

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies A

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J620

Unit: B571 (Christianity)

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

GCSE Religious Studies A

B571 Christianity 1 (Beliefs, Special Days, Divisions and Interpretations)

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.

| 3e) ‘Christians should forget their differences and worship together in the same way.’ Discuss this statement. You must refer to different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must make reference to Christianity in your answer. (12) | |
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| <i>Candidate style answer</i> | <i>Examiner’s commentary</i> |
| <p><i>Most Christians realize that Jesus wanted there to be unity between them and the presence of divisions in the way in which they worship is against his will. Certainly, he would not approve of a situation in which some of his people felt that they were so far apart from others that they could not worship together.</i></p> <p><i>The church’s mission to the world is a message of peace and love, but the presence of divisions between Christians is a serious impediment to its mission. People will not respect the church’s call to unity and peace if there cannot be peace among Christians. Worshipping together implies that there must be some</i></p> | <p>High Level Response</p> <p>The candidate makes an immediate reference to Christianity in giving one of his/her points of view. He/she selects relevant religious information about the character and intentions of Jesus and draws valid inferences relevant to the question from it.</p> <p>The candidate extends the argument by discussing the significance of divisions in worship for the church’s core task, its ministry to the world and proceeds to draw inferences relevant to the question under discussion.</p> <p>The candidate then makes reference to a different point of view and supports it the example of the Eucharist to show how</p> |

agreed form of worship, so yes, Christians must worship together in the same way.

However, there are serious theological differences between Christians. Differences between similar churches, such as Catholics and Orthodox, are slight and there could be agreement to worship together in the same way, but the division between Catholic and the Protestant tradition is much greater. It is particularly significant in the case of the Eucharist. So yes, Christians should worship together in the same way, but deciding what this way is to be is an enormous problem that shows no signs of being resolved. It cannot be resolved by mere compromise, as this would simply paper over the major differences in theological thought in the church and would not solve the problems.

But others might argue that we do not need to worship in the same way. Jesus did not demand that we all do the same thing. After all, variety is the spice of life and the richness of Christian worship might be enhanced by differences. Christians could easily go to whichever church expresses their religious needs. As long as they all worship God, do they need to do it in the same building?

In my view it would be good if all Christians were able to worship together, but they do not need to do it in one specific way. It would be a good idea if there were a variety of forms of worship, and that they all felt that we could attend each other's services as and when they wanted to or needed to. Unity in diversity should be the way.

theological differences affect worship practices.

A general secular argument that variety is the spice of life is given, but the religious focus is maintained by the reference to the idea that Jesus did not dictate any form of worship. Secular arguments are acceptable as long as reference to Christianity is made in the answer, and there is plenty of Christian reference here.

The candidate concludes effectively with a supported personal point of view. The final statement about unity in diversity sums up the discussion appropriately.

Written communication is good.

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| <i>Candidate style answer</i> | <i>Examiner's commentary</i> |
| <p><i>In the early church everyone celebrated the Lord's Supper, and there were no divisions about how it should be celebrated, but now there are so many differences of opinion about how to worship and Christians worship in separate services.</i></p> <p><i>There is a road near where I live where there is a Catholic church and an Anglican church. Neither can always be full on Sundays, so why not simply get together and share services. It makes so much sense. All it would need is a little bit of compromise about tiny details, there are not so many differences between the two churches, and it is the same between the Catholics and the Orthodox churches, there are so few differences between them that a compromise could be reached.</i></p> <p><i>Think of the scandal that divisions in Christianity cause. Christians try to create world peace, but they cannot overcome their differences. Would it not be a good idea if the churches simply got together and overcame their differences? What a gesture for world peace this would be.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand some people say there is no need to worship together. There is plenty of room for variety in the world, so why not just accept the difference. This is a reasonable point because it is good to have variety in the world. How bad would it be if everyone did the same thing all the time and everywhere?</i></p> <p><i>In my personal opinion it would be a good idea if Christians were to worship together, because it would be a sign of peace, but there are barriers in the way of achieving this, in particular theological differences, so I do not hold</i></p> | <p>Medium Level Response</p> <p>This is a medium level response because it fails to develop views sufficiently and to focus on the issue effectively enough for the higher level.</p> <p>The candidate refers back to the practice of the early church to justify his case, but this is not a well supported view and may not be accurate.</p> <p>The reference to a local church is an effective example of what might be achieved through unity, but it does not deal with the main theological problems of the division between churches and makes its case by focusing on churches that are similar to each other. It overlooks the problem of churches whose theology and worship are so different that there are major obstacles to progress.</p> <p>The candidate then makes a significant practical point about the benefits of overcoming divisions as a gesture for peace. This is a good point.</p> <p>The candidate brings up another viewpoint based on a secular argument that variety is a good thing, but this point is not well-developed.</p> <p>The candidate's personal viewpoint addresses the issue but then wanders onto the different issue of whether or not shared worship is likely. Overall, the candidate's answer addresses the issue, but does not fully focus on it when dealing with the personal viewpoint. Lack of focus at some points as exemplified here, tend to put the response into the medium rather than the higher rank.</p> <p>Written communication is good.</p> |

out any hope of this happening in the near future. However, there could be moves in this direction between a number of similar churches, such as the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox, but some churches will be further apart.