

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.

2e) ‘If God existed we would know it.’	
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>Christians believe that God does exist and that they do know it. There are many different arguments they would give to support their belief. Some Christians say that God exists because of the existence of the universe. They say that God must exist because the universe must have come from somewhere and that somewhere is from God. The Bible supports this belief in the accounts of creation in Genesis. Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and supports their faith that God exists. Thomas Aquinas outlined the cosmological argument for the existence of God with his ‘First Cause’ argument. He said that the universe must have something that started it off, a cause. God was that cause.</i></p> <p><i>Another Christian view would be the</i></p>	<p>This is a high level response.</p> <p>This is a very good response. The candidate has focussed on the question and discussed fully various different viewpoints. There are a number of different arguments offered in support of the existence of God and these are fully and clearly explained with evidence of clear understanding.</p> <p>There are many references to and explanations of Christian’s beliefs about the evidence for the existence of God as well as a response from a different religion. 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> <p>Their own viewpoint is clearly explained and supported, and includes some alternative</p>

beauty and complexity of the world. They believe that it couldn't have happened by accident, it must have been planned and created. William Paley used an example of a watch to explain this point.

Some Christians have experienced God in their lives. They say he has spoken to them or answered their prayers. Some have experienced a miracle which for them is proof of Gods' existence. Many Christians visit Lourdes because they believe that miracles from God happen there.

Most Christians believe that God exists because of Jesus. God showed he exists by coming to Earth as Jesus. God took on human form and died for their sins.

Muslims believe that God exists and they use many of the same arguments that Christians would use to support their beliefs. They believe the prophets are evidence of Gods' existence, particularly Muhammad.

I personally do not believe that God exists. I think that people are just superstitious and they want to believe in a spirit world because they cannot face the idea that this life is all that there is. Science has given us many answers to how the universe came into existence with the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution which disproves the creation stories.

interpretation of the Christian arguments, in other words the candidate has shown why these arguments might not necessarily prove the existence of God, although there is scope for further development in this area.

(The candidate's own opinion is quite short and does not address the possibility that God may have reasons for not wanting his existence to be unambiguous...in other words the candidate does not directly answer the question.)

2e) 'If God existed we would know it.'

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

I don't think we would know for sure if God exists. Sometimes I think God can't possibly exist because there is so much pain and suffering in the world like wars and famines where innocent people get hurt or die. Then other times I think God must exist because otherwise what would be the point to life. There must be a God. Also why would so many people believe there is a God?

Christians believe that we do know that God exists because the Bible tells us he does. Some Christians also believe he exists because they have been brought up in a Christian family and they have been taught that he does. They know because their families have told them.

Hindus would say that God exists because they experience God in their lives when they meditate.

Examiner's commentary

This is a medium level response

The candidate has given different viewpoints and has given some supporting detail but it needs further development. The reasoning is much more basic and simplistic than in the previous question and the candidate has not developed any real critical thinking

Examples of the evidence for God's existence from the Bible for example would improve it. The candidate could also address the possible circular nature of using the Bible to prove the existence of God.

Their own point of view is well developed and gives supporting reasons.

There is no benefit to the inclusion of the Hindu perspective. The same point could be made just as accurately with reference to Christianity and this would, in fact, have provided a better answer to the question. Also, from a Hindu perspective the statement is not necessarily accurate.