

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies B

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J621

Unit: B601 (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

B601 Philosophy 1 (Deity, Religious and Spiritual Experience, End of Life)

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.

14e) ‘When people die that is the end.’	
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>I personally believe this is true. I think that the life we have on earth is the only life there is. I believe that human life came about as a result of chance. We evolved from micro-organisms over billions of years and that God had nothing to do with it. We live our lives and that’s it, we die and it is the end, there is nothing else. People live on in the memory of other people, or if they have children in them, but otherwise there is nothing.</i></p> <p><i>Christians do not agree with this. They believe that when people die their soul lives on in a new life in heaven or hell depending on how they have lived their lives. Some Christians believe in a</i></p>	<p>This is a high level response.</p> <p>The candidate has demonstrated good understanding of Christian viewpoints about life after death and given thorough accounts of their own beliefs and that of Muslims. They have supported the different viewpoints and developed the answer well, although they could have included some more in the way of justification for their view that death is the end.</p> <p>Whilst this candidate has included a viewpoint from a second religion this is not a requirement. Candidates can still access all marks if they use differing viewpoints from one religion.</p>

place called purgatory which is a place where people whose souls are not pure enough to go to heaven are purified. They believe that all humans have an immortal soul which is different from their physical body. Their physical body will die and rot but their soul lives forever. The soul cannot be seen, it is the part of humans which sets us apart from all other animals. It is the 'breath of God' which makes human life sacred. The resurrection of Jesus made certain that we could enjoy a life after death and that death is most certainly not the end.

St. Paul said that our bodies were temples for the soul or spirit. This will be reunited with God when we die. Some Christians think that this will be a physical place, heaven, where there is no suffering and no evil. Other Christians think it is a spiritual place where we will simply be in the presence of God.

Muslims believe that when people die it is not the end. They believe that people will be judged according to their actions in life. When they die they will stay in the grave until the Day of Judgement. On this day a trumpet will sound and each Muslim will be judged according to how faithfully to the Five Pillars they have lived their lives. If they have done as they should they will be rewarded with life in Paradise.

14e) 'When people die that is the end.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

(12)

Candidate style answer

Christians do not believe that when they die that is the end. They believe that when they die they will go to heaven. If they have lived a good life, followed the teachings of the Bible and gone to church then they will have a place in heaven. Bad people will be punished by God by being sent to hell. They believe this because Jesus death and resurrection meant that they too would live in heaven with God when they died.

Hindus don't believe it is the end either. They believe in reincarnation. They believe that a person's soul is reborn into another life form after death. This depends on how they have behaved in their previous life.

I think life is the end and that people are just afraid of dying and this makes them feel better. I agree with the statement, when people die that is the end, its full stop. If there was something else it would be nice, but I don't think there is.

Examiner's commentary

This is a medium level response.

The candidate could have developed this further by including how different Christians believe slightly different things about heaven and hell, including ideas of judgement. They could also have talked about different Christian beliefs about the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body.

They could also have included supportive Biblical texts – Jesus' teaching about life after death.

Their own view is quite brief. It could be improved if the candidate explained more fully why he or she does not believe in life after death