



GCSE EXAMINER'S REPORT

GCSE (LEGACY)

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION A:
JUDAISM**

SUMMER 2018

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Annual Statistical Report

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SPECIFICATION A: Judaism

Judaism

As in previous years, the paper was accessible to candidates. There was evidence of excellent papers and this allowed for differentiation across the paper. Many candidates were able to describe and explain appropriately and use relevant Jewish terms with confidence. There were very few blank spaces on the papers. However, there were some questions of which a number of candidates did not respond well. Some candidates misunderstood question 3b and others were not confident in their understanding of the Tenakh in 4c. There was evidence that candidates had been thoroughly prepared for the SPaG element of the assessment in question 1(e). The responses in 1(e) were often carefully written.

Question 1

- (a) Candidates responded well to this question. Some candidates misunderstood the festival and wrote about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Hashoah. However, when candidates wrote about Yom Kippur, many used specialist language and gave a coherent account. They were able to link the stimulus to their response.
- (b) This was answered well. In some responses, candidates referred to God as creator of the Covenant and creating commandments. Most candidates included good religious language in their response.
- (c) This was answered reasonably well. Many candidates were able to link judgement to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- (d) Some good responses. Most candidates were able to give two reasons to support their answer and included good religious language. However, some candidates wrote about Bar Mitzvah being a festival. It is always important that candidates understand the difference between festivals and rites of passage.
- (e) Most candidates wrote well and were able to provide both points of view. Many candidates focused their response on food laws and synagogue attendance.

Question 2

- (a) Some good responses. Most candidates referred to the purpose of sex within Judaism. Some candidates made reference to same sex relationships.
- (b) There were some good responses to this question. Most candidates made reference to the use of birth control to limit the number of children in a family.
- (c) Candidates responded well to this question. They were able to write in detail about various symbols.
- (d) Most candidates were able to give appropriate reasons and so gained marks. They were able to provide an example to support the view. Some candidates provided the quote from Leviticus 18 verse 22.

- (e) There were some good responses to this question. Some candidates referred to only euthanasia or abortion in their answer. However, the candidates who achieved the higher levels were able to discuss the statement in detail, providing various reasons to support their answer.

Question 3

- (a) Candidates responded reasonably well to this question. Candidates mainly used the stimulus to answer the question, therefore they wrote about how Jews celebrate Shabbat in the home.
- (b) Some disappointing responses to this question. Many candidates wrote about what the dietary laws were. It is important that candidates link their knowledge appropriately.
- (c) There were a number of responses to this question. Some candidates wrote about how the synagogue is used in a broader sense. However, many candidates were able to demonstrate their knowledge of how certain festivals are celebrated in the synagogue.
- (d) A range of responses to this question. Most candidates were able to give two appropriate reasons and so gained marks.
- (e) Generally answered well by candidates. Most candidates were able to write a balanced argument and focused on worship in the home, difficulties in attending the synagogue, the importance of the internal features and listening to the Rabbi.

Question 4

- (a) There were some good responses to this question. Many candidates made reference to the importance of the continuation of Judaism. Some candidates wrote detailed responses and were able to demonstrate their knowledge with confidence.
- (b) Answered well. Many candidates made reference to the Talmud. Some candidates linked their response to same sex marriage.
- (c) Some disappointing responses. Some candidates did not know what the Tenakh was. Some candidates wrote about the Talmud. However, where candidates were able to write about the Tenakh, they demonstrated their knowledge and used religious language.
- (d) Most candidates were able to give appropriate reasons and so gained marks. Many candidates made a link between the Covenant and Brit Milah.
- (e) Generally answered well by candidates. Many candidates linked their answer to same sex marriages. Candidates also made reference to possible difficulties in finding a Jewish partner. Candidates were also able to give an alternative viewpoint and provided appropriate reasons to support their argument.



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