

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Christianity

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

Version 1.1 January 2021

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 Christian teachings about original sin.

[2 marks]

Answer

1. Adam and Eve created it by eating fruit from the forbidden tree.
2. People should get baptised in order to get rid of it.

Two simple points given, both are correct and relevant to the question. Although the phrasing used in the first point 'Adam and Eve created it' could be theologically problematic, the overall point the student makes is creditworthy and so deserves the mark.

2 marks

0 | 2 | . | 2

Give two ways in which Christians might show their commitment to Church growth.

[2 marks]

Answer

1. Donate money
2. Attend church

As the command word here is 'give', no explanation is required. Both of these actions could contribute towards church growth and therefore both are awarded one mark.

2 marks

Four mark questions (A01.2)

0	1	.	3
---	---	---	---

Explain two ways in which Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today.

[4 marks]

Answer A

One way Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that they will ask for forgiveness. This is because Jesus died for all our sins to be forgiven so Christians want to stay sinless. A second way it influences Christians is that they will pray to Jesus. This is because he proved how much he and God loved us by giving the ultimate sacrifice – his life.

Answer B

Christians are grateful to God for giving up his son for everyone's sins so they teach about it to everyone and they try not to sin because their sins have been paid for, why waste that?

Answer A

The answer gives two detailed explanations of relevant and accurate influences. The answer clearly explains how the crucifixion could influence Christians in their attitudes and actions, and so is awarded full marks.

4 marks

Answer B

This response is briefer than the previous example, and lacks clear expression. However, the answer does give two ways the crucifixion could influence believers, with some development of each. The second point could perhaps have been developed further to securely achieve the fourth mark, however the concept of atonement and its significance has clearly been understood by the student.

4 marks.

Four mark questions (A01.3)

0 2 . 3

Explain two contrasting examples of Christian worship.

[4 marks]

Answer A

Two contrasting examples of Christian worship include liturgical and non-liturgical worship. Liturgical worship has a set pattern of prayers and is usually done in groups, for example at church. Non-liturgical worship has no set pattern and is an informal worship so it can be done in private and alone.

Answer B

Following the Bible as it shows commitment to the religion it also shows respect and that you are sticking to the religion. Also praying to God so that you can thank him for everything he has done.

Answer A

This response has a clear structure with two developed points given. The first sentence, although it adds to the clarity of the response, is not necessary. The following two sentences are sufficient to gain full marks in this question.

4 marks

Answer B

A brief response, which takes a different approach to the previous example. As this question requires 'different' examples of worship, it is not required that they are opposite in style, such as liturgical/non-liturgical. The first example is following the Bible, the second is prayer. Both examples include some development.

4 marks

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0 2 . 4

Explain two ways in which the worldwide Church works for reconciliation. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

One way in which the worldwide Church works for reconciliation is by preaching and providing people with what the Bible teaches about reconciliation. For example, 'Love thy neighbour.' Another way in which the worldwide Church works for reconciliation is by doing charity work and providing people with food and medical aid.

Answer B

Reconciliation refers to the mending of a relationship between two sides that are in some sort of conflict. The Church works for it by helping immigrants settle in to show that they aren't prejudice in any way because Jesus said 'Love thy neighbour,' so they help others. They also try to promote peace and protest against violence. For example, Quakers Christians are pacifists so they will try to promote reconciliation between nations.

Answer A

The first point awarded in this response is for 'preaching' which is then developed with the example of 'Love thy neighbour'. The third sentence identifies a correct second way of working for reconciliation, 'charity work,' which is then developed, this sentence is awarded two marks. The answer includes an identified source, (Biblical teaching of 'love thy neighbour') so this gains the final mark.

5 marks

Answer B

This response is clear and explained well, it contains more than enough to achieve full marks for this question. The first sentence, although it shows knowledge, is not necessary as understanding of the term is demonstrated by the rest of the answer. Two well-developed points are given, plus a correct scriptural reference.

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 2 . 4

'A loving God would not send anyone to hell,' Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

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.

Answer A

If this 'loving God' didn't send anyone to Hell, then there wouldn't be any point in sins because everyone who believes in the afterlife would just go around doing whatever they want e.g rape, murder, theft and so on. But whilst it being an invalid statement in my eyes, you can still see sense in it. 'A loving God would not send anyone to hell' because why would he if he made everything in his eye – there honestly isn't even a point in hell if everyone is going to just go to heaven.

