

Religious Studies Spec B

Answers and commentaries

GCSE (8063)

Paper 1

Marked answers from students from the June 2022 exams.
Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how
marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

Contents

The below content table is interactive. You can click on the title of the question to go directly to that page.

4 mark question	3
5 mark question	5
12 mark question	8

Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written by the student.

4 mark question

Question 1.3

Explain **two** contrasting ways in which Christians may carry out their duty of stewardship.

[4 marks]

Mark scheme

Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.

First contrasting way:

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

Second contrasting way:

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

If similar ways are given, only one of them may be credited up to 2 marks.

Contrast may mean opposing or mean different views.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

They may respect God's creation / respect other people / accept that creation is good / care for the earth / protect the earth for future generations / not misuse natural resources / protect the sanctity of life / join conservation groups / protest against misuse of the planet / campaign to change environmental policy / support sustainability / support environmental charities / recycle / cut down use of the car / cut down on flights / prayer, etc.

Accept any practical ways in which Christians might show stewardship, but only two different ways should be chosen and explained. Contrasts could be drawn between attitudes (eg respect) and behaviour (eg recycling) or between different behaviours (eg protest and recycle) or between global and local responses.

Student responses

Response A

Christians believe God gave them the authorities of the world. Christians should look after it. Christians believe we are the stewards on the earth.

Two simple contrasting ways given, neither developed. The first way is the idea God gave people authority of the world. The second way is the idea that Christians look after it (the world). For higher marks these simple points needed to be developed. The third point, referring to stewardship, repeats the idea of the second point so cannot be credited.

2 marks

Response B

Stewardship is the duty to look after God's creation. Most Christians are taught that the best way to care for God's creation is to "love thy neighbour."

Christians can also help and donate to the 'Catholic Agency for Overseas Development' (CAFOD). They offer water pumps, health clinics, solar power schools and more to the people in need. We have a duty to carry out stewardship because in Leviticus it states that humans are only strangers and guests of God on this earth.

This response gains full marks for two developed points. The first point, to look after God's creation, is developed with the idea that the best way to do this is to 'love thy neighbour.' The second point, to donate to CAFOD, is developed with the idea that help is given to people in need. The last sentence referring to Leviticus is not needed as the response already achieves full marks.

4 marks

5 mark question

Question 2.4

Explain two Catholic teachings about the Incarnation.

Refer to a scripture or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Mark scheme

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

First contrasting way:

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks

Second contrasting way:

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to scripture or another source of Christian belief and teaching – 1 mark

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

God is revealed in Jesus / Jesus shows the innermost being of God / God speaks through Jesus / Jesus defeats sin / brings salvation to all people / Jesus is sent as a man to be among his people / Jesus enlightens all people / Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (eg John 1:1-4, 14) / Jesus completes the work of salvation / to see Jesus is to see his Father, God / Jesus frees people from darkness of sin and death / raises people up to life eternal / Jesus is fully God and fully human, etc.

Sources of authority:

A main source will be Dei Verbum 4 which incorporates Biblical references: '...Then, after speaking in many and varied ways through the prophets, 'now at last in these days God has spoken to us in His Son' (Hebrews 1:1-2). For He sent His Son, the eternal Word, who enlightens all men, so that He might dwell among men, and tell them of the innermost being of God (see John 1:1-18). Jesus Christ, therefore, the Word made flesh, was sent as 'a man to men'. He 'speaks the words of God' (John 3:34), and completes the work of salvation which His Father gave Him to do (see John 5:36; John 17:4). To see Jesus is to see His Father (John 14:9)... Moreover He confirmed...that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, and to raise us up to life eternal.' Dei Verbum 4.

Accept reference to the Creed: '...Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God / born of the Father before all ages / true God from true God / begotten, not made, consubstantial with the

Father / came down from heaven / by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man...’, etc.

‘The Son himself is the Word, the Logos: the eternal word became small – small enough to fit into a manger...In his perfect humanity (Jesus) does the will of the Father at all times... Jesus thus shows that he is the divine Logos which is given to us, but at the same time the new Adam, the true man, who unfailingly does not his own will but that of the Father...’ Verbum Domini 12.

