

2006 Religious Studies

Standard Grade General

Finalised Marking Instructions

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GENERAL RUBRIC:

The answers outlined are indicative but not exhaustive. Marks should be given for alternative correct information (KU) or valid supporting reasons (E).

Note: in Evaluation answers, marks are not given for the stating of opinion but for the reasons that support the opinion. At 'F' and 'G' in Evaluation, up to 2 marks for a valid reason. At 'C' an exceptionally well-argued point can gain 3 marks.

Religious Studies Standard Grade 2006 – General Level

Section A – Christianity

1. (a) Account of the healing of the Roman Officer's Servant.
- Jesus asked to go to the soldier's house by Jewish elders.
 - Soldier meets him before he gets there.
 - Soldier states that he is not worthy for Jesus to enter his house.
 - Soldier asks that Jesus only give the command and he knows that his servant will be well.
 - Jesus comments on the strength of the soldier's faith.
 - Servant is cured. (4)
- (b) May accept answers which cover actions of Jesus from other stories.
- Kingdom of God – place of forgiveness, justice and love for all.
 - Jesus' action set an example for Christians about how they can build the Kingdom here on earth.
 - Jesus happy to cure people – particularly those on the outside of Jewish society – indication that all are welcome in the Kingdom.
 - Jesus' focus on the strength of faith enables Christians to understand that faith will build the Kingdom as much as good works. (4)
- (c) One sided evaluation but will accept both points of view 2 – 4 marks for well explained reason(s).
- Yes:**
- world a more difficult place to live in
 - justice and forgiveness needed even more, eg war – WMD and subsequent mass casualties
 - loss of community – people more self centred
 - more materialist world.
- No:**
- conditions not as harsh – eg less poverty (for some)
 - scientific advances have enabled to solve major world problems – progress has helped more people
 - world has not changed that much – humans are just the same as they have always been. (4)

2. (a)
- After the death of Christ - body is taken to the tomb.
 - On the Sunday – the women came to clean the body to find it has gone.
 - Christians believe that the body of Jesus was resurrected – bodily restored back to life from the dead – the most central belief in Christianity.
 - Shows that Jesus was the Son of God – died for the salvation of humanity but brings hope – good over evil, life over death.
 - References to the ascension are acceptable.

2 marks for each well explained point

(none for the crucifixion although it will obviously be mentioned)

(4)

(b) **Yes:**

- gives Christians hope in difficult times (with examples 3)
- similarly – there is life after death – the Resurrection offers comfort (with examples 3)
- good will triumph over evil (with examples 3)
- proof that Jesus is the Son of God – strengthen faith.

No:

- sometimes more practical help is needed – a belief is not enough
- may seem too distant and special an event to connect with ordinary people.

2 marks for each well explained reason

(4)

(c) **Yes:**

- chocolate eggs – a commercial gimmick
- many people do not know religious significance of the egg
- chocolate has nothing to do with Easter
- people receive eggs but do not participate in worship or attend church.

No:

- eggs symbolise the promise of new life – life after death
- eggs symbolise the stone rolling away from the mouth of the tomb – significant prompt of the Easter story
- chocolate eggs – a way to popularise the story and message of Easter
- eggs – a way for young children to understand the story and message of Easter
- traditional and cultural habit.

2 marks for each well explained answer

(4)

Section B – Hinduism

3. (a) Ultimately Hinduism is monotheistic – belief in Brahman, the universal supreme spirit. Brahman is so complex, so unknowable, so divine that ‘he’ is broken down into ‘lesser’ gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess captures an aspect of God’s nature and power. (4)

- (b) The Bhagavad Gita, or Song of the Lord tells the story of Arjuna and Krishna (an avatar of Vishnu).

The scripture is popular because:

- it tells an exciting, rollicking story
- it is about the perennial struggle between good and evil
- it sums up key Hindu beliefs about Dharma
- it is inspirational, for example, Arjuna’s bravery
- it is comforting (i) to know that many people are faced with overwhelming dilemmas and (ii) that if people follow their Dharma good will prevail.

Up to 2 marks for each reason (4)

- (c) There are 4 paths to Moksha:

- the path of Bhakti (devotion). Bhakti requires loving devotion to a personal god (ishwara). The worshipper tries to remember their personal god at all times
- the path of Karma (actions). All Hindus should try to do only those actions which will yield positive results
- the path of Jnana (knowledge). This is the most difficult path to follow, requiring detailed knowledge of the scriptures and a Guru or spiritual teacher
- the path of Yoga. Yoga is the practice of the self control, Ahimsa and postures.