Answer A

The response here includes a point of view with reasons stated in support, although it is a short response (93 words) and uses simplistic arguments it meets the Level 1 criteria. There is some lack of clarity in the first point, but the essence of the argument here is that people could behave as they wish if there was no chance of going to hell, this is supported with examples. A further point made is that if he created everything then why would he send his creation to hell, although the final point doesn't explain why everyone would go to heaven. The answer lacks the development or further detail needed to reach Level 2.

Level 1, 3 marks

SPaG – 1 mark. The writing style at times lacks clarity, and there are several spelling mistakes within the response. The response best fits the criteria for threshold performance.

Answer B

This statement is partly true as god is seen as a loving person who cares for everything he has created. So you would think he wouldn't want to send anybody to hell who had sinned that he would forgive them but on the other hand there are rules in the bible that any good christian should abide by Like man should not steal. So people afterlife should be punished by the decisions they have made in their life.

Answer B

The response includes recognition of two points of view, although they are both weakly supported. There are some creditworthy concepts here, such as a loving and forgiving creator God, and accountability for following rules from the scriptures. A lack of detail and development of points means the answer best fits as a low Level 2.

Level 2, 4 marks

SPaG 1 – this answer is short (78 words) and lacks the accuracy and sentence structure needed to go beyond threshold performance.

Answer C

Most Christians agree with this statement that a loving God will not send anyone to hell. They could agree with this because they believe that God is omnibenevolent and he can not send anyone. So that's why they believe that whatever you do and all you have to do is follow Jesus's teachings, and believe that God is in your heart to go to heaven. God would not send anyone to hell because all the person has to do is pray to God and then God will forgive, then they will not go to Hell. This could relate the statement because this means that if you murder someone, all the person has to do is pray to God and then they will not go to hell.

However, some Christians disagree with this statement and believe that you do get forgiveness from God but it will not avoid you from going to hell. They believe that not only you have to believe that God is in your heart and follow Jesus's but you have to also obey God's rules and follow the ten commandments. For example if you murder someone, you break the ten commandment: "you shall not murder." Also murder is one of the seven deadly sins so you would have to go to hell. This is because Hell is a place of suffering and you would have to go there if you have committed sin. Jesus also told his disciples "to get to the father, you will have to come through me," this means that Jesus will judge and only if you have been a Good Christian, then only you can go to heaven; this means you can not commit sin.

In conclusion, I disagree with this statement because you have to go to hell if you are not a Good Christian and broken God's rules which makes him angry. Otherwise if this statement was true, then God would allow a murder, which is not right.

Answer C

This answer develops two points of view. The first view is based on God's omnibenevolence – such a God would send nobody to hell so long as they follow Jesus' teachings and pray for forgiveness when it is needed. The second view is that despite forgiveness, some sins such as murder still warrant a punishment from God. There are two different points of view given here, although the expression is not always clear and some points lack explanation. There is reasonable reference to Christian teaching, and overall there is reasoned consideration of two different points of view, with some chains of reasoning that develop them. Further development of some points would have prevented the response being limited to Level 3.

Level 3, 8 marks

SPaG – 3 marks. Despite some errors and occasional lack of clarity in expression, the answer includes subject terms and the errors made do not obscure meaning.

Answer D

Some Christians would agree that a loving God would not send anyone to hell. This is because forgiveness is a key Christian teaching and for God to send someone to hell shows that forgiveness hasn't been given for that person's sins. Jesus taught forgiveness constantly throughout his time on earth. This is seen in the story of the adulteress woman in which a woman is going to be stoned for committing adultery however Jesus stops this by saying 'whichever of you who is free of sin may throw the first stone.' As none of the men are free of sin they all leave. This shows that sin is normal and can be forgiven and instead of punishing sin you should forgive. Another time in which Jesus teaches forgiveness is when he tells a man to forgive his brother not 7 times but '70 times 7, never stop forgiving.' This shows that no matter how bad the sin it can always be forgiven. Jesus also teaches love throughout the Bible, even in the face of sin and crime. This is seen as Jesus teaches 'love thy neighbour' but even more prominent 'love thy enemy.' If Jesus teaches to 'love thy enemy' it shows that it is essential to love and forgive in the face of sin and therefore a benevolent God wouldn't sentence anyone to such an unloving life as Hell.

