

# Candidate Style Answers

## **GCSE Religious Studies B**

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J621

Unit: B603 (Christianity)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies B specification for teaching from September 2009.

# GCSE Religious Studies B

## B603 Ethics 1 (Relationships, Medical Ethics, Poverty and Wealth)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

<b>2e) “Divorce is wrong.” Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. (12)</b>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>Divorce is the official ending of a marriage. Most Christian churches regard divorce as a last resort - only when all else has failed.</i></p> <p><i>The Christian ideal is that marriage is a lifelong commitment, where a man and a woman make a promise to join in holy matrimony forever in front of God and their families. The Christian marriage vows include “until death do us part” signifying the lifelong intention of their promise.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of Biblical teachings which reinforce this view are: No human being must separate what God has joined together” [Mark 10:9].</i></p> <p><i>The Roman Catholic church does not</i></p>	<p><b>High level response</b></p> <p>This answer would score very high marks because the candidate has explained what different Christian denominations think about divorce. A clear attempt to reflect on the significance of the issue is demonstrated by the candidate who has discussed the Roman Catholic viewpoint and the viewpoint of the Church of England. Both of these viewpoints are supported and reflect understanding.</p> <p>In addition, the candidate has given a personal viewpoint which shows a wider understanding of some of the issues surrounding divorce. The candidate is also careful to acknowledge that the Christian Church does not actively encourage divorce and points out that it should be a last resort after methods of reconciliation such as counselling have been tried.</p> <p>The answer is written in a clear and organised manner, with points being made with supporting evidence.</p>

*accept divorce at all, as it views this as a breaking of the marriage sacrament. Its view is that couples may live apart but that they should remain married. In some very rare cases a marriage may be annulled (for example if the marriage has not been consummated or if one partner had been forced to marry). This annulment is essentially saying that the marriage never took place. The Roman Catholic view is therefore very clear that divorce is wrong whatever the circumstances. Couples having marital difficulties are encouraged to seek spiritual guidance from their church or one of the counselling services run by the Roman Catholic church.*

*Other Christian denominations, such as the Church of England, have a position which is less clear cut. They realise that in society today that some relationships do break down for various reasons and that while not desirable divorce is acceptable, although it should be a last resort and is not encouraged. They take the view that if the marriage becomes destructive, such as when there is abuse, it is not in the best interest of those involved for it to continue and therefore allow a divorce to take place. Some churches are reluctant to remarry divorcees.*

*My own view is that whilst divorce is a sad event, it is better than couples who are not happy having to stay together. By divorcing both have an opportunity to find new love in their lives and be happy again. I therefore do not agree that divorce is wrong.*

*These days it is too easy to get divorced and I think that some couples should spend time, perhaps with a counsellor, to try and work their relationship out if possible. Divorce has become accepted by society in a way that it was not a generation ago and now there is no stigma attached to divorcing. The divorce laws, which only became law*

The answer is written from the perspective of the target religion with a personal, supported opinion that has been explained.

*from 1970 onwards, have slowly reduced the hurdle for couples to get divorced. Whilst I do not think that these laws should be withdrawn, I do think that as a society we should not make it any easier.*

**2e) "Divorce is wrong." Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. (12)**

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Divorce is when two people don't want to be married anymore.</i></p> <p><i>In a Christian wedding they say "until death do us part" meaning that they plan on staying together forever.</i></p> <p><i>The Catholic church does not accept divorce at all. Its view is that couples who don't want to be together may live apart but that they should remain married. In some very rare cases a marriage may be annulled.</i></p> <p><i>Other Christian parts, such as the Church of England, say that in the world today some relationships do break down for lots of reasons and that while not ideal divorce is acceptable, although it should be a last resort. Some churches don't want to remarry divorcees.</i></p> <p><i>I think divorce is sad but couples that argue or fight a lot can't be happy so they are better off getting divorced. When people get divorced they both have a chance to find someone new and be happy with them. My parents are divorced and they are much happier than when they were together so I don't think divorce is wrong.</i></p> <p><i>People don't think divorce is wrong anymore, this is different to when my grandparents were young - they told me nowone got divorced even if they really hated each other.</i></p>	<p><b>Medium level response</b></p> <p>This is a satisfactory answer which addresses most of the relevant points as well as putting forward a personal viewpoint.</p> <p>The answer is structured and gives an outline of the different Christian viewpoints on divorce. The information chosen is relevant and there is some attempt at development.</p> <p>In order to make this into a high quality answer the candidate needs to support the viewpoints presented with biblical and church teachings and provide a more developed explanation of some of the points made. There are occasional errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.</p>