(4)

4. (a) Puja means worship and can take place in the home or temple. Puja is focused around a shrine, decorated with statues of the gods.

Puja at home:

- usually started by the woman of the home
- a bell is rung to start Puja
- sometimes the gods are awoken by the lighting of a lamp/candle/flame
- statues are washed and dressed with milk/ghee/holy water
- coloured powder is brushed over the statues
- lights/tinsel are placed before the statues
- blessed food (prashad) is offered to the gods (the gods provide food – this is a reciprocal gesture)
- worshippers chant, often the Gyatri Mantra.

Puja in the temple:

- shoes are taken off as a sign of respect
- a bell is rung to announce Hindus arrival for worship
- gifts are presented to the priest who will later place them before the gods
- the priest offers prayers which are made up of 3 parts – bhajan, havan and arti.
- Bhajan – special hymns
- Havan – a special fire of wood and ghee
- Arti – a tray of 5 lights is waved before the god. The tray is then offered to the worshippers who run their hands through the flame then wipe their hands over their heads to receive God's power.

(4)

- (b) Puja in the temple is more important because:

- it brings worshippers/Hindus together
- there are fewer distractions in the temple
- there may be a Guru/spiritual teacher in the temple.

Puja in the home is more important because:

- you can focus on/dedicate your shrine to your own personal/family god/ishwara
- you are more comfortable, therefore better able to focus.

2 marks for each reason

any reasonable answer accepted

(4)

- (c) Yes – it will be difficult because there are too many distractions.

Yes – it will be difficult because we live in a consumer society with materialistic values.

Yes – difficult to find adequate support/it may attract unwanted negative attention.

Yes – the path of yoga demands huge commitment, personally, physically and mentally.

No – it shouldn't be difficult – where there's a will there's a way.

No – non Hindus are increasingly interested/sympathetic to yoga.

2 marks for each reason

Any reasonable answer accepted

(4)

Section C – Islam

5. (a)
- 2 pieces of white seamless cloth worn on the Hajj.
 - A symbol of the Brotherhood – Ummah.
 - A symbol of equality – all pilgrims regardless of wealth or social standing will wear the ihram.
 - A state of mind – a symbol of purity.
 - Removal from everyday life – preparedness for the Hajj.
 - Reference to ihram as a shroud.

2 marks for each well explained aspect of ihram

(4)

- (b)
- Ka’ba – the building emptied of the old idols – a symbol of the One God.
 - Some Muslims believe that this is where the presence of god on earth is at its most strongest.
 - The point at which God touches the earth.
 - The point towards which all Muslims pray.
 - Contains the Black stone – originally white but turned black with the sins of people.

2 marks for each well explained reason

(4)

- (c) Yes:
- symbolic stoning of the devil/evil
 - ridding of sinful habits
 - commitment to lead life as a good Muslim
 - renewal of faith.

No: other aspects of Hajj more significant, eg

- prayers at Arafat signify the Ummah
- prayers at Mount of Mercy – reminder of Muhammed’s last sermon
- prayers at Ka’ba – proximity to focus of prayer
- running at Safa – Marwa – indication of compassion of God.

2 marks for each well explained reason (3 max for one)

(4)

6. (a) Judge:
- God will be the Judge on Judgement Day and decide whether people will enter into Paradise or Hell
 - God will be a compassionate and fair judge judging only on the Muslims own actions and faith.

All Knowing:

- God knows what has happened in the past and what will happen in the future.
- suffering and happiness part of God's plan
- God knows the time when the Day of Judgement will come
- may explain concept of Immanence – God is closer to you than your jugular vein (allow for 2 marks)
- God knows all things – nothing, not even the deepest thought is not known.

Both terms must be explained – 2 marks max for one term

(4)

- (b) Yes:
- source of comfort – good to know that you are not alone
 - allows for confidence and acceptance of life's difficulties – all suffering has a purpose
 - goal of Islam is to reach Paradise – God part of that process – informed and compassionate.

No:

- could live in fear for every minor infraction
- pressure on Muslims to continually submit impossible to live with.

2 marks for a well explained reason

(4)

- (c) Yes:
- guidelines for life – clear indication of what is expected
 - source of comfort and strength
 - source of wisdom and knowledge about God.

No:

- may be out of date and unable to relate to modern life
- may be too restrictive and prevent necessary development
- may be open to misinterpretation.

