
GCSE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

Paper 1 Catholic Christianity
Report on the Examination

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Catholic Christianity: Beliefs

Questions 01.1

On this first multiple choice question, just under three quarters of students selected the correct answer.

Questions 01.2

Question 01.2 was answered well with the majority of students being able to give at least one reason and therefore achieving at least one mark and just over two thirds of the cohort achieving two marks.

Questions 01.3

The most successful responses to this question demonstrated good knowledge of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and students were able to explain how it influenced Catholics. Less successful responses tended to focus on the knowledge aspect and not the influence, whilst the weakest lacked any knowledge of the sacrament at all.

Questions 01.4

There were a number of differing approaches taken by students in answering this question – some discussed creationism versus liberalism, some made contrasts between Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, whilst others focussed on contrasting the Genesis creation accounts with scientific theories. All these approaches were creditworthy as reflected in the mark scheme where possible alternative approaches and responses were indicated. There were many responses which achieved full marks on this question.

Questions 01.5

Many responses to this question achieved a Level 3. The main reason for responses not achieving a Level 4 was due to not demonstrating the 'logical chains of reasoning' element required for this level.

A number of students interpreted 'for life' in the sense of the procreation element of marriage rather than the life-long aspect. The majority of students were able to achieve Level 3 but some demonstrated confusion about the concepts of 'sacrament' and 'covenant' and some responses were vague on the specific Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce and annulment and the implications on the lives of Catholics with regard to these issues.

Clear and reasoned responses referring to the specific items mentioned in the four bullet points, rather than responses taking other approaches, were often the ones which were the most successful.

Catholic Christianity: Practices

Question 02.1

This second multiple choice question was answered slightly better than 01.1, with just over three quarters of students selecting the correct response.

Question 02.2

This question was well answered overall but not quite as well as 01.2 as there was some misunderstanding of the term 'formal prayers' by some students and rather than naming specific prayers they listed e.g. silent prayer, community prayer.

Question 02.3

In response to this question most students were able to show an understanding of 'contrast' with regard to love of neighbour with some good teaching and/or religious references used. Even the weakest responses mostly demonstrated a basic understanding.

Question 02.4

This was the least well answered question on the whole paper. Many students were unable to describe correctly the work of the community they chose to write about and generalised about aid agencies often confusing them with the work of eg CAFOD. The vast majority of students chose Pax Christi but were unable to be very specific about the work of that community.

Question 02.5

As was the case with 01.5, many responses to this question achieved a Level 3. Again, the main reason for responses not achieving a Level 4 was due to not demonstrating the 'logical chains of reasoning' element required for this level.

There was some overlap in use of material in this answer and in 02.3, 'love our neighbour', and this was quite legitimate where it was clearly linked to the specific question set. This question was well answered overall and the most successful responses were able to refer to specifically Catholic teaching eg Papal encyclicals and also Biblical teaching.

As with 01.5, clear and reasoned responses referring to the specific items mentioned in the four bullet points, rather than responses taking other approaches, were often the ones which were the most successful.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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