Many Christians would disagree with this statement. This is because many would say God is loving but he is also Just and the most just thing is to send sinners to hell. Many would also say forgiveness can't be achieved without remorse and so if someone is forgiven without showing remorse it would be unjust of God to send them to heaven. Many would also describe God as 'the creator' and say he wouldn't create a hell if there was no purpose or need for it. Some would also say God is still loving by sending people to hell as he is showing love to the victims of the sinner and rewarding those who have done good. This is seen when, on judgement day, God divides people into the sheep and the goats and says the sheep will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven as they have followed him whereas the goats will go to hell for their sins.

In conclusion I believe a loving God would send people to hell as it still shows love to the majority of humans and shows that one must be remorseful to be forgiven and remorse is a loving thing.

Answer D

This is a high level response. Despite at times being less concise than it could be it is well argued, relevant, and has reasoned consideration of different points of view. The reasoning leads to judgements which are supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Reference to religion is constant and accurate. This is an easy maximum for students at this level.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 3 – this response meets the criteria for high performance, as there are only a few minor errors and generally SPaG is controlled with accuracy.

Answer E

Christians believe that hell is a place of fire and eternal suffering. So would an all loving God send his own creation into a place of eternal suffering?

Some people would agree with this statement because a God that is omnibenevolent wouldn't want to watch his own creation suffer in hell. Which means that God isn't all loving because the parable of the sheep and Goat suggests people will go to heaven and bad people will go to hell. If God doesn't show forgiveness and sends people to hell, he can't be all loving.

Other Christians, however, would disagree with this because God showed his love to humans many times and all humans have to do is obey his rules in order to prevent going to hell. In the Bible it mentions that "God loved the world so much he gave his only son." If God sacrificed Jesus in order to forgive us, then surely he is merciful and loving. The reasons he sends some people to hell is because of their sins which is understandable as bad people should be punished.

Other Christians might agree with this statement because the nature of God refers to him being 'omnibenevolent' and 'omnipotent' so if God was all loving and all powerful he would have the power to stop us from committing sins and he would love us so much that he would prevent us from going to hell, which means he can't be all loving.

On the other hand, some Catholic Christians would disagree with this statement because of the belief in purgatory. God loves humans so much, he gives us an opportunity to purify from our sins in purgatory. After purgatory, if humans still stay sinful, then surely they deserve to go to hell and there is nothing God can do to prevent it.

In conclusion, after assessing both sides, I disagree with this statement because God is all loving and wants us to go to heaven but he sends us to hell because we created our own misery, not because he wanted us to suffer in hell.

Answer E

This is a very articulate response and is easily deserving of full marks. It is mildly repetitive at times, but the content is impressive. Clear knowledge and understanding is shown throughout, with good use of religious concepts to argue and come to judgements. Well argued, different points of view addressed, and chains of reasoning demonstrated.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 3 – high performance throughout the response.

0	2	.	5
---	---	---	---

'Infant baptism is not as important as believers' baptism.' Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks]

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.

Answer A

Infant baptism is done just because your guardians want you to follow that religion as you are too young to understand the religious background and meaning it is a pressured Baptism.

Believers baptism is more important as you are being baptised because you believe that religion is right and you also benefit and can benefit others by following that religion.

Answer A

A very brief response (60 words) but it does include two relevant points which address the content of the question. Both include some development and explanation, therefore the response goes slightly beyond Level 1.

Level 2,4 marks

Answer B

A christian might go against this statement as christians believe that evryone is born with original sin, so a child should be baptised young because if the child dies young they still have original sin so the child may go to Hell.

on the other hand a christian might agree with this as when youre a child its not really your choice but when you are older you are choosing to go to God and Jesus and become a child of God.

Furthermore a christian will go against this statement because when Jesus was baptised it is believed that he heard from God "you are now my son" so it is better to be baptised as a child as you become a child of God at a young age.

From this I can conclude that it is better to be baptised as a child as you will be free from original sin and you will also become a child of God as a young child.

Answer B

The response gives two points of view in the first two paragraphs, with reasons and evidence. The third paragraph makes use of scripture although contradicts itself in terms of the line of argument supported, the conclusion also contains a repeat of points made previously. As such the response does not demonstrate the logical chains of reasoning or development required to reach Level 3.

Level 2, 5 marks

Answer C

In some religious families they baptise their child as soon as they are born, however in other families they do this as a teenager or adult, so that they make their own choice regarding what they believe religiously.

Someone who may agree with the statement may say that as a child you can't state your own opinion therefore can't express your own choice regarding what you believe. They may also say that as an older person you know right from wrong as well as being able to understand the religion itself, so you are able to fully commit to Christianity.

