

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

---

**Marked Responses**  
Summer 2018 - Judaism

---

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

---

Version 1.0 January 2019

# 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.

## Four mark questions (A01.3)

0	2	.	3
---	---	---	---

Explain two contrasting ways in which Jews worship.

**[4 marks]**

### Answer A

Orthodox Jews worship following the Torah strictly and go to the synagogue. This is because they believe it's the infallible word of God so should be stuck to at all times.

Reformed Jews believe in a much more liberal form of worship. This is because they are open to the idea of interpretation to the Torah and understand modern day life may mean tradition is hard to uphold.

### Answer B

One way in which Jews worship is in the synagogue. They believe that the Shekinah's presence is strongest here and will "dwell among them," therefore God will see that they are worshipping and judge them favourable after death.

Another way in which Jews worship is at home. Shabbat is the dedicated time when Jews are meant to rest at home and worship to God. This commemorates when "God rested on the seventh day."

### Answer C

One way in which Jews worship is through the Shema. This is because it is the most important prayer for Jews as it affirms their believe in one God. A different way that Jews worship is in a minyan. This means that for certain prayers like the Amidah in orthodox synagogues there must be a group of at least 10 adult males present to do the prayer.

### **Answer A**

This response includes some confusion and isn't fully focused on the demands of the question. The point about going to the synagogue is awarded a mark for a simple point, as is the idea that Reform Jews worship in a more liberal way. The rest of the answer addresses how Jews interpret following the Torah and is therefore not relevant.

2 marks

### **Answer B**

Two well-developed points. This response goes above and beyond what is required for a 4 mark answer, as the explanations are very detailed, thus securing full marks.

4 marks

### **Answer C**

This response takes a different approach to the previous, however is equally valid. The 'contrasting' examples of worship here are public and private prayer, both of which include clear development of the points made.

4 marks

## Five mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	4
---	---	---	---

Explain two Jewish teachings about charity. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Jewish belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

### Answer A

Some Jews give tithe to charity. This is 10% of what they earn. They are expected to do this once a year. As well as this, some Jews help with soup kitchens or the homeless. They do these good deeds in order to get good karma which helps towards having a righteous soul.

### Answer B

One Jewish teaching is that it comes into the belief of Tzedakah (righteous acts) and contributes to Tikkun olam (healing the world) this encourages Jews to give in order to help others better themselves and overcome the problems they face all in the hope that Tikkun olam leads to the second coming where the Temple and peace will be restored.

Another teaching is that giving to charity is an act of loving and kindness (chesed). Jewish scripture says that the “world is built on chesed” therefore we are encouraged to do so. This is shown in that there are Tzedakah boxes in the synagogue where Jews are encouraged to tithe.

#### Answer A

The first point here is the belief in the tithe, which is then developed with details of 10% and annual giving. The second point about practical ways Jews help is simple and worth 1 mark. The final sentence is inaccurate.

3 marks

#### Answer B

This is an excellent response, and goes above and beyond what is required at this level. The first point includes accurate explanation of Jewish beliefs, although the inclusion of both the Hebrew and English was not necessary. The marks could be awarded up to the idea of ‘people bettering themselves,’ therefore the remainder of the paragraph, although correct, was not required. The second point about chesed was again well developed and included clear reference to Jewish teachings.

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><b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b></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><b>Clear reference to religion.</b></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><b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</b></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
---	---	---	---

'Jews do not have to follow all of the mitzvot (Jewish laws).' Evaluate this statement.

**[12 marks + 3 SPaG]**

In your answer you should:

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

### Answer A

Some Jews will agree with the following statement because some mitzvot, Jews cannot complete. "Go to the Temple." They cannot do this mitzvot because the Temple is destroyed and some might not have enough money to travel there.

Furthermore, Pikuah Nefesh. "Saving a life." Jews have to follow this because cannot let someone die if they are insight of it. Pikuah nefesh, also overrides all mitzvot and commandments, showing that this rule is really important.

However, some Jews will disagree with the following statement because it brings them closer to God. "Hear O Isreal, Lord is one." If they follow all the mitzvot then they would think that they've made God proud. In addition, God made the mitzvot for a reason, so why not do them. God spent his time making all 613 mitzvot. Jews should honour them and thank God for making them.

In my opinion, I agree with the following statement because if they can't do one of the mitzvot then they can't help it. Saving a life is more important than following a law.

### Answer A

This response uses technical language and there is reasoned consideration of two points of view. Some of the points given (for example, 'making God proud' and 'God spending all his time making the 613 mitzvot'), limit the effectiveness of the arguments presented. There is not enough development of the arguments to go beyond the criteria for Level 3.

Level 3, 7 marks

SPaG 3 – good use of specialist terms and generally accurate spelling and control of meaning.

## Answer B

There are 613 mitzvot which are Jewish laws. Some are how to improve the relationship between man and man, and man and God.

Orthodox Jews would agree with this statement because they believe that they are Jewish laws for a reason. These are that they can help give guidance to a Jew on how to live their life, whether it be in a time of need or not. For example, one of the mitzvots states that "Thou shall not murder" which would show a Jew that murder is a wrong and is a sin because it goes against God's will. Some also believe that by living a good life as a Jew that they may have a chance to enter Gan Eden, a place of paradise with God. I think that this is a strong argument because many of the mitzvots are very useful to Jews in terms of guiding them to be good Jews.

On the other hand, Reform Jews may disagree with this statement because they believe that many of the mitzvots are outdated and are commonly understood in society. This means that they may not agree with some of the mitzvots and choose not to follow them as they are not modern enough and need to be updated. For example, one mitzvot states that "you must not drink wine unless it is pressed by a Jew" which is very unrealistic. Also, in extreme cases mitzvots may have to be broken when it comes to the teaching of pikuach nefesh. For example, a Jew might break Shabbat in order to drive a loved one to the hospital as pikuach nefesh is the most important teaching for Jews. I think that this is very strong argument because it shows that not all mitzvots are relevant and can be broken for the greater good.

In conclusion, I agree wholeheartedly with this statement because I think that they should be updated to fit in modern society and be more relevant, which will help modern Jews live their life even better.

### Answer B

A well-argued response which clearly considers two points of view. The argument in support in paragraph two is less well developed than the counter argument, although Jewish beliefs and teachings are evident throughout the response. It is not necessary to present a completely balanced argument to meet the criteria for Level 4, however more development of the argument in support could help attain the highest marks here. The student addresses how strong each argument is as a way of demonstrating evaluative judgements after their chains of reasoning.

Level 4, 10 marks

SPaG 3 – good use of specialist terms and high level of accuracy in spelling, 'mitzvots' being incorrect doesn't hinder meaning. Clear control of meaning throughout the response.

## Answer C

One reason why some Jews may agree with this is because some of the mitzvots are highly disregarded in today's society. One being that the "rapist should marry the maiden" therefore if this is true then there would be sheer injustice in the world and would be ideally unfair to allow this to happen. The society we now live in is different to the one where these were written and is why these should never be upheld.

Another reason why some Jews may agree with this is because of the fact that some mitzvot can only be upheld in the Temple, which was destroyed thousands of years ago. Therefore it is impossible to follow all mitzvot if the Temple is not around. That is why Jews focus on Tikkun olam the healing of the world as scripture says that when this is complete the second coming will occur and he will restore peace among governments and restore the temple so all the Mitzvots can be fully upheld.

However, some Jews may disagree with this because we are taught to "fear God and obey his commandments" therefore, no matter what we should adhere to his wishes and follow the Jewish law. God promised to follow and guide the Jews as long as they didn't worship "false idols" and have any other Gods before me therefore these should be upheld or else the relationship with God may be ruined.

Finally, some Jews may disagree with this because even though some laws are hard to adhere and follow all the time. The closing prayer in the synagogue reminds Jews that they are God-chosen people and that "He made nobody else like you" this showed that God has faith that we will follow the laws he gave us because we are special in his eyes and can do great things.

To conclude this, I believe that Jews should not have to follow all the Mitzvots and laws because some of them do not follow the key morals of today's society and if God is seen as omniscient then he should know that we choose to not follow them for a reason and allow it.

### Answer C

This is a very well argued response which includes effective application of religious beliefs and teachings to the issue. Both points of view are well developed, fully focused on the question and include evaluation. The conclusion is less well expressed, although it does follow from the reasoning and provides an overall judgement on the statement.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 3 – this response meets all the criteria for high performance. Despite occasional errors 'mitzvots' and misuse of capitalisation and punctuation, the response shows a good grasp of SPaG and perfection is not required to achieve the full 3 marks.

## Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at [aqa.org.uk/8062](https://aqa.org.uk/8062)

You can talk directly to the religious studies subject team

E: [religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk](mailto:religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk)

T: 0161 957 3881