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# **GCSE EXAMINER'S REPORT**

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**GCSE (LEGACY)**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION A:  
Christianity through the Gospels**

**SUMMER 2018**

Grade boundary information for this subject is available on the WJEC public website at:  
<https://www.wjecservices.co.uk/MarkToUMS/default.aspx?l=en>

### **Online Results Analysis**

WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC secure website. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.

### **Annual Statistical Report**

The annual Statistical Report (issued in the second half of the Autumn Term) gives overall outcomes of all examinations administered by WJEC.

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## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### GCSE (LEGACY)

Summer 2018

#### SPECIFICATION A: Christianity through the Gospels

##### Unit 2: Christianity through the Gospels

There was again this year a spread of marks across the ability range which is an indicator that the paper was accessible to all candidates. It is pleasing to note that there were a number of really excellent scripts which were a pleasure to read and mark showing thorough knowledge and understanding combined with the ability to evaluate effectively. There were also some extremely poor papers. However, most candidates were able to include some relevant information in each of the four questions on the paper. It was pleasing to see the majority of candidates attempting to relate their responses to religious beliefs which is a requirement in questions (d) and (e) on the paper. The usual suspects in terms of weaknesses made an appearance again this year. There is still an apparent lack of knowledge and understanding of some of the biblical material in the syllabus. This was especially true of questions 2 (a), 3 (c) and 4 (c). Some candidates in answering questions tend to list points. This usually prevents them from elaborating on the ideas mentioned and so limits the band that can be achieved.

Candidates need to be reminded that a request to explain how requires more than a list of points briefly stated. It is in fact a detailed description. This was evident in questions 1 (c), 2 (c) and 4 (c). Candidates also need to focus carefully on the trigger words, especially the difference between explain why and explain how. A number of candidates were guilty of giving the reasons why Christians did certain things rather than explaining how they carried them out.

Candidates had been thoroughly prepared for the SPaG element of the assessment in question 1 (e). The language, grammar and spelling used in the responses in 1 (e) on the whole were much more correct than in the rest of the paper. It was also felt that some candidates were very safe in the choice of words used, with some noticeable lack of appropriate specialised terms that were used in other places on the paper but spelt incorrectly.

##### Question 1

- (a) Generally there were no real problems with this question. Some candidates were a bit vague on the details and gave a list of different practices but better candidates gave a description of a range of ways in which Christians might celebrate Lent.
- (b) Many candidates were able to give a reason why many Christians are against divorce referring to specific teaching to support the views given. However some candidates presented views without any reason or evidence in support. The question specifically asks why many Christians are against divorce and therefore general reasons need to be qualified with Christian teaching.
- (c) It was surprising to see that some candidates were not familiar with Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. Others could only give one or two. The better answers

not only referred to all three temptations but also quoted directly from the biblical accounts.

- (d) The responses to this question varied greatly in quality. The better answers evaluated the difficulties of trying to resist temptation with Jesus' example in the wilderness.
- (e) This question was generally well answered. Centres had obviously discussed this issue in class with candidates and that was evident in the answers. Many responses were mature and well balanced, evaluating the way Christian festivals have been commercialised in Britain with the fact that they are still relevant and meaningful to a large number of people.

## **Question 2**

- (a) The responses to this question varied from the very good to the very poor. The better answers focused on Jesus' teaching and included quotations referring to the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. However weaker answers were either vague and too general or did not focus specifically on Jesus' teaching.
- (b) Many candidates answered this question well focusing on the relationship between the Last Supper and the Eucharist/Communion service. In fact the vast majority of candidates were familiar with what happened during the Last Supper and could offer at least one reason for its importance.
- (c) There were some very good responses to this question. However some candidates ignored the 'how' and answered 'why'. Although they were very good explanations no credit could be given as they did not answer the question.
- (d) Generally a well answered question with many candidates evaluating the importance of the resurrection with other events in Jesus' life such as the crucifixion and his birth. Others argued that all events in Jesus' life are equally important.
- (e) There were some mature, well balanced responses to this question referring to the relationship between faith and action and that how people live their lives is an expression of faith. Weaker answers tended to be one-sided with little evidence or reasoning to support the views given.

## **Question 3**

- (a) A generally well answered question although some weaker answers failed to focus on the question and did not link the events with Jesus' status as Son of God.
- (b) The responses to this question were on the whole disappointing. Many candidates were not familiar with the meaning of the term Messiah.
- (c) The main weakness in the answers to this question was that candidates were not familiar with the biblical account of Jesus calming the storm and therefore could not answer the question. Others simply described the event. The better answers were able to interpret the event in different ways in the context of Christian faith.
- (d) This was a well answered evaluation question. There were good references to the problems concerning the reliability of the Gospel account of Jesus' life.

- (e) Generally this was well answered evaluation question. Answers were well balanced and mature and examples were used effectively as means of supporting the arguments presented. Weaker answers were one-sided and focused entirely on the problems.

#### **Question 4**

- (a) The stronger answers were able to describe with specific examples a number of different ways Christians might care for others. Weaker responses simply gave a list without any development or elaboration..
- (b) The better answers were able to explain the miracle in the context of Jesus' divinity and also in terms of compassion. Weaker answers tended to simply describe the event.
- (c) There was a variety in the standard of responses to this question. Better gave a full account supported with relevant quotations. However weaker answers were general and vague in nature.
- (d) Candidates gave balanced responses focusing on the importance of the support and friendship the disciples gave Jesus and also the sacrifices they made in following him. They were also able to give counter – arguments referring to Peter's denial and Judas' betrayal.
- (e) A generally well answered evaluative question. Candidates gave balanced responses focusing on the positive importance of prayer on the one hand and whether there is a need to pray every day on the other. Weaker answers ignored the words 'every day' and simply evaluated the importance of prayer.



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