

GCSE
**RELIGIOUS STUDIES (SHORT
COURSE)**

8061/4 Paper 4: Judaism
Report on the Examination

8061
June 2022

Version: 1.0

Further copies of this Report are available from aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2022 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered schools/colleges for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to schools/colleges to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

01.1

The majority of responses (82%) were correct in choosing 'Merciful' as the correct answer.'

01.2

This question generated a mixture of responses, with 42% of students being able to clearly demonstrate Jewish beliefs on the sanctity of life. However, several students were only able to achieve one mark (23%) and the remainder of students answered incorrectly or did not attempt the question. Many of the answers that only scored one mark could identify that life was created in the 'image of God' or have 'especial value' but failed to add a second point of relevance. Several of the answers were attempted with no understanding of what 'the sanctity of life meant' and wrote of generic links to the afterlife.

01.3

This was mixed in terms of responses. Some answers were detailed and demonstrated very clear ways in which the beliefs about life after death influenced Jews today. 40% of students achieved full marks and were able to give two detailed explanations with accurate influences. Several answers were able to illustrate how belief in the 613 mitzvot and the Ten Commandments meant that they will live their lives to please God so that God will judge them favourably on the Day of Judgement. Some answers were also able to show how some Jewish people don't focus on life after death but focus on life now e.g. follow mitzvot; if there is an afterlife it will take care of itself. However, 27% of students were only able to show one influence or gave two simple explanations. There were some responses (12%) that scored 1 mark or 0 marks due to a total misunderstanding or complete lack of demonstrating how beliefs in the afterlife **influence** Jews today.

01.4

There was a range of answers for this question, with 19% of students achieving full marks and 26% achieving 4 marks. Several students failed to achieve the relevant and accurate source of Jewish belief and teaching. Those that did often, successfully, used the 10 Commandments to demonstrate their point. The better responses made references to the Torah and how obeying God's laws is fulfilling God's will on earth. Some answers explained how following God's rules could protect them from harm, as demonstrated in the covenant. Some answers only scored 2 marks as they were not able to give a relevant second example either by a misreading of the question or repetition of the first point.

01.5

Students generally found this question more challenging with only 4% of students achieving a Level 4. Those that did achieve the top level were able to demonstrate well-argued responses with a range of different points of view and a good understanding of terminology and concepts, comparing man and man mitzvot with the mitzvot between man and God. They often included references to the first 4 commandments governing a relationship with God. There were 29% of the students that were able to achieve a Level 3 to show a reasoned consideration of the man and man mitzvot and the importance for

civilised society. These students often showed different points of view, but failed to make a judgement to achieve a top level.

There was a high percentage (20%) who completely misunderstood the question as they interpreted it as a question on homosexuality and over 20% who did not attempt the question. Despite the quote specifying 'for Jews', some wrote Christian views as an alternative.

It is important to remember that whilst mention of divergent views within the faith are welcomed, views of other faiths or none are not required when evaluating a statement in a paper on Judaism.

The SPaG was reasonably good in general, with the majority of responses achieving 2 or 3.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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