

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SHORT COURSE (8061)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Christianity

See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Whilst every attempt has been made to show a range of student responses, the following responses and examiner comments provide teachers with the best opportunity to understand the application of the mark scheme. They are not intended to be used as model answers, although they are genuine student responses from the summer examinations which were marked by senior examiners.

Two mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	2
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Give two Christian beliefs about salvation.

[2 marks]

Answer A

1. Your soul is saved and admitted to heaven
2. Jesus died to allow salvation

Answer B

1. Found through prayer and meditation
2. You will find salvation in God by following the Bible

Answer A

Two correct beliefs identified. The 'short sentence' style answer is ideal in this case as no further explanation was required, although by writing a short sentence the meaning is clear.

2 marks

Answer B

This response takes a different approach to the previous, however is equally valid. Both points are correct in terms of the ways in which Christians believe you can find salvation by actions which build faith in Jesus as saviour.

2 marks

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	4
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Explain two Christian beliefs about the afterlife. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

Christians believe that if they were good in life they will be rewarded in heaven and let through the gates. If you were bad you will be sent to hell and punished for your sins.

Answer B

Christians believe that in the afterlife you are chosen to either go to heaven or hell depending on how you lived life on Earth. The Bible states that if you succeed in living a good Christian life you will be 'rewarded' in the afterlife and go to heaven. They believe that you are sent to a room to decide where to go. Hell is known in the bible as a 'pit of fire' in which bad people will go to.

Answer A

This response, although brief, does include two beliefs with some development of each. However, there is no clear reference to sacred writings or a source of authority so the final mark cannot be awarded.

4 marks

Answer B

A detailed first point, which gains 2 marks. The second point on hell is less developed, but the 'pit of fire' is just enough detail. The Bible is acknowledged as a source so gains the final mark.

5 marks

12 mark questions

Levels of Response

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>References to religion applied to the issue.</p>	10-12
3	<p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>Clear reference to religion.</p>	7-9
2	<p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.</p> <p>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</p>	4-6
1	<p>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</p>	1-3
0	<p>Nothing worthy of credit.</p>	0

12 mark questions (A02)

0	1	.	5
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‘Christianity would not exist if Jesus had not risen from the dead’.

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- Refer to Christian teaching
- Give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- Reach a justified conclusion

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

Answer A

Some people like non-Christians may say Christianity would not exist if Jesus had not risen from the dead. They may say this because they may think that if he didn't rise from the dead God isn't this Omnipotent God and doesn't have the power to give his son life, so why would he have the power to protect and look after us humans. They also might say this because if he dies and stays dead they might think that he abandoned us, that God gave up on us and doesn't care for us any more. So why should we believe in him if he doesn't believe in us. They might also say this because if Jesus died and didn't come back to life they might have thought he was fake and actually wasn't God on earth, and they would have lost faith.

Other people like Christians may say the Christianity would exist if Jesus had not risen from the dead. They may say this because even though he did not come back to life they know that Jesus sacrificed his self for our sins and they would know that God is benevolent. They may also say this because they know that Jesus wouldn't just leave them for no reason, so they would know he left for a very good reason, like protecting them from the heavens.

In conclusion, Christians would not exist if Jesus had not risen from the dead because they would feel abandoned and realise that maybe God isn't this Omnipotent God; maybe Jesus wasn't God, Maybe he was a fake. Christians might have lost faith in God.

Answer A

This response is a logical answer with some reasoning. However, it doesn't get to the heart of the purpose of the resurrection so stays on a more superficial level. It is clearly Level 3 for reasoning and the mid mark is the most appropriate based on the depth of the arguments included.

Level 3, 8 marks.

SPaG 3 – Generally accurate spelling and grammar enables good control of meaning throughout.

Answer B

Christian teaching depicts that Jesus' resurrection was a key moment in Christianity. However much more of Christian teachings derives from many things Jesus said before his first death.

People could support this statement because of value and evidence. The value of his resurrection was one of a kind, the only recorded man to do it. So people would think that Jesus had vast knowledge and hence caught a greater following. Jesus resurrecting would also give evidence that the mystical things Jesus is talking about had truth to it. This may even convince 'Jesus haters' to follow Jesus' teachings.

Other people may argue that since there is so much information on Christianity before Jesus' first death, that it would be passed down through his men for generations. Or maybe Christianity could've been rediscovered centuries later, starting from information from Jesus.

My justified conclusion is that Christianity would exist but not as it is now. I think that it would've been harder to keep Christianity alive straight after Jesus' death but will easily be picked back up a few centuries later. Also I wouldn't say that it would be as big of a religion as it is.

Answer B

This response is quite well argued and the reasoning is thoughtful, as such it just meets the criteria for Level 4. It is a little shorter than expected at 195 words, but there is good focus throughout on the statement at hand. The conclusion adds a little to the answer but could have gone further by adding an overall reason for the judgement.

Level 4, 10

SPaG 3 – high performance. Good control of meaning and accuracy of spelling and grammar.

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/8061

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