2 marks for every well explained reason (3 max for one)

(4)

Section D – Judaism

7. (a)
- Mezuzah is seen everytime they enter/exit the home or room and this reminds them of the Torah within the home.
 - A permanent/visual reminder of the Torah in home life.
 - Tephillin are close to the heart and close to their thoughts – Torah is central to the individual person's life.
 - A physical symbol of the covenant = obey the Torah.
 - Both a part of everyday life = Torah is a part of everyday life 'blessed when you go in, blessed when you go out'.

2 marks for each explained point

(4)

- (b) Yes:
- no one could ever keep the Torah
 - too many rules (**613**)
 - too high an expectation from God
 - old fashioned – modern world argument.

No:

- part of religion so easy to keep
- God's rules – God would not have made them impossible
- it's about intent anyway – so not so hard
- you 'grow' into them – part of life.

2 marks for each reason given

(4)

- (c) Yes:
- gives opportunity to show love through 'actions'
 - God gives good things to those he loves so love in return is natural
 - a loving 'parent' would discipline for benefit of child – Torah teaches that.

No:

- how can rules lead you to love?
- love is better shown by caring not ordering
- it might have helped those it was given to originally but nowadays a new way to guide our love is needed.

2 marks for each reason given

(4)

8. (a)
- To take stock of their life and examine themselves.
 - Consider their deeds of the past year and resolve to do better in the year that has just begun.
 - Try to contact anyone that they might have wronged in the past year and ask for forgiveness.
 - Say prayers of forgiveness (selichot).

2 marks for each explained point, one for simple statement.

(4)

- (b)
- The 'holiest' time of the year.
 - Anniversary of the beginning of the world.
 - Time that God judges all people for past deeds so very important.
 - Important ideas of judgement and atonement.
 - RH = the day God's decisions are written down.
 - YK = the day God's decisions are 'sealed'.
 - This time recognises God as 'King' of the world.
 - The time of 'returning'.
 - The time to 'cast' away sin (Micah 7v19).
 - Legend of the three books: Life, Death, In-between.

2 marks for each explained reason

(4)

- (c) Yes:
- helps to focus your attention on God
 - discipline is good for building up a religious faith
 - gives you more time for prayer = closer to God.

No:

- you just get hungry – hard to concentrate/pray
- religion should make you enjoy life more, not suffer
- people might think that they are 'good' just because they fast.

2 marks for each explained reason

(4)

Section E – Issues of Belief and Morality

9. (a) • An idea or action which raises questions/debate about what is the right or wrong things to do.

Only 1 mark for issue alone

(2)

- (b) • Abortions must be performed by a registered practitioner in a National Health Service hospital or in a location that has been specially approved by the Department of Health.
- An abortion may be approved providing two doctors agree that the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.
- To prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.
- If the pregnancy would cause grave damage to the health of any existing child(ren) of the family of the pregnant woman.
- There is a substantial risk that if the children were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.
- To save the life of the pregnant women.
- The doctor may take account of the pregnant woman's actual or foreseeable environment, including her social and economic circumstances.
- Doctors and other medical staff have the legal right to 'conscientiously object' to taking part in abortions unless this is necessary to save the life or prevent grave permanent injury to the woman.
- 24 weeks limit.

(4)

(c) Yes:

- abortion a private and personal decision between mother/parents and the medical profession
- abortion is a woman's right and not for religion to interfere with
- religion traditionally male dominated – women in the 21st century have won the right to exercise their own judgement over contraception and abortion, etc
- abortion is a medical procedure not a moral issue – foetus is not a human.

No:

- abortion is the taking away of human life – all life is sacred
- only God has the right to give and take life away – religions need to state their position on abortion
- abortion a divisive issue – advice from religion can help governments and individuals make informed decisions.

2 marks for each well explained reason

(4)

10. (a) Christianity:
- the fall
 - Adam and Eve story
 - snake
 - expulsion from the garden.
- Islam:
- the fallen angel
 - Iblis/Shaytan who refused to bow down to God is allowed to tempt Muslims to commit evil
 - Adam and Eve story is beginning but no concept of original sin. Root of sin is pride and arrogance
 - failure to submit (shirk).
- Judaism:
- evil part of following evil impulses within us
 - evil not caused by outside forces.
 - people are free to choose between good and evil.
- Hinduism:
- evil part of the natural cycle of Samsara.
- 2 marks for each explanation (4)
- (b) Yes:
- would not be human if not capable of committing evil (and good)
 - evidence of people committing great and minor evil acts.
- No:
- young babies are not born evil – we are socialised into doing wrong
 - religion teaches that evil can be outside forces!
 - reference to ‘natural’ evil
- 2 marks for each well explained answer. (4)
- (c) Challenges the authority/omnipotence of God. (2)
- (d) Marks for any well explained, logical position. (4)

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]