

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies A

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J620

Unit: B578 (Islam 2)

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

GCSE Religious Studies A

B578 Islam 2 (Worship, Community and Family, Sacred Writings)

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) ‘Marriage is not an important religious ceremony in Islam’.	
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>There are two sides to this debate. Firstly there are those who would agree with this statement because they see marriage as more of a civil contract between 2 families than a religious ceremony. Their reasons might include the following:</i></p> <p><i>Marriage doesn’t have to take place in the Mosque it can be at the bride’s home. The bride doesn’t have to be at the actual ceremony as long as she is represented by someone who will sign the contract for her. The contract, which talks about a dowry and the couple’s rights is at the centre of the ceremony and makes the whole thing more legal than religious. There may be some readings from the Qur’an and some</i></p>	<p>High Level Response</p> <p>This is a good response addressing the question and stating from the outset that there are different viewpoints.</p> <p>A first view is given with arguments/reasons in support of it. Reasons offered convey a clear knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Personal evaluation offered in the comparison with other religions</p> <p>Another view is offered in the form of a debate going on.</p> <p>Relevant arguments offered in support of this view, once again developed to show deeper understanding of the issue and of the nature of</p>

<p><i>prayers but it doesn't have to be the Imam conducting the ceremony. Compared to some weddings in other religions it doesn't seem very religious at all.</i></p> <p><i>The other side of the debate would argue that in most cases the ceremony can be as religious as you want it to be. You can have the Mosque and readings and prayers and the Imam can do the ceremony. They might also say that Islam is a way of life and every part of it is therefore religious. A contract between 2 people is signed in the presence of Allah and that is a blessing on it and makes it religious. The rules in the contract will guide their married life and these have had Allah's blessing so their whole married life becomes blessed.</i></p> <p><i>Personally I agree with the second side of the debate. Islam is all about submitting your life and everything in it to Allah. Every act is a religious act seen by God and those acts pleasing to him will be blessed. Therefore marriage must be a religious ceremony as it is pleasing to Allah.</i></p>	<p>Islam.</p> <p>Personal engagement with the argument shown through personal, appropriate comment about the view in the last paragraph.</p> <p>The use of Muslim terminology is accurate and appropriate. The written communication is good.</p>
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3e) 'Marriage is not an important religious ceremony in Islam'.

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

(12)

Candidate style answer

I would have to agree with this because I think you don't have to get married in a place of worship. A man can have 4 wives so it can't be very religious.

When 2 people get married in islam they might not have met each other before and this an arranged marriage. This is not a very religious way to do things.

Islams have to sign a document when they get married and they have parties which can go on for days. The bride might ware a white dress or a red one and sometimes the man has his face covered. I don't think they have the vicar there so it isn't a religious do. I think the brides father can marry her but I don't think its right if she hasn't seen her husband. I would not marry someone who I had not met before because marriage is all about love and care for your partner and you can't love someone if you have not met them before. You don't know if they are nice person or if they will beat you up and want to have more wives. I would let my child chose there husband and then it is there mistake and they can't blame you for making it wrong.

Examiner's commentary

Medium Level Response

There is a personal view given and a reason to support it, although this is not developed.

A second reason about a man having 4 wives contains accurate information but is not used to make a valid argument.

The candidate offers further information about arranged marriages, which shows a limited understanding of the whole topic. It is used as an argument but in fact is still only personal opinion. Argument/evidence needs the word 'because' to prompt a valid reason not just the statement of a view.

A piece of semi-accurate information about marriage customs and the role of the Father which prompts a personal opinion. There is an attempt to justify a view but is a limited one with no development.

The candidate offers a lot of personal opinions, which are supported by clear reasons. However the response has wandered away from the question and so this part of it is not relevant. Candidates are encouraged to keep the question in focus at all times.

Written communication is inhibited by some errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.