



GCSE

Religious Studies A

8062/12 Paper 1 Catholic Christianity

Report on the Examination

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General Comments

The questions were all well attempted; very few questions were not attempted. The responses indicated that all students across the whole ability range were able to access all the questions and indicated that they had used the time available well

1.1

This multiple choice question about purgatory was very well answered with more than 90% of students choosing the correct answer.

1.2

This question asked students to give two Catholic beliefs about matrimony (marriage); it was very well answered with the vast majority of students achieving the full 2 marks. This demonstrated a clear understanding of beliefs held with a variety of correct answers given.

1.3

This question asked students to explain two ways in which Christians are influenced by the Genesis accounts of creation. The question was generally well answered with over 90% achieving 2 out of the 4 available marks. The fact that the percentage dropped to just over 64% for those who achieved the full 4 marks does however demonstrate that students need to be able to develop their answers.

Many students focused on ‘The Fall’ rather than the creation aspect of the accounts which was asked for in the question.

1.4

This question on Christian beliefs about the Incarnation received varied responses. Some students did not know what the Incarnation was, however almost 80% were able to give a simple response. Many struggled to give two developed answers and achieve the full 4 marks.

1.5

The statement to be evaluated here was ‘For Catholics, the Eucharist is the most important sacrament.’ This was a generally well answered question with just over two thirds of students achieving at least 8 marks and only a small minority not attempting the question. The most successful answers demonstrated a good understanding of not only the Eucharist but also the other sacraments which were contrasted with the Eucharist and its importance.

The students achieving level 4 were also able to include clear and relevant references which enhanced their answers and ended with clear conclusions which summed up the arguments on both sides and finally gave their own opinion.

SPAG

Almost 70% of students achieved the full 3 marks and around 95% 2 marks. There were some consistent misspellings, for example 'sacrament' and 'statement' being incorrect on many scripts.

2.1

This multiple choice question asked which word meant telling others the 'good news' about Jesus. Almost 90% got this correctly stated the answer of evangelism.

2.2

This question was about the Rosary and the reasons why Catholics say it. This was well answered with almost 95% of students achieving 1 mark and almost 80% 2 marks.

2.3

This question required students to give contrasting views about 'the importance of pilgrimage for Christians.' Over 73% of students achieved full marks demonstrating clear knowledge of pilgrimage and good understanding of its importance to Christians as well as other aspects of Christian belief and practice that are important.

2.4

This question focused on the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) and how it helps people today. This was less well answered with just over 50% achieving 4 marks and just less than 35% achieving 5 marks. Many students confused the work of the SVP with that of CAFOD and long term aid projects abroad or Pax Christi referring to the training of priests and war and peace issues.

2.5

This question focused on whether support for Catholic agencies (charities) is the best way for Catholics to demonstrate 'love our neighbour'. This was less well answered than question 1.5 with just fewer than 50% achieving 8 or more marks; very few students did not attempt the question. Time management was an issue for a minority of students but most made a good attempt even if more rushed by some than question 1.5. The weaker answers focused much more on the love our neighbour aspect and showed little knowledge and understanding of the work of Catholic agencies. The best answers demonstrated a clear understanding of Catholic agencies and their work and then linked this to Jesus' example and work, and were able to give clear examples of this from the gospels with references also included.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.