GCSE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES A
Paper 2A: Thematic studies

Wednesday 16 May 2018   Afternoon   Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials
For this paper you must have:
• an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions
• Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
• Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The examining body for this paper
  is AQA. The paper reference is 8062/2A.
• Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
• Choose four themes.
• Answer all questions on the four themes you have chosen.

Information
• The maximum mark for this paper is 96 plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
• Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be assessed in the 12-mark questions. The marks
  for SPaG are shown below the mark allocation for each question. The best of these marks will be
  included in your total for the paper.

Advice
You are advised to spend 25 minutes on each theme.
Theme A: Relationships and families

Some religious believers may use methods to prevent a pregnancy taking place.

Which one of the following describes that practice? [1 mark]

A  Conception
B  Procreation
C  Contraception
D  Monogamy

Give two religious beliefs about same-sex marriage. [2 marks]

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the roles of men and women. [4 marks]

Explain two religious beliefs about divorce. [5 marks]

‘For religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
• should refer to religious arguments
• may refer to non-religious arguments
• should reach a justified conclusion. [12 marks]

[SPaG 3 marks]
02.1 Theme B: Religion and life

Which one of the following means that human life is precious and sacred? [1 mark]

A Quality of life
B Meaning of life
C Length of life
D Sanctity of life

02.2 Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. [2 marks]

02.3 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia.

In your answer, you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

02.4 Explain two religious beliefs about how peoples’ actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

02.5 ‘Abuse of the environment is impossible to stop.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
• should refer to religious arguments
• may refer to non-religious arguments
• should reach a justified conclusion. [12 marks]

[SPaG 3 marks]
Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

Which one of the following describes God as all-knowing? [1 mark]

A  Omnipotent
B  Personal
C  Omniscient
D  Impersonal

Give two reasons why some people believe that God does not exist. [2 marks]

Explain two contrasting views about the strengths of the First Cause argument for the existence of God. [4 marks]

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

Explain two beliefs about nature as a source of knowledge about the divine. [5 marks]

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

‘God cannot be both transcendent (beyond the world) and immanent (within the world).’

Evaluate this statement. [12 marks]

In your answer you:
• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
• should refer to religious arguments
• may refer to non-religious arguments
• should reach a justified conclusion.

[SPaG 3 marks]
Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Religions teach that people should live together in peace and harmony.

Which one of the following means to become friends again after a relationship has broken down?

[1 mark]

A To reform
B To be reconciled
C To have justice
D To retaliate

Give two reasons why many religious believers are against violent protest.

[2 marks]

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about nuclear weapons.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all acts of terrorism are wrong.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

‘War is the best way to solve problems between countries.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
• should refer to religious arguments
• may refer to non-religious arguments
• should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 3 marks]
Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

Religious believers accept the idea of punishment.

Which one of the following is not an aim of punishment? [1 mark]

A  Forgiveness
B  Reformation
C  Retribution
D  Deterrence

Give two causes of crime. [2 marks]

Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of community service as a punishment. [4 marks]

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all hate crimes are wrong. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

‘The death penalty should never be used.’

Evaluate this statement. [12 marks] [SPaG 3 marks]
06 Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

06.1 Many religious believers want to end poverty.
Which **one** of the following aims to reduce poverty? [1 mark]

A. Fair Pay
B. Excessive interest on loans
C. Exploitation
D. Idleness

06.2 Give **two** religious beliefs about social justice. [2 marks]

06.3 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the responsibilities of having wealth.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

06.4 Explain **two** religious beliefs that show why racial discrimination is wrong.
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

06.5 ‘If everyone followed religious teachings then laws about human rights would not be needed.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
• should refer to religious arguments
• may refer to non-religious arguments
• should reach a justified conclusion. [12 marks]

[SPaG 3 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS