



2013 Religious Studies

Standard Grade Credit

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Part One: General Marking Principles for Religious Studies Standard Grade Credit

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this Paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the specific Marking Instructions for each question.

- (a)** Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific Marking Instructions for the relevant question. If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed Marking Instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your Team Leader/Principal Assessor.
- (b)** Marking should always be positive ie, marks should be awarded for what is correct and not deducted for errors or omissions.

GENERAL MARKING ADVICE: Religious Studies Standard Grade Credit

The marking schemes are written to assist in determining the “minimal acceptable answer” rather than listing every possible correct and incorrect answer. The following notes are offered to support Markers in making judgements on candidates’ evidence, and apply to marking both end of unit assessments and course assessments.

1. 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.

Part Two: Marking Instructions for each Question

Religious Studies Standard Grade 2013 – Credit Level

Section A – Christianity

- 1 (a)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, Father! In your hands I place my spirit. He said this and died. (Luke 23:46)

- What happened next?** **6 KU**
- Luke 23:47 onwards.
The Gospel accounts from death onwards
- (b) **“The death of Jesus was a triumph, not a disaster.”**
Do you agree? **6 EV**
- Yes**
- shows God’s love for humanity (2)
 - repaired the relationship between God and humanity (2)
 - Jesus was willing to endure extreme suffering for humanity (2)
- No**
- Jesus died and suffered miserably (2)
 - proof of the resurrection is insubstantial therefore Jesus’ death was in vain (2)
- Any reasonable answer accepted**
- 2 (a) **Explain the importance of prayer for Christians.** **6 KU**
- adoration –contemplation of God’s love and power (2)
 - confession/forgiveness – awareness of human weaknesses (2)
 - intercession – prayer for sick/needful/intercede for someone (2)
 - petition – a request for help (2)
 - Thanksgiving – praise and thanks (2)
 - feeling close to God (2)
 - establishing a relationship with God (2)
 - feeling part of a bigger religious experience/community (2)
 - relation to suffering (2)
- (b) **“Christmas is a time for action, not prayer.”**
Do you agree? **6 EV**
- Yes**
- Christmas should encourage empathy/action for those less fortunate (2)
 - Christmas is a time for sharing (2)
 - Christmas is a time to focus on Jesus’ mission – his teaching/actions (2)
- No**
- Christmas is about giving thanks for Jesus through contemplation (2)
 - Christmas needs to be less commercialised, prayer can allow people to refocus on the true meaning of Christmas (2)
- Any reasonable answer accepted**

Section B – Hinduism

3 (a) Explain the relationship between Samsara and Moksha. 6 KU

- Samsara is the cycle of birth, death and rebirth (2)
- The samsaric cycle controls all human life (2)
- Every atman is capable of reaching its ultimate goal (2)
- This goal is a union with Brahman (2) or Moksha (2)
- Moksha is the end of the samsaric cycle (2) and to countless reincarnations (1)
- Good Karma allows movement (Atman) (2)

(b) “Belief in an eternal soul leads to selfish behaviour.”
Do you agree? 6 EV

Yes

- individual focus on personal liberation (2)
- Krishna advised Arjuna to kill his kith/kin because the body is merely a vessel (2) and this denigrates the value of life (1)

No

- in order to free the atman good karma must be accrued – this necessarily requires positive action that benefit many (2+)

Any reasonable answer accepted

4 (a) During the Sacred Thread ceremony Hindu boys receive a thread to wear.
Explain three other things that take place during the Sacred Thread ceremony. 6 KU

- Mother feeds the boy for the last time to show moving on (2)
- Priest and boy sit opposite a fire – fire is sacred to Agni (2)
- boy is given his own personal mantra – to use every time he prays (2)
- thread has three strands – tied in a spiritual knot (2)
- knot can symbolise unending Brahman (2)
- reminds the boy he has three debts to discharge (2)
- to God for all life (2)
- to his parents for his life (2)
- to his ancestors for imparting wisdom (2)
- Guru recites scriptures (1) – to acknowledge acceptance for the spiritual guidance of the boy (2)
- Boys can receive spiritual name to signify spiritual rebirth (2)
- Pretend to leave home (1) to show they are now beginning a new stage in life (2)

Explanations needed to get full marks.

Maximum of 3 marks if only stating what happens

- 4 (b) **Hindu boys wear the thread for the rest of their lives.
To what extent do you think this is necessary?**

6 EV

Yes

- Shows commitment to Hinduism **(2)**
- Shows respect for tradition/culture **(2)**

No

- oppressive/pressurises young boys **(2)**
- denies freedom of choice **(2)**

Any other reasonable answer accepted

Section C – Islam

- 5 (a) **Muslims believe God is “Alone”.**
Why is this an important belief in Islam?

6 KU

- central part of the Revelation is that there is only one God making reference to the Age of Ignorance **(2)**
- idolatry a key problem pre – Revelation. God must be Alone in order to overcome the worship of false Gods **(2)** with detail **(3)**
- implicit reference to Christian Trinity – a way of differentiating this **(2)**
- refers to one Creator and the omnipotence of God in controlling the universe **(3)**
- doctrine of Tawhid – oneness and unity of God and all that is created is connected together **(4)**

Any other reasonable answer

- (b) **“There are too many names for God. It is confusing.”**
How far do you agree with this statement?

6 EV

Agree a lot

- total of 99 names on God (and one unspoken) **(1)** may lead to confusion about what is the true nature of God **(2)**
- may be attempted to see God in parts and worship only those aspects that have personal appeal **(2)**
- appears to directly contradict the doctrine of God Alone and lead to theological confusion in the believer’s mind **(2)**

Agree a little

- the 99 names of God allow the believer to gain a better understanding of the true nature of God in all its complexity **(2)**
- the names overlap and all can be reduced in part to 6 main ones **(2)** with examples **(3)**
- the 99 names of God describe qualities of God – useful tool to enable the believer to feel close to God **(2)**
- the names point to key aspects of Islamic doctrine **(1)** with examples and explanations **(3/4)**
- eg God as judge refers to the doctrine of the Day of Judgment. God will judge each individual on their thoughts and actions and reward them with Paradise or punish them with Hell. Ties in with the concept of immanence – God are All Knowing.

Any other reasonable answer

6 (a) Why are the preparations for Hajj so important?

6 KU

- not just physical but mental preparations **(1)**
- pilgrim must enter a state of Ihram – a state of holiness **(2)**
- physical preparations such as paying off debts and resolving disputes allow for the mind of the pilgrim to be fully focussed on God **(2)**
- in the state of Ihram they are Submitting to the will of God – all previous preoccupations are of no importance **(2)**
- the wearing of the Ihram cloths indicate a connection to the Ummah – the Islamic community and equality between all Muslims **(2)**
- it is a sign of humility before God – stripped of material wealth as the pilgrim will be on Judgement Day **(2)**

Any other reasonable answer

**(b) “It is hard to feel close to God during Hajj.”
How far do you agree with this statement?**

6 EV

Agree

- too much physical activity in carrying out the tasks of Hajj may divert the pilgrim’s attention from God **(2)**
- the sheer vastness of the experience of being with the Ummah – such a huge amount of different Muslims will be distracting **(2)**
- may be full of self-importance at their standing as potential Hajjis and forget purpose of Hajj **(2)**
- heat and exhaustion due to rigours of Hajj may distract the pilgrim **(2)**

Disagree

- once in a lifetime, much waited for religious pilgrimage will focus the mind **(2)**
- experience shared with millions of other pilgrims will heighten closeness to God **(2)**
- being part of the Ummah – the brotherhood of Islam will bring the pilgrim closer to God **(2)** fulfilling one of the Five Pillars **(1)**
- moving through prescribed religious activities of Hajj will enable the pilgrim to feel close to God **(2)** with examples **(3/4)**

Any other reasonable answer

Section D – Judaism

7 (a) Explain the importance of Pesach for Jews.

