

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.

14e) “People must look after their family before they worry about the poor.” 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>Natural human instinct dictates that we look after our family, and others that we know well, before we look after those that we don’t know personally.</i></p> <p><i>In fact many animals also operate with this social structure, with the parents looking after their offspring but not helping others.</i></p> <p><i>However, Christians would not agree with this statement. Christian teachings are that they have a duty to help the poor and those in need of help. Whilst of course, Christians should look after their own family, they cannot use this as a reason not to help others as well.</i></p> <p><i>Helping the needy is a key part of the</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This answer would score very high marks because it tries to give a balanced answer, using the word family in a personal and wider sense. The candidate explains that caring for your own family goes without saying and caring for others should be equally important for Christians. The candidate appears to have recognized the idea of timing in that it is of course important to care for the poor once your own family are looked after.</p> <p>The Christian response to caring for the poor as a duty is explained and backed up with relevant biblical teachings. Although the quotation “<i>love your neighbour as yourself</i>” has been wrongly attributed, it is relevant within the context of the answer and would be credited.</p> <p>’The candidate has shown understanding of what it means to be part of God’s family and has</p>

Christian message and Christians believe that by helping the needy they are in fact helping God and demonstrating God's love to all mankind in action.

Christian teachings is that God is the holy Father and that all people are equal and part of his family, therefore helping the wider family of the whole population is as important as helping those in our immediate families.

References in the Old Testament showing this are:

*"There will always be some people who are poor and in need, and so I command you to be generous to them."
Deuteronomy 15:11*

*"If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident"
Leviticus 25:35*

In addition, one of the ten commandments is to "love your neighbour as yourself"

The gospels show that Jesus was concerned for the poor and oppressed. Jesus told the parable of The Final Judgement (the parable of the Sheep and the Goats) to show that caring for the poor is the same as caring for Jesus; ignoring the poor is ignoring Jesus. At the final judgement, people will be judged by God on whether they have helped the poor.

Jesus reached out to the poor, blind, diseased, oppressed, unwanted and unloved. He did not just pray for them but also acted.

My own view is that we should all look to help those less fortunate than ourselves as well as helping members of our family. If we only look after our own families then we will be ignoring the many people in the world who need and depend upon our help. These days

shown that helping the poor is like helping Jesus by showing his love in action.

The personal viewpoint points out realistically that the poor depend on us for help and that it is possible to help them. This is supported by evidence that international organisations enable this to happen as well as the example of individuals

It is easy to support poor people in other countries by supporting one of the charities who work in these areas eg OXFAM or CAFOD.

Some people, like Mother Teresa have given up most priority to helping the poor above everything else including their own friends and family.

14e) “People must look after their family before they worry about the poor.” 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	Examiner’s commentary
<p><i>We naturally take care of our family and friends but this doesn't mean we always think about helping poor people we don't know.</i></p> <p><i>Christians would not agree with the statement in the question as they believe they have a duty to help the poor and those who need help. Christians should look after their own family, but they cannot use this as an excuse not to help others.</i></p> <p><i>Helping the poor is an important part of Christianity and Christians believe that by helping the poor they are in fact helping God. One of the ten commandments is to “love your neighbour as yourself”.</i></p> <p><i>Christians believe we are all equal in the eyes of God and are all part of one wider family so they have a duty to help everyone in that wider family.</i></p> <p><i>Jesus told the parable of the Sheep and Goats. This showed that caring for the poor is the same as caring for Jesus and ignoring the poor is ignoring Jesus. When people die they will be judged on whether or not they have helped the poor.</i></p> <p><i>I think we should help people without money whether they are family or not. Just because people are poor doesn't mean they are stupid or lazy they often just need a bit of help to start with to grow food for there family. This is why I always try and help with fundraising in school.</i></p> <p><i>Some people, like Mother Teresa have given up everything to help the poor, but I don't think I could do this.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is a satisfactory answer because it addresses some of the issues raised by the statement. The candidate attempts to give a balanced answer as well as a personal viewpoint. There is some evidence of a structure to the answer.</p> <p>Christianity is referred to and some justification for Christian views is given.</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of the answer the candidate would need to develop reasoning for Christian views by including relevant Biblical teachings and apply these to how Christians should behave in their daily lives.</p>