

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Catholic 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 viewed as 'model' answers, although they are genuine student responses from the summer 2018 examinations and have all been marked by senior examiners.

Two mark questions (A01.1)

0 | 1 | . | 2

Give two reasons why the resurrection of Jesus is important for Christians.

[2 marks]

Answer

1. Jesus is son of God.
2. Gives them hope that they may be resurrected.

Although the answer is brief, this is sufficient for a 2 mark question as the command is 'give' so no explanation is required. 2 correct simple points are given here.

2 marks

0 | 2 | . | 2

Give two examples of formal prayers used by Catholics.

[2 marks]

Answer

1. When everyone prays together in a church talking to God.
2. Saying the rosary.

The first point given, although it describes a practice that could involve formal prayer, is not creditworthy as the question is asking for a specific example. The second point is correct.

1 mark

Four mark questions (A01.3)

0	2	.	3
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Explain two contrasting Catholic views about what it means to 'love our neighbour'.

[4 marks]

Answer

One Catholic view about what it means to 'love our neighbour' is that Catholics should treat everyone with love and kindness regardless of faith, race, gender or even if you do not like the person.

In contrast, other Catholics believe that we should carry out the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in order to show that we 'love our neighbour.'

The first point here is well developed and shows application of the teaching. The second point, as a 'contrast' needed to be a 'different' view, so the idea of applying Jesus' teaching from the parable in order to demonstrate love meets this requirement. Overall, two developed points given.

4 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

'For Catholics, marriage (matrimony) should always be for life.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you should:

- refer to Catholic teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Answer A

During the marriage ceremony you make a promise to stay together for life you say this in presence of God and the priest. When you recite a prayer you are getting God's consent to marry and you must stay faithful and stay together for life.

on a different view not everybody works out together for life and this can cause arguments and a not nice living environment. you are supposed to love your partner forever so if you don't you have broken the promise to God.

in conclusion I believe unless your husband / wife has cheated marriage should be for life as you promised to God.

Answer A

Within the first paragraph this response includes a correct point about lifelong vows being made in the presence of God and the priest, as well as a reference to beliefs about fidelity. The second paragraph gives a counter argument where the student describes some possible consequences of remaining in a broken relationship and again mentions breaking vows. In the brief concluding sentence the response gives the student's own view with a reason. A short answer (107 words), but here is just enough development here to meet the criteria for the Level 3 descriptor.

Level 3, 7 marks

SPaG 1 mark. The answer meets the criteria for threshold performance as there are a number of errors, but these do not hinder the meaning of the response.

Answer B

Some Catholics believe that matrimony should be for life. It is one of the seven sacraments, so for Catholics, rightfully so, it serves of great importance. They believe it should last for life, just as most other sacraments do like baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

Marriage is therefore 'an outward sign of inward grace' and the importance of such a sacrament is evident in the ceremony itself. For example, the rings are a vital argument displaying the idea that marriage should be forever: the ring is a circle which obviously alludes to the everlasting nature of the sacrament. Also, the vows are another strong reminder of this idea: 'till death us do part' and 'in sickness and in health' are words which highlight the sheer importance of such a sacrament, and the importance of it lasting.

Another strong argument for this is the purposes of marriage. The main purpose of marriage is to procreate. God said 'be fruitful and multiply' which is what marriage is about. Some Catholics may also argue that marriage and married parents is the best environment for rearing children into good exemplar Catholics themselves, so to remain married is important.

Not only is marriage a public ceremony in which Catholics promise to stay together in front of family and other friends, but the vows are made in front of God. If the marriage does therefore not last, it is breaking those promises to God.

Catholics may also strengthen this argument by using Catholic teaching: 'what God joined together let no man put asunder.' This provides a strong argument because it is explicit in saying that God's ideal state of being (a man and a woman) must not be jeopardised by anything.

However, on the other side of this argument, it is important to note that people may grow apart, it is unnatural and arguably inhumane to remain in a marriage that is making you unhappy, or in that you don't love the other person.

On this counter argument, there is also the strong possibility that some teachings were lost in translation, and yes marriage is important, but by saying 'the two shall become one flesh....' does this mean forever? Perhaps, whilst procreation is important, there are other important purposes to marriage. Some may argue, with great reason, that perhaps the exclusive nature and fidelity are more important purposes of marriage, so ending matrimony must be necessary at times to avoid infidelity. In fact, some Catholics may say that a separated marriage is better for the children, and emphasise the advantages to separating – it is better than arguing, marriage can be ended on good terms.

Looking at both sides of the argument, I can conclude that I believe no couple should be obliged to stay married forever. Procreation is important, but as Catholics are taught 'love thy neighbour' there is no point risking not showing love to children or being unhappy by staying in a marriage in which you are unhappy. Especially in cases of infidelity, I believe it is completely wrong to force a marriage.

Answer B

This response meets, and indeed exceeds, the criteria required for a top mark within Level 4. The answer is long at 508 words, but it does remain focussed on the question throughout. There are several accurate and well-applied references to church teachings and the marriage vows, as well as some sophisticated reasoning demonstrated with reference to biblical interpretation and evaluation of the various purposes of marriage. Evaluative judgements are made throughout the response, and further developed within the conclusion.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG – 3 marks. Despite a couple of small errors, this answer is clear and well structured. It certainly meets all the criteria for 'high performance'.

Get help and support

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