A Christian who may agree may say that as a child you are unaware of teachings in the Bible therefore can't have an opinion on them. For example teachings such as 'thou shall not kill' won't be relevant to a child who is younger than a year old as they aren't aware of what that action is. They may also say that God permits free will so everyone can make their own choices, so by baptising a child who doesn't have an opinion goes against God's wishes.

Someone who may disagree may say that during baptism the person is cleared of any sin from their past lives therefore if this is not completed, they start their lives carrying this sin with them. They may also say that if you are baptised from birth you are completely devoted to God from the start of your life to the end, therefore know you will reach heaven.

A Christian who may disagree might say that in the Bible it teaches 'God sees everyone as equal' therefore if someone was baptised as an infant or as a teenager/adult God views us all as equal, and neither makes any difference to how you are viewed in God's eyes. They may also disagree because if you were baptised as an infant it is still counted as being baptised, therefore there is no dismissal of a baptism as long as it was completed.

To conclude my judgement is that I disagree with the statement, and any type of baptism counts towards committing to God, no matter if it was as an infant or adult, as it is all viewed equally in God's eyes.

Answer C

This response includes chains of reasoning which lead to a conclusion, although at times the expression could be more succinct and clear. Some of the reasons given are a little weak. The answer is on the cusp of Level 3/4 but edges into Level 4 because the reasoning does lead to a judgement based on applying relevant evidence and information.

Level 4, 10 marks

Answer D

Being baptised shows your commitment to the Christian faith and showing you want to be part of the religion.

Many people may agree with this statement as when you are young you are not able to make your own decision therefore aren't agreeing with the faith and are being forced into becoming baptised.

However, many people may disagree as it proves you are the same faith from birth which shows your devotion to God and the christian faith or you have been a Christian your whole life.

Although many Christians may agree as Jesus was an adult when he was baptised and a believer of the faith and many of his followers were adults showing they were able to make their own decision about the faith and understood about the faith before having a believers baptism.

Contrastingly, catholics may disagree as they believe you have sin from birth 'original sin' therefore when you are baptised as a child you are 'purifying from original sin' meaning that the baby is now purified throughout his life. Moreover, it is more important as they are cleansing the baby from birth ready for its life.

To conclude, although many Catholics argue that you are cleansing the baby, the baby can't make their own decision whereas in a believers baptism it is where the person has made the decision to join the faith and wants to be a part of Christianity making it more significant as it was what the person wanted and many children might grow up and not want to be religious.

Answer D

This response is well argued, and includes consideration of two points of view and clear chains of reasoning. Although some of the points made lack accuracy at times, (for example the implication that 'Jesus was a believer of the faith'), at this level in exam conditions these can be accepted as valid assertions. The somewhat repetitive writing style does not affect the flow of the argument, and overall the answer is a solid Level 4 response.

Level 4, 11 marks

Answer E

Many people have differing opinions on whether infant or believer's baptism is more important. However, surely it is different for everyone and are both equally important?

Some people would agree that infant baptism is not as important as believers baptism. This is because when you are an adult you can make your own choice whether you want to enter a religion or not as you have more of an understanding of what you are signing up for than when you are a baby. Furthermore, having a believers' baptism demonstrates your devotion to God a lot more as you are willingly making that decision, not having it forced upon you.

However, there are many people who would disagree with the statement. This is because infant baptism means that you are devoted to God all of your life whereas believers' baptism doesn't have that level of devotion. Moreover, it is taught that infant baptism is to rid the baby of original sin as everyone is born with it. This means if the baby dies young they won't go to hell as their souls have been rid of original sin.

Christians would disagree with the statement. This is because they believe it doesn't matter how long you have been a Christian, as long as you are devoted to God nonetheless. In addition, Jesus taught his followers: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit." This means Jesus just cares about you being baptised, not about when.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. This is because I think that as long as you are baptised, it doesn't matter when. Also, in the Bible it says that if you are baptised you will go to heaven, meaning that no matter when you are baptised you will go to heaven to be with God. This means neither type of baptism is more important than the other.

Answer E

This response is well argued, with well explained points on both sides of the argument. The student demonstrates logical chains of reasoning and applies religious beliefs to the issue at hand. There are some generalisations made such as in the conclusion that the Bible says all who are baptised with go to heaven, however at this level the nuances of such claims can be overlooked. Overall the response fully meets the criteria for Level 4 and deserves full marks.

Level 4, 12 marks

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/8062

You can talk directly to the religious studies subject team

E: religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk

T: 0161 957 3881