6 KU

- it recalls a key event in the history of the Jewish people – delivery from slavery in Egypt (2)
- it marks the beginning of the Hebrews' journey to the promised land and the giving of the covenant (2)
- a reminder that God cares because he heard the people's cries and sent Moses to lead them (2)
- a reminder that God is a deliverer, because he led the Hebrews from slavery to freedom (2)
- a reminder of God's great power because he sent the plagues and parted the Red Sea (2)
- a reminder of God's mercy because God's Angel of Death "passed over" the houses of the Hebrews, sparing the lives of their first born sons (2)
- it celebrates the importance of freedom today as well as in the past (2)
- retelling the story keeps it alive in the minds of Jews and ensures that it is not all forgotten (2)
- it links all Jews together (past and present) as they all celebrate in the same way (2)

2 marks for each explanation. 3 marks available for a well developed explanation. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark.

(b) Should Jews still expect God to deliver them from trouble? Give reasons for your answer.

6 EV

Yes

- God doesn't change – he is as much a deliverer today as he was at the time of the Exodus (2)
- as Jews continue to keep their part of the covenant agreement they can expect God to continue to keep his part, which included the promise never to abandon them. (2)
- the Jewish Messianic hope means Jews can have a continuing expectation of deliverance (2)
- the holocaust didn't succeed – a sign that God had not completely abandoned the Jews. (2)

No

- many Jews today are not experiencing freedom – God has not delivered them (2)
- God didn't deliver the Jews from the holocaust, or other times of persecution in the recent past (2)
- Jews now have their own land and no longer need to be delivered (2)
- The deliverance from slavery was thousands of years ago – not relevant today (2)

2 marks for each explanation. 3 marks available for a well developed explanation. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark.

8 (a) Explain what happens during a Bar Mitzvah ceremony.

6 KU

- boy wears tallit (1)
- Cantor takes Sefer Torah (scrolls) from the Ark (2)
- Cantor says, "Blessed is he who gave the law to his people, Israel." (2)
- congregation says the Shema – "hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One" (2)
- male family members are invited to come up to the Bimah (platform) (2)
- boy is invited by his Hebrew name (2)
- Rabbi reads from the Torah (1)
- boy reads the portion of the Torah for that day (2)
- boy chants in an early musical form (2)
- boy traces the words using a silver yad (pointer) (2)
- member of the congregation hold up the scroll for all to see (2)
- another member of the congregation covers the scroll and returns it to the Ark (2)
- boy chants from The Prophets (Haftorah) (2)
- Father thanks God for bringing the boy to maturity (Baruch Shepatrani) (2)
- Rabbi recites Aaronic Blessing ("The Lord bless you and keep you...") (2)
- Rabbi gives a sermon to encourage the boy (2)
- boy may declare his intention to accept responsibilities (2)
- Rabbi gives the boy a copy of the service book (2)
- boy may lead prayers (1)

2 marks for each explanation. 3 marks available for a well developed explanation. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark.

Maximum of 3 for an unexplained list.

Do not accept wearing of Tephilin.

(b) **“When they turn thirteen Jewish girls should have exactly the same ceremony as Jewish boys.”**

6 EV

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

Yes

- traditional distinctions between boys and girls are outdated and there should be equality in all areas of Jewish life **(2)**
- today Bar and Bat Mitzvah’s are virtually identical in liberal Judaism because women are able to read the Torah and lead prayers in the synagogue **(2)**
- both boys and girls are taking on responsibility for observing the commandments, so they should mark this transition in the same way **(2)**

No

- Jewish boys and girls are taking on different responsibilities, they don’t observe exactly the same mitzvah, so it’s appropriate to have different ceremonies **(2)**
- in the Orthodox tradition a boy who is Bat Mitzvah can form part of a minyan (prayer quorum) and can lead prayers in the synagogue. This is not seen as a girl’s role **(2)**
- the Bar Mitzvah is strongly tied to the “laying of the tefillin” which is only done by males **(2)**
- having different ceremonies doesn’t mean one is superior to another – both boys and girls are taking on responsibility for following the mitzvot **(2)**
- Jewish religious life revolves around the home, not the synagogue, so although different, it’s wrong to see the ritual responsibilities of males as more important than those of females **(2)**

2 marks for each explanation. 3 marks available for a well developed explanation. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark.

