar developed response in the second part, referring to the example of the Prophet. This gained 5 marks, and it could have gone to 6 marks if there had been an extra aspect of explanation about why the Prophet's example is relevant to the question.



References to sacred texts are often a good way to add development to an answer. There does not need to be an exact quote, but an accurate precis of what is written adds weight to a response.

### **Question 3 (c) (B)**

This question asked candidates to discuss whether the design of a church is important for Christian worship.

It was perhaps the least well answered of the c) questions. Some discussions were very general in nature, and some didn't focus on design very much at all, but rather on the value and purpose of going to church.

Better answers referred to features of design and explained how they might, or might not, enhance worship and belief, and many compared the very simple design of some denominations with the elaborate design of others, going on to discuss the significance of this. The examples will show an answer where the candidate was clearly uncertain about the demands of the question and another which demonstrates an effective, but unusual approach to the topic.

This answer seems to indicate that the candidate was not well prepared to answer the question. There is no evidence that they were aware of any significant features of church design, and were therefore unable to discuss their purpose. They were aware of some of the reasons Christians go to church, but this did not respond to the specific question and could not be credited.

(c) "The design of a church is not important for Christian worship."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

The Church was built as a place for believers to go pray and worship. Christians believe that going to Church is a way of showing gratitude and praise to God it is a place of holiness. I believe that the Church was made for as a place for Christians to freely worship but isn't a must you go to pray to God. I believe that the Holy spirit lives within you and however you praise God would still ~~hear~~ hear you.

In conclusion Church is a Holy place but it is not a must to go ~~everyday~~ to get closer to God everyone has the holy spirit within them.



There is really only one small aspect of this answer that refers to design, where the candidate says that the church was made so that Christians can worship freely. Although this does not mention any specific feature, it suggests an element of understanding about the building and design of churches, in terms of their usefulness. But nothing else could be credited. It could therefore score just one mark.



Many churches are elaborate structures, and candidates should be aware of the features of the building and prepared to answer questions about what these features are designed to achieve.

Although this answer shows an awareness of elements of design in a church building, it focuses on the relationship between the building and the Christian theology of the nature of worship. More often answers adopted a different approach, looking at specific design features and commenting on them. But this approach is also valid, and is included here to reinforce the rule in marking that 'other approaches are possible' and should be credited. The arguments are developed, and the answer considers both sides of the debate. This is therefore an example of a high Level 3 response.



(c) "The design of a church is not important for Christian worship."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

- attract converts  
- Beauty to promote respect  
- for festivals

- Omnipresent  
- Distraction  
- Tempted

(10)

The exterior and interior of the Church, according to my belief has some influence in worship but not essential.

Firstly, the Bible states that God is omnipresent, which means that he is present everywhere so the Church design and of buildings are not important. This is reinforced with the tearing of church curtain after Jesus' death which symbolized that we now have direct connection with God, and therefore ~~we have~~ ability to ~~directly~~ directly communicate with him.

Secondly, the <sup>focus on</sup> Church buildings may actually act as a ~~let~~ distraction in Christian worship. As spending large sums on decoration and facilities may cause people to lose the true nature of Christian worship, as apostles (Paul) worshipped in prisons and exiled islands ~~(John)~~ (John).

Thirdly, in 2 Corinthians 6:19, it states that "my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit". This verse again indicates that 'worship' is accessible anytime and anywhere, as it is the consecrated ~~place~~<sup>body</sup> of Christ within us that allows us to ~~go~~ meet and worship God.

However, some people argue that the design of the church building may influence worship. As Solomon builds the ~~temple~~<sup>Lord's</sup> temple in gold and precious stones.

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

TOTAL FOR RELIGION B = 60 MARKS

They argue that the beauty of the church - building enables us to feel the presence of God and therefore helps us to worship better. Yet this can be counter argued ~~as~~<sup>that</sup> Solomon and Jews at that time relied on Priest and temple to communicate with God, but now after Jesus' resurrection we have direct access to the presence of God in our hearts and can feel it anytime.

Moreover, some people argue that the design of church buildings can make it more accessible for the disabled, so they can participate in community (public worship). Yet, this can be ~~counter~~ counter argued as the apostles went to the sick to heal them and proselytise them, they rarely came to them.

In conclusion, <sup>buildings are important but</sup> Christian worship, in my opinion, is something within us and is in the very core of our hearts.



The approach in the first part of the answer which, for example, refers to the Christian understanding of God as omnipresent, is relevant. It clearly explains why some Christians do not think church design is very important. This idea is developed, referring also to St Paul, and the idea that the Holy Spirit is inside people, so perhaps God is not necessarily in the buildings themselves. The same theological approach is adopted to consider the other side of the argument.

