

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies B

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J621

Unit: B604 (Sikhism)

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

GCSE Religious Studies B

B604 Ethics 2 (Peace and Justice, Equality and Media)

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 Qualifications 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.

12e) ‘Men and women are not equal.’ Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>There are many arguments that show both equality and inequality between men and women throughout history, but the Sikh faith has always stated that within their community, men and women have equal status. This is an important belief in Sikhism.</i></p> <p><i>There were no female guru’s, but in the Sikh community, the guru’s insisted that women were treated with respect and did much to improve the status of the role of women.</i></p> <p><i>Guru Nanak said that women could not be seen as inferior to men because ‘it is she who has given birth to great men.’</i></p> <p><i>Guru Amar Das changed the way women were treated by not allowing them to wear a veil or commit sati when her husband died.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This candidate has demonstrated a clear understanding of the question by addressing the issue with a number of responses. They have introduced the firm Sikh belief in equality and the role of the gurus in instigating this belief.</p> <p>In this way a there is a clear reference to the religion studied.</p> <p>The candidate gives a range of different points of view with the inclusion of sacred scriptures to demonstrate and justify their reasoning.</p> <p>The candidate responds with their own personal point of view from a Sikh perspective by including further evidence of instances of equality within the Sikh community, showing how it is demonstrated by the use of the 5Ks and the gurdwara.</p>

Guru Gobind Singh decided that all men would have the title Singh meaning lion and all women have the title Kaur meaning princess, this showed his belief that all men should be strong and fearless and that all women should be treated like royalty to show the importance of her status. By changing the women's surname she did not take the name of her father or husband, giving her individual rights.

Also there were famous women in the times of the guru's like Mai Bhago who became a famous Sikh soldier and fought as part of a Sikh army and Mata Sahib Kaur who made the sugar and water mixture for the first amrit at Vaisakhi in 1699.

I think that both men and women in Sikh society believe in equality amongst themselves. In the gurdwara, both men and women can become granthis and lead the religious services. When babies are named they may be given a first name that can be used for both boys and girls.

Both men and women wear the 5K's because they are Sikh's, there is no difference in the 5K's for men and women which also shows equality.

A Sikh would not agree that men and women are not equal, they would quote the Guru Granth Sahib that says 'Blessed is the woman who creates life' and they would suggest that when Guru Nanak said 'There is neither Hindu or Muslim, this was not only pointing to equality between all religions and therefore all men, but also all men and women.

The information is presented in a clear and organised way with the specialist terms used appropriately.

This answer reflects the significance of the issues raised with few, if any errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

12e) 'Men and women are not equal.' Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Men and women <u>are</u> equal in the Sikh faith because Guru Nanak made this one of his main teachings.</i></p> <p><i>Guru Nanak was the first Sikh guru. He said that he had been taken to the court of god in heaven and given a message that 'there is neither 'Hindu nor Muslim' and that all men were equal to each other. This must mean that all women are equal too.</i></p> <p><i>The guru's did not allow women to be second class citizens in their time and today if you go into a Sikh gurdwara you will see women carrying out important roles like being the granthi and you will see men working in the langar, cooking and cleaning.</i></p> <p><i>Both men and women wear the 5K's; they do not have different rules to follow if they become a Khalsa Sikh.</i></p> <p><i>I think that because Guru Gobind Singh gave the name Kaur, meaning princess to all Sikh women, this made men realise that they were just as important and should be treated with respect and equality.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This candidate has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the question by linking teachings of equality to Guru Nanak. They have therefore made an appropriate and clear reference to the religion studied.</p> <p>There are also clear teachings and references to the status of women given by other gurus.</p> <p>The candidate could have improved their understanding of the question by giving more examples the way both men and women shaped the history of Sikhism. There are also clear teachings and references to the status of women given by other gurus.</p> <p>There are some justified arguments and discussion demonstrating different points of view but these need far more detail and depth of enquiry.</p> <p>The candidate has given evidence of a personal response but could have added more examples of the ways in which men and women are equal in Sikh society.</p> <p>The information is presented in a structured format with specialist terms used appropriately and for the most part correctly.</p> <p>This answer contains a selection of relevant material with appropriate development with specialist terms used appropriately and for the most part correctly. There are occasional errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.</p>