



2007 Religious Studies

Standard Grade Credit

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 2007 – Credit Level

Section A – Christianity

1. (a) Explain the religious meaning of **three** Christmas customs.

Possible answers:

- present giving – wise men, Jesus the gift from God (2)
- lights in tree – Jesus, light to the world (2)
- star on tree – star to guide wise men (2)
- nativity plays – retelling of main points of Christmas story, etc (2)
- Christmas trees – evergreen, eternal life, etc. (2)

Any answers **must** relate to the religious meaning.

(6)

- (b) The resurrection is the most important Christian belief. How far do you agree?

Agree

- Central teaching of Christianity, without resurrection no faith. (2)
- Jesus said he would come back, if not true then Jesus' teaching is false. (2)
- Main message of the Early Church so must be the most important. (2)
- Could still be most important even if not literal. (2)

(Different meanings of resurrection)

Disagree

- Jesus' message of love and respect most important. (2)
- Only a small part of Jesus' message so not central. (2)
- Importance was 'added' to by Early Church. (2)
- Literal resurrection weakens Christian message. (2)

2 sided evaluation needed. Maximum of 4 marks if one sided.

(6)

2. (a) How did Jesus' actions show the Kingdom of God?

- Jesus' love to all is what the Kingdom is all about. (2)
- Kingdom of God is a place of healing = Jesus' miracles. (2)
- Kingdom of God is a place of new beginnings = Zacchaeus (2)
- Kingdom of God is a place of acceptance = Jesus and the outcasts. (2)
- Kingdom of God is a place of obedience to God = Jesus obeyed God. (2)

Must link the actions to Kingdom of God to get full marks.

(6)

(b) Are Christians doing enough to build the Kingdom of God in today's world?

YES

- Could give example of 1 Christian organisation. (2)
- Example of a particular church. (2)
- Fundraising for charities. (2)
- Local initiatives in community (credit unions, Salt and Light, etc). (2)
- Individual examples. (2)

NO

- Still have big church buildings so not sharing enough. (2)
- Many Christians still look down on certain groups: drug addicts, etc. (2)
- Some Christian groups 'fight' against each other. (2)
- Specific examples could also be given. (2)

Answer should link to teaching of Kingdom of God somewhere.

3 marks could be given to a particular point if well argued.

Maximum of 4 marks if answer is one sided.

(6)

Section B – Hinduism

3. (a) Explain fully the Hindu belief in Samsara.

- Samsara is the cycle of birth, death and rebirth (or reincarnation). (2)
- It is not said that we have had many past lives, but that potentially we have had innumerable past lives stretching over vast periods of time. (2)
- Every living thing has an atman, an eternal soul which is reborn/moves on after death. (2)
- The ultimate goal of all Hindus is to be liberated from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth and to achieve Moksha – union with Brahman, the universal supreme spirit. (2)
- Rebirths are determined by the accumulation of good/bad karma. (2)

(6)

(b) To what extent do you think Krishna is a good role model for Hindus?

Good Role Model:

- generous:
 - as a child Krishna used to steal butter and share with his friends (2)
- brave:
 - numerous examples of his bravery (2)
 - he saved the village cows from a forest fire by inhaling the flames (2)
 - he prevented the village water supply from being poisoned by subduing the evil serpent Kaliya by playing his flute (2)
 - he sheltered the villagers from a fierce storm by lifting a mountain on his pinkie and holding it high for the villagers to shelter under (2)
- God's humanity:
 - in Krishna we see the humanity of God. God is not distant or intimidating, rather human attributes are appreciated – Krishna's mischievous streak (stealing the Gopis' saris while they were swimming) (2)
- Good over evil:
 - Krishna repeatedly defeats evil forces and good triumphs. (2)

Bad Role Model:

- Krishna's antics are unbelievable and therefore hold no meaning/bearing (2)
- Krishna's antics hold no relevance in contemporary society (2)
- Krishna wooed 17 Gopis – not a good monogamous role model. (2)

2 marks for each point. 3 marks for a well developed point.

To achieve 6 marks candidates must consider both sides.

(6)

- 4 (a) Briefly describe **two** stories connected with the festival of Holi.

Prahlad and Holika

- Young Prince Prahlad revered Vishnu.
- His father, the King, issued a decree stating that no one should worship any God, only the King himself.
- Prahlad refused to obey his father.
- The King was furious and ordered Prahlad to be tied to an iron pole and beaten.
- Next, Prahlad was confined in a yard with a mad elephant. When Prahlad recited the names of the gods, the elephant settled.
- The King then ordered Prahlad to be thrown from a cliff into a deep pool.
- Finally, the King asked his daughter, Holika, a sorceress to help.
- Holika ordered a huge fire to be built. When the flames peaked she seized Prahlad and jumped into the blaze with Prahlad.
- Unbeknown to Holika her power only worked when she was alone.
- Prahlad trusted Vishnu and walked from the fire unharmed.
- Vishnu appeared as a lion and tore the King to pieces.