This was judged a top Level 3 response. It would have scored into Level 4 if the counter argument had been fuller. Also, despite this being a legitimate approach, it could have benefitted from some reference to specific design features, if only by way of illustration.



Candidates do not always have to take what may be considered the orthodox route in responding to a question. But they should still ensure that they are answering the question set, and not a variation of their own making.

### **Question 3 (c) (D)**

This question asked for a discussion as to whether the most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship. At a simple level, this was a well answered question, with candidates aware of the fact that many mosques also serve as community centres and schools, for example. However there were fewer higher marks (Levels 3 and 4) for this question. Most candidates took the approach of saying 'On the one hand it is a place of worship because of these aspects of mosque worship..., but it is also a community centre because the following also happens there...' This is a legitimate approach, but it appeared not to lend itself to much by way of development, and this often limited the number of marks scored.

These scripts give an example of such a legitimate but simple approach, and also one that perhaps illustrates the problem of time-keeping in exams.

This is an example of an approach to this question that was taken by many, perhaps even most, candidates. It is a full response, and it certainly answers the question, but it remains in Level 2 because there is not the required level of development that would demonstrate a deeper understanding of the issues raised by the question.

(c) "The most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

The mosque serves as a place for ~~muslims to~~ worship. It allows all muslims to gather as a whole. Some people think that the most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship. This is because, ~~our~~ the purpose of our life is to please Allah through worship. Therefore, they think that the most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship. They ~~also think~~ Another reason why they think that the most important purpose of a mosque is to <sup>as a</sup> ~~please~~ <sup>place of</sup> Allah through worship is because it allows muslims to gather as a whole ~~which~~ and pray in congregation <sup>which is</sup> ~~is it~~ is rewarded 27 times more than individual prayers. ~~The~~ Therefore, they give importance to a mosque mainly because it is a place of worship. However, there are some people who think that the most important purpose of a mosque is not ~~as a~~ that it serves as a place for worship. This is because the mosque also serves as a place for meetings, marriages, etc.. They think that because there are other important purposes, the most important is not that it is a place of worship. Another reason why people don't accept that ~~it's~~ the most

Important purpose of a mosque is not that it is a place of worship is because they think that the whole world is a place of worship and it doesn't necessarily have to be a mosque as Muslims can perform their prayers anywhere. In conclusion some people think that the most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship whereas the others don't as they don't understand the fact that it serves as a place for Muslims to gather as a whole.



Although this is quite a full answer, a reading of this response reveals that it is, for the most part, a series of things that take place in a mosque, some of them to do with worship, and some fulfilling other functions. On a simple level this answers the question. However, it would have scored more marks if it had developed some of the ideas. For example, mosques serve as a community centre, for education and for gathering the community, which is mentioned. The candidate could have gone on to point out that this reflects an aspect of the original value associated with mosques, from the time of Muhammad, who saw the mosque as a centre where the ummah could be united and from which the teaching of Islam could be spread. The idea of uniting the ummah is a key concept, and this could have been used to develop the answer even further.



Perhaps encouraging candidates to develop their responses is the most important advice that can be given.

Timing can be a very important issue when taking an exam, and perhaps this answer is an illustration that time eventually does run out.

(c) "The most important purpose of a mosque is as a place of worship."

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(10)

Based on Islam, the mosque, also known as masjid, is a place of worship for Muslims which is deemed appropriate for prayer due to its prominent features of cleanliness and spacious ambience, for example. It is also stated by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) that for each step taken to the Masjid for the Sake of Allah, has a promising reward.

However, some people might argue that the mosque is not only for worship but for studying as well since a masjid is like a school since it



This is a confident answer, one that certainly has promise. A valid argument is put forward, and there is evidence of an ability to refer back to the Hadith to support and develop the point of view. But then it suddenly stops. Given that this is the last question on the paper, it can be conjectured that the candidate ran out of time. Given that this question is worth 10 marks, a score of 2 is a significant loss of marks, and this answer is included to remind candidates to leave themselves enough time to complete every question as well as they can.





Advice on timing of answers can only be a rule of thumb, but some guidance will help candidates. The exam is 90 minutes, which means 30 minutes per question. Half the marks are available for the part c) questions, so candidates should aim to allow themselves approximately 15 minutes, or more, to answer each c) question.

## Paper Summary

Based on candidate performance on this paper, candidates should:

- In a) questions, give two beliefs or practices that respond to the specific question, and develop both responses
- In b) questions, develop each of the reasons they give
- In c) question, try to meet all of the requirements laid out under the question, including looking at more than one point of view
- For all b) and c) questions, ensure that development is extended sufficiently to demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the topic raised by the question
- In b) and c) questions, offer explanatory as well as descriptive development
- Ensure they leave themselves enough time to answer the longer c) questions fully.

## Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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