
GCSE Short Course

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8061/2 Christianity
Report on the Examination

8061
November 2020

Version: 1.0

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General Introduction to the November Series

This has been an unusual exam series in many ways. Entry patterns have been very different from those normally seen in the summer, and students had a very different experience in preparation for these exams. It is therefore more difficult to make meaningful comparisons between the range of student responses seen in this series and those seen in a normal summer series. The smaller entry also means that there is less evidence available for examiners to comment on.

In this report, senior examiners will summarise the performance of students in this series in a way that is as helpful as possible to teachers preparing future cohorts while taking into account the unusual circumstances and limited evidence available.

Overview of Entry

The entry for this qualification was considerably smaller than that expected had the examination taken place on the scheduled date in May 2020. Only about 1% of the original entry were entered for this later date. It is difficult to assess how the standard produced differed from what was expected, based on previous years, but on limited evidence, the standard of work seen may have been slightly higher.

Comments on Individual Questions

- 01.1 The majority of students gave the correct answer (Becoming flesh). The most popular incorrect answer was 'Life after death' (around 25% of students).
 - 01.2 This question concerning the nature of God was well answered by the majority of students.
 - 01.3 Many answers were not focused on the Ascension of Jesus. Of those whose focus was on the Ascension, many earned 3 or 4 marks because they attempted to include the influence it has on Christians which is a requirement of the question.
 - 01.4 Those that knew the definition of original sin were able to write good answers, some earning the full five marks for providing the required valid reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in their answer. Some of those who didn't know the definition of original sin earned 0 marks but some who wrote about sin in more general terms were able to pick up some marks for answers that also applied to original sin.
 - 01.5 Many made a good attempt to answer this question well. A significant number focused on the creation story and why Christians should believe it, mainly because it is recorded in the Bible which is a main Christian source of authority. They often wrote about literal and metaphorical interpretations of the story. Those who made reference to the creation story in general terms with little or no focus on whether Christians should believe it were able to reach level 2 if their answer included accurate details about both the story and scientific theories.
- SPaG Many students wrote with accuracy and fluency and were awarded the full 3 marks. Most answers were easily legible although some were more challenging.

Concluding Remarks

Many students treated this paper as an opportunity to show what they had learned over the course and exhibited good knowledge and understanding throughout and thinking skills in their evaluation.

For this series, in addition to the mark scheme, a general marking guidance document was provided to examiners across GCSE Religious Studies specifications to support marking. This document is available via Secure Key Materials for teachers should they wish to use it to support their marking of mock examinations.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.