Krishna and Radha

- Krishna's favourite Gopi was Radha.
- Krishna and Radha liked to play games and dance in the moonlight on the banks of the Yamuna river.
- Krishna enthralled listeners with his flute.
- One evening Krishna disappeared and returned with pots of coloured powder.
- Everyone began to throw the powder over each other.

Kamadeva (the love God)

- A mischievous and thoughtless spirit he roamed the woods and villages looking for victims.
- Once he found a victim he would shoot them in the heart with a bow of flowers, causing them to fall helplessly in love with the first person they met.
- Kama attempted to draw his bow on Shiva.
- Shiva reduced Kama to ashes with a single stare.
- Kama's widow, Rati, was distraught and begged Shiva to restore Kama to life.
- Eventually Shiva relented, however, only Rati could see her husband.

Krishna and Kamsa

- As a baby Krishna was sent to kill Kamsa.
- Kamsa wanted to slay baby Krishna.
- Kamsa sent an evil demoness Putana to kill all male babies.
- She disguised herself as a wet nurse and smeared her nipples with poison.
- As she entered Krishna's village, Vrindavan, Krishna sensed evil and sucked the life out of her.

Holika and Sambat

- When Holika's brother, Sambat died, Holika insisted on being burnt at his funeral pyre.
- Through this selfless act Sambat was restored to life.

(6)

Two stories must be described to get full marks.
Maximum of 4 if only one story described.

(b) Do you think the sacred thread ceremony helps Hindus to fulfil their Dharma today?

Yes

- After the ceremony boys are expected to wear the sacred thread for the rest of their lives. The thread is made from 3 pieces reminding the boy that he has 3 debts to discharge throughout his life – to God for life, to his parents for giving him life and teaching him about Hinduism, to his ancestors for the gift of knowledge and wisdom. Wearing the string will help the boy be mindful of these debts and strive harder to fulfil his dharma as a good son and student. (2/3)
- After the ceremony the boy is expected to pray 3 times a day, perform puja and learn sacred scriptures. Puja and prayer will help the boy fulfil his religious duty and study will deepen spiritual awareness and morality. (2)

No

- Once the ceremony is over it will be difficult to maintain momentum. (2)
- Wearing the sacred thread will not always deter negative actions, particularly where there are so many distractions in society today. (2)

Any reasonable answer accepted.

2 marks for each point. 3 marks for a well developed point.

To achieve 6 marks candidates must consider both sides.

(6)

Section C – Islam

- 5 (a) God is described as Alone and Compassionate. Explain fully these descriptions.

God as Alone (max 3)

- Only one God. (1)
- Relates to the Shahadah – there is no God but God. (2)
- In opposition to the idolatry of the Age of Ignorance. (2)
- God alone – as Sustainer, Creator, etc – shows the complete power of God. (2)

God as Compassionate (max 3)

- God of love, care and concern for humanity. (2)
- Compassion shown through Revelation – guidance provided through Qur'an/life of Muhammed. (3)
- Judgement on Last Day will be tempered with compassion. (2)

(6)

- (b) Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the word of God. How helpful is this belief for Muslims today?

Helpful:

- belief in the Qur'an maintains faith in God (2)
- Muslims not swayed by modern trends (2/3 with example)
- Qur'an provides consistency through time (2)
- Qur'an provides shared belief for the Ummah (2)

Unhelpful:

- limits flexibility of modern Islam to respond to modern day problems (2/3 with example)
- can lead to entrenched views. (2)

(6)

- 6 (a) Explain the Muslim concept of Submission.

Concept of Submission

- To submit freely to the will of Allah (2) (but must include underlined words).
- Allah is put before all other things – school, family, friends. (2)
- Encapsulated in the Shahadah. (2)
- Practised physically/spiritually through the 5 Pillars. (3/4 with examples)
- Submission is the way to gain access to Paradise on Judgement Day. (2)
- Muhammed – as the perfect human is the example of submission. (2)

(6)

- (b) Salat is more important for Muslims living in Scotland than those living in a Muslim country. How far do you agree?

Agree

- Provides a sense of community particularly for a minority community. (2)
- Juma/Friday prayers allow regular meeting for minority community. (2)
- Connection with the Ummah – the world wide community. (2)
- Keeps Muslims on the Straight Path in face of temptation/distraction. (2/3 with examples)

Disagree

- Salat can be personal/family activity – does not matter where it is or with whom. (2)
- Purpose of Salat (submission) more important than location. (2)
- Salat – one of Five Pillars – an important duty for all Muslims. (2)
- Similar principle of distraction/temptation in all countries. (2)

(6)

Section D – Judaism

7 (a) What does the Torah teach about the nature of God?