Accept all other sources of authority that correctly support the teachings given.

Student responses

Response A

Incarnation shows the birth of Jesus. When the Angel asked Mary if she wants to give birth to the son of God.

The Incarnation shows the human relationship to God as he gave his only son Jesus to the world to save humans from sin. Because if you have sin, you will be dead and won't be able to be with God after death.

The first sentence contains a simple point – Jesus as the Son of God. The second point is that the Incarnation shows the relationship between God and humans. This is developed with the idea that God gave his only son to save humans from sin. The third sentence does not add anything as the maximum 2 marks have already been awarded for the developed point.

3 marks

Response B

Jesus comes from God to Earth to save us in Dei Verbum. "The word became flesh" shows God is to "save men from their sins". According to Verbum Domini this shows Jesus is incarnate, saviour and resurrects and ascends to restore the relationship of God and man.

Jesus comes to earth to teach human teachings and beliefs, and as holy incarnate means, he is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born by the virgin Mary. This shows he is different and became "flesh" to give knowledge to humans and more indication of God and his omnipotent love.

The response gains full marks, for two developed points and reference to Dei Verbum as a source of Christian belief and teaching. The first sentence contains the source of authority which is linked through "the word became flesh" to the point, to "save men from their sins" which is developed with the idea that Jesus was incarnate to restore the relationship between God and man. The second developed point can be credited in a number of ways due to multiple points being made, including the point that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, which is developed with the idea that he is therefore different and became "flesh" for a special purpose – to give knowledge of God.

5 marks

12 mark question

Question 3.5

Christians should use contemporary worship songs rather than traditional hymns in worship.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

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

[12 marks + SPaG 3 marks]

Mark scheme

Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

Level 4 – A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. **10-12 marks**

Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.

References to religion applied to the issue.

Level 3 – Reasoned consideration of different points of view. **7-9 marks**

Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.

Clear reference to religion.

Level 2 – Reasoned consideration of a point of view. **4-6 marks**

A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.

OR

Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence.

Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.

Level 1 – Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. **1-3 marks**

Level 0 – Nothing worthy of credit. **0 marks**

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

Arguments in support:

Contemporary worship songs are more appealing to modern congregations / the music is more up to date / the words are easier to understand / the lyrics are in English rather than, eg Latin / it is easier for the people to join in with the singing if the songs are accessible / musical instruments used for contemporary worship songs are more suited to modern tastes / eg guitars / drums, etc / God should be worshipped in a way that reflects people's feelings and thoughts / contemporary songs do this better than traditional hymns because they have been written more recently / Gregorian chant is difficult to sing if people are not familiar with it / not everyone can read music / traditional hymns may contain old-fashioned ideas / sexist language / are no longer relevant today, etc.

Arguments in support of other views:

Traditional hymns have been used by generations of believers / they maintain the traditions and customs of Catholics / their ability to inspire is not limited to one time / they are often accompanied by the organ / organ music is more awe-inspiring than that of a guitar / traditional hymns may have been composed by well-respected classical musicians / they may appeal to older generations / they have passed the test of time / some hymns use Latin, a universal language / therefore people from any country can understand them / they are awe-inspiring / can move people deeply / many churches try to use both traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs to appeal to different tastes in music / some contemporary songs may seem disrespectful if too upbeat / 'Where words are not enough to praise God, music comes to our aid... Music in a worship service should make prayer more beautiful and more fervent, move more deeply the hearts of all in attendance and bring them closer to God, and prepare for God a feast of melody.' (Youcat 183) / psalms contain direct words from the Bible / psalms help people to learn Bible teachings / hymns were written specifically to praise God / plainchant helped people to learn the Latin words when not everyone could read, etc.

Student responses

Response A

Some people agreed with this as using contemporary worship songs can be made people more engage and have more feeling in the worship and it give more inspiration to people to join.

