

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies B

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J621

Unit: B602 (Buddhism)

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

GCSE Religious Studies B

B602 Philosophy 2 (Good and Evil, Revelation, Science)

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.

13e) ‘The world is ours to treat as we like.’ Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>A Buddhist would not agree with this statement because they live by a set of ideals which regards the environment and the creation of all living things as extremely important.</i></p> <p><i>Buddhists believe that the existence of the planet, the animals and the humans that inhabit it are designed to co-exist with one another, therefore, treating the environment with respect and not ‘as we like’, will be part of their everyday lives.</i></p> <p><i>A Buddhist would take care not to destroy another living creature, they are vegetarians and because of their belief in rebirth, they feel that destroying any part of the planet by not treating it with respect or by a deliberate action would generate negative karma.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This candidate has demonstrated a clear understanding of the question from the start by analysing the connection between Buddhist belief and respect for the environment. In this way a there is clear reference made to the religion studied.</p>

A Buddhist follows the teachings of the Buddha to achieve enlightenment. Part of the teachings are called the Five Precepts, the first precept states that a Buddhist will 'not harm living things.' This loving kindness to everything that exists is called metta and includes all humans, animals, fish and insects. They also respect nature and try to live in harmony with it.

Monks and nuns take extra care to live in harmony with nature, they use nets to sieve their drinking water and when their everyday existence is dominated by nature and the climate like during the rainy seasons, they use the negative aspects of the poor weather conditions to take on extra work within their community and improve their mental and physical discipline. This shows that they respect every living creature and understand that the forces of nature can sometimes be forceful enough to change the pattern of their everyday lives.

I think that the Buddha understood the importance of the planet and how nature should be respected because he made it an important part of his teachings. After leaving his father's palace, he spent the next six years living in the wilderness of the forest until he found enlightenment whilst meditating under a bodhi tree. He used the simple lotus flower to describe his experience of recognising enlightenment and he spoke of his earlier existence in the form of a deer.

The candidate gives a range of Buddhist points of view linking the first of the five precepts as a response to the question and by linking the importance of the ways in which nature and the climate are linked to a Buddhist's life. By addressing the question in this manner, the candidate has satisfied the requirement specified in the question to include "different, supported points of view".

The candidate responds with their own personal point of view which is also linked to the importance of nature and the effect it had on the Buddha's life.

Throughout the response, 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.

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<p><i>Candidate style answer</i></p>	<p><i>Examiner's commentary</i></p>
<p><i>A Buddhist would always disagree with this statement because they do not believe that they can treat anything as they like including the world.</i></p> <p><i>A Buddhist takes nature and the environment very seriously, they have many teachings like the Noble Eight Fold Path that tells them the right thing to do. They do not believe that they can just do as they please because if they did that they would not be able to reach their goal of enlightenment.</i></p> <p><i>A Buddhist would not pollute the planet, because he would always try to demonstrate 'right intention' and 'right action' or get a job where he harmed animals, like being a butcher because he would need to have a job that demonstrated 'right livelihood' to follow the Noble Eight Fold Path properly.</i></p> <p><i>I think a Buddhist would say that because the Buddha was once a deer in a previous life that this shows that all animals and living things should be respected.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This candidate has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the question attempting to describe the fact that Buddhist attempt to follow a set of rules like the Noble Eight Fold Path which does not reflect an attitude that they may 'do as they please' They have therefore made a clear and appropriate reference to the religion studied.</p> <p>The candidate could have improved their understanding of the question by linking the environment to the wheel of life and the influence of kamma.</p> <p>They could have mentioned the Buddha's link with nature and his teachings of respect for every living thing as given in the first precept.</p> <p>There is some justified arguments and discussion demonstrating different points of view such as not being able to reach the goal of enlightenment if a Buddhist does not follow the teachings of the Buddha.</p> <p>The candidate has given evidence of a personal response.....</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 may be occasional errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.</p>