- God is caring. (2)
- God is creative. (2)
- God of relationship (covenant). (2)
- Forgiving God (only certain people?). (2)
- Jealous God/Judging God. (2)
- Destructive God/Vengeful God. (2)

2 marks for each developed point. 1 mark if given in list.

(6)

(b) Jews believe that the Torah is the word of God. How helpful is this belief for Jews today?

Helpful

- Torah is relevant today as God's words do not change. (2)
- Means God can still 'speak' today to people. (2)
- Means Torah is true so promises will still be fulfilled. (2)
- If God's word then Jews still God's chosen people. (2)

Not Helpful

- Could be constraining as God's word 'cannot' change. (2)
- God's word for the past but need a 'new' word now. (2)
- God's word didn't help in the past so no use now either. (2)
- Idea could be used to 'justify' anything! (2)

2 sided evaluation needed for full marks.

Maximum of 4 marks if one sided.

(6)

8 (a) Explain the importance of the festival of Pesach in Judaism.

- Festival of deliverance. (2)
- 'Passing Over' represents being saved. (2)
- Reminder of the suffering that they escaped. (2)
- Reminder of God's Power: Plagues, Fiery Pillar, etc. (2)
- Shows God keeps promises. (2)
- Links to other 'deliverances' (Pogroms, Holocaust, Israel?). (2)
- History in 'story'. (2)

Answers must do more than just tell the story.
2 marks for each point made.

(6)

(b) The concept of Deliverance is not very important for Jews anymore. How far do you agree with this statement?

Disagree

- Judaism is based on deliverance, everything flows from it. (2)
- Torah and Covenant are worthless without deliverance. (2)
- Deliverance is part of God's promise and therefore central. (2)
- Past deliverance is an encouragement. (2)
- Difficult times need the idea of deliverance. (2)

Agree

- Linked to a wandering nomadic tribe – not needed now. (2)
- Nation of Israel is complete – have been delivered. (2)
- Not slaves any longer – idea of deliverance is redundant. (2)
- Torah more important – Judaism has moved on. (2)

2 sided evaluation needed. Maximum of 4 if 1 sided.

(6)

Section E – Issues of Belief and Morality

- 9 (a) How might a religious person explain evil?

**Answers will obviously depend on what religion is chosen.
Suitable answers would include some of these ideas:**

- corruption of good/absence of good (2)
- anything that goes against God (2)
- a force (2)
- a person? (2)
- sin/selfishness (2)
- opposite of good (2)
- Adam and Eve story (different versions?) (2)
- can't be explained, just accepted? (2)
- a result of Free Will (2)
- evil is suffering idea acceptable. (2)

If answer is a list then maximum of 1 mark for each point up to 4.
2 marks for each explained point (3 if well developed).

(6)

- (b) “Suffering makes you a better person.” How far do you agree with this statement?

Yes

- Any bad experience can build you up as a person. (2)
- No pain, no gain? (2)
- Medical analogy. (2)
- Able to help others more if you suffer. (2)
- Makes you less self-centred, therefore a better person. (2)

No

- Can destroy the individual (physically/spiritually). (2)
- How can something bad produce good? (2)
- How can ‘continual’ suffering make someone better? (2)
- Just an idea created by those who don't suffer! (2)

2 sided evaluation needed. Maximum of 4 marks if one sided.

(6)

- 10 (a) Choose a religion you have studied. Explain what it teaches about sex.

Depends on choice of religion. Possible answers could be:

- an enjoyable experience (2)
- given by God (2)
- for the purpose of procreation (2)
- ultimate sign of love and trust (2)
- a natural expression of love (2)
- not to be exploited (2)
- something to be treasured and respected (2)
- to be within marriage/committed relationship (2)
- etc (Holy book quotes allowed). (2)

2 marks for each clear point made (not a list).

(6)

- (b) 'Responsibility is central in a sexual relationship'. How far do you agree with Chris?

Agree

- If you can't be responsible you shouldn't be having sex. (2)
- Sex is too serious not to be responsible about it. (2)
- People can get hurt by irresponsible sex (emotional/slagging,etc). (2)
- STI's/Pregnancies, etc. (2)

Disagree

- Enjoyment is what is important not responsibility. (2)
- Too serious could take the 'fun' out of it. (2)
- What if the relationship is just for sex (no commitment). (2)
- Responsibility stops at 'protection'. (2)
- A natural activity. (2)

2 sided evaluation needed?

2 marks for each well explained point.

(6)

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]