Howeve other think the opposite they think the traditional hymns is more important as it shows the beginning. Moreover with tradition hymns you could connect with God more by listening God hymns. With traditional hymns you can prase God more and express your feeling to God. For Christians, tradition hymn was not only a piece of hymn but also an important tradition.

For conclusion, although contemporary songs can inspire more people, but tradition hymn to allow you to get a better connection to God.

In my opinion, both of them should be include in the worship to remember God and prase God.

This is a Level 2 response

This response recognises different points of view, each supported with relevant reasons leading to a conclusion. However, further development of points and reference to religion would be needed for higher marks.

There are fairly regular spelling and grammatical errors however they do not significantly hinder the meaning overall.

5 marks + 1 mark SPaG

Response B

I disagree with the statement Christians should use contemporary worship rather than traditional hymns.

This is because traditional hymns have been working well for over 100s of years. This means that they should remain as the choir and the congregation both know the hymns and it helps to get people involved in worship.

Another reason is that singing in large groups to pray is a very effective way of praying. In the New Testament it is said "he who sings prays twice," this shows the effect which music has in worship.

However contemporary music is much more modern which may help it to encourage more of the younger generations. This will lead to more younger people getting involved in the religion and faith.

In conclusion I believe that Catholics should stay with traditional hymns as it is a very effective way to pray.

This is a Level 3 response

This response is concise but meets the criteria for Level 3 because it demonstrates reasoned consideration of different points of view, and includes clear reference to religion although the source is misattributed. "He who sings prays twice" is from the Catholic Catechism, not the New Testament, and widely attributed to St Augustine, however the reference to this idea is accurate in itself and creditworthy. However, only the first of the two different views discussed is well argued with a logical chain of reasons in support. The second view is very brief, so the response only just makes Level 3.

Despite some errors, this response meets the criteria for high performance as there is generally high accuracy and good control of meaning throughout.

7 marks + 3 marks SPaG

Response C

I agree with this statement because of Sacrosanctum Concilium, which shows how humans are to present faith in the Mass in ways that are more specific to them or their culture. Therefore through the use of modern instruments and more catchy songs, the youth will be more attracted to it. Therefore following on from the Catholic Churches statement “sacred music is to be considered more holy...it is closely related to the liturgical action” as it enables people to unite in prayer as a community, giving them the inspiration to pray and hence receive more grace, “grace is favour...the undeserved help God gives us”, increasing in our relationship to God.

However many people do not like the use of contemporary songs as they lack transcendence of God, and therefore are unable to convey any beauty or solemnity in worship. Traditional hymns on the other hand, have a certified ability to help people be inspired to pray, therefore uniting the body of Christ on earth in prayer. “When words are not enough to praise God, music comes to our aid.” Through being more inspired we can become more enlightened to core beliefs of the trinity, such as seen in Galatians “because you are children, God has sent the spirit of his son into our hearts crying Abba Father....you are no longer a slave, but a child.” This shows how as humans are more inspired by the traditional hymns, they become more aware of the holy spirit present in our lives, the same holy spirit that Jesus received, therefore making us children and inspiring us to follow through with showing this grace with others through acts of mission and evangelism, therefore making us better witnesses to our faith.

Overall, I disagree with the statement, despite contemporary hymns uniting people and making them feel more involved in worship, they don’t convey the true divine nature of God, therefore reducing inspiration. By struggling to be inspired by faith you are unable to take on the will of God for you on earth.

This is a Level 4 response

This response receives full marks as it demonstrates well argued, logical chains of reasoning concerning different points of view, including judgements leading to a justified conclusion. Religion is also applied to the issue in a sophisticated manner, making explicit reference to relevant sources of authority, such as Sacrosanctum Concilium and quoting Youcat 183, “when words are not enough to raise God, music comes to our aid.” Inclusion of very insightful points such as how traditional music can be transcendent and can aid enlightenment, shows impressive knowledge and understanding of the topic. The fact that the middle section referring to Galatians is not directly relevant does not detract from the rest of the material which is sophisticated and developed throughout.

This is an articulate response and meets the criteria for high performance.

12 marks + 3 marks SPaG

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