Section E – Issues of Belief and Morality

9 (a) Explain what people believe about the causes of suffering. 6 KU

- Maximum of 4 marks if the candidates only talk about suffering caused by humans or nature.
- human nature – to be human is to suffer and we would not experience true human life without suffering (2) need suffering to balance life (3) with examples (4)
- fate – wrong place at the wrong time. Just inevitable and unfortunate (2)
- evil is the cause of suffering – a force for bad works in this world (2)
- religious people may believe it is caused by the separation from God (2) with examples (4) eg Fall from the Garden of Eden
- law of nature – the world would not exist as we know it if natural suffering was precluded (2) with examples (4)

Any other reasonable answer

(b) “Religious people cope with difficulties in their life better than non-religious people.” 6 EV
How far do you agree with this statement?

Agree

- believers have their faith to fall back on (1) with explanation (2)
- believers understand that suffering happens as a test/ will of God (2) eg Islam – life is a test of Submission in order to get to Paradise (2)
- believers believe that God will comfort them in their hour of need (2)
- religious people have a community to support them (2)
- religious people can turn to scripture/religious leader to help them understand/come to terms with their suffering (2)
- a clear example will get **two** marks

Disagree

- when suffering so overwhelmingly may question faith/wisdom of God (2) with examples (3)
- religious people are only human – suffering is an individual experience and we all cope differently (2)
- some non-religious people will cope equally well (1), have developed different coping strategies eg family, friends, therapy (2)

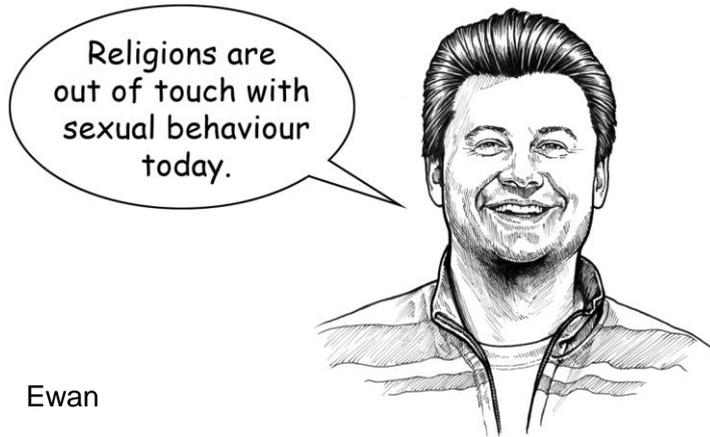
Any other reasonable answer

10 (a) Many young people who are religious wait until they are married before having sex. 6 KU
Why?

- sex is an expression of love and special (1) and individuals should wait and let it take place in a sacred union (3)
- sex is an expression of love and its purpose is procreation (2) should take place within the sanctity of marriage (2)
- multiple partners without commitment may lead to a cheapening of sex (2)
- sex may lead to children – religious people believe that marriage bring stability to the family (2)
- health risks (1) with examples (2)

Any other reasonable answer

(b)



How far do you agree with Ewan?

6 EV

A lot

- religion appears prudish and out of step with the more liberal attitudes developed in modern society **(2)**
- people may be in loving, stable and committed relationships without being married **(2)** religion appears to condemn this **(3)**
- some religious attitudes to homosexuality are offensive and harmful **(2)** with examples **(3)**

A little

- religion traditionally has celebrated the joy of sex – not prudish at all **(2)** with examples **(3)**
- may appear as if they are out of touch but our society needs a moral compass **(2)**
- some religious groups have provided great support to the cause of civil partnerships **(2)**
- great strides made in acceptance of same sex marriages **(2)**

Any other reasonable answer

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]