



2012 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 2012 Credit Level

Section A – Christianity

1 ***“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”*** ***(Luke 14:27)***

(a) *Jesus told his disciples that following him would be difficult. What difficulties are faced in following Jesus today?*

- A clash of Christian and secular values might make it difficult for Christians to express their views or follow their beliefs. **(2)**
- Portrayal of Christians in the media tends to be negative (with examples?) **(2)**
- Christian belief can be dismissed as irrational and unscientific. **(2)**
- In some parts of the world Christians do not have freedom to meet or worship and may experience persecution. **(2)**
- Jesus taught people to “turn the other cheek,” but this is very hard because the desire to get payback is natural for most. **(2)**
- In a consumer society it’s hard to be prepared to give up everything you have to follow Jesus. **(2)**
- Christians still die for their faith in some parts of the world. **(2)**
- It’s still hard to go against the flow and love your enemies or people on the margins of society, as Jesus taught. **(2)**
- Conflict between denominations. **(2)**

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

6 KU

(b) *“We believe in life before death.”*
Do you think that Christians should be more concerned about this life or life after death?
Give reasons for your answer.

This Life

- Jesus didn’t have much to say about the afterlife. He seems to have been more concerned with how people live now. **(2)**
(Additional marks available for examples of Jesus’ teaching about how people should live).
- When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God he didn’t mean heaven after you die – it’s earth as God would want it to be, so that should be a Christian’s first concern. **(2)**
- Christians can end up being “so heavenly minded they’re of no earthly use.” **(2)**
- Some Christians see resurrection of believers as something that happens at conversion - people symbolically start a new life on earth. Heaven is here. **(2)**
- Focusing on the afterlife might mean Christians miss out on the good things life has to offer. **(2)**

Life after Death

- Our days on earth are very short, but the afterlife is for eternity, so important to get it right. **(2)**
- If you believe in eternal punishment or reward your focus will be on trying to get into heaven and avoid hell. **(2)**
- Christianity is a resurrection faith – the whole point is that Jesus defeated death and that people can look forward to being resurrected too. **(2)**

Neither

- Jesus taught that how people live on earth determines how they will live after death, so you can't really think of this life and the afterlife separately. **(2)**

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

6 EV

2. (a) *"It's important for me to have a Christian wedding."*
*Describe what happens at a **Christian** wedding ceremony.*

- Couple and friends and relatives may gather at a church because they want to feel God's presence as they get married. **(2)**
- A minister/priest/religious leader may conduct the ceremony. **(1)**
- There will be prayers for the couple asking God to bless them and help them in their marriage. **(2)**
- There might be readings from the Bible, chosen to help the couple to think about the new life they are entering into **(2)**, eg 1 Corinthians 13 about love, Genesis 2 about the creation of Adam and Eve. **(+1 for example of appropriate Bible reading)**
- Promises are made to remain faithful in good times and bad " ... according to God's Holy Law." **(2)**
(Max. 3 for quoting wedding vows or service).
- Rings may be placed on an open bible and blessed before they are exchanged. **(2)**
- After declaring the couple married the celebrant might symbolically tie the hands of the bride and groom together **(2)** and quote Jesus – "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." **(+1)**
- There might be a short address to the couple, offering advice for married life and stressing Christian values. **(2)**
- Hymns - maybe chosen because they mean something to the couple, because they ask for God's help, or to give thanks. **(2)**
(Maximum of 3 for a list)

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

6 KU

- (b) *“A Christian marriage has a better chance of success than a non-religious one.”*

How far do you agree with this statement?

Agree

- Having a shared faith strengthens a marriage because the couple will find it easier to agree about important decisions, eg how to raise any children. **(2)**
- Believing they were married in “God’s presence” may help the couple to take the promises they make more seriously. **(2)**
- Christian wedding service makes a point of the need to be committed through good times and bad, to stay together for “better, for worse.” **(2)**
- Many Christians see marriage as a sacrament and believe that God is with them, strengthening their union. **(2)**
- Couples who have had a religious wedding will often have had an opportunity for counselling beforehand to make sure they understand the seriousness of their decision and their responsibilities. **(2)**

Disagree

- A strong marriage is based on love and self-sacrifice. People who aren’t religious are just as capable of showing these qualities. **(2)**
- The Secular Marriage service also stresses the seriousness of the commitment being made. **(2)**
- Christians aren’t exempt from the sorts of problems that make marriage fail. **(2)**
- Depends on your definition of “successful” – Christian disapproval of divorce may lead some couples to stay in unhappy or damaging relationships. **(2)**

2 marks available for each reason given. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark. 3 marks for a well developed reason. Candidates may offer arguments for one side or both.

6 EV

Section B – Hinduism

3. (a) *Explain the concept of Dharma.*

- Dharma – religion. (1)
- Dharma refers to the duties or responsibilities a person has in life. (1)
- Dharma refers to social (1), moral (1) and religious duties. (1)
- Not all Hindus have the same Dharma. (1)
- A person's Dharma depends on their stage in life (ashrama). (1)
- A person's Dharma depends on their caste/varna. (1)
- Hindus must fulfil their Dharma in order to accrue good karma. (2)
- Hindus must fulfil their Dharma in order to escape the cycle of rebirth and achieve Moksha. (2)
- Sanatana dharma is the eternal/universal order. (1)

6 KU

(b) *Does the Hindu idea of Dharma benefit society?
Give reasons for your answer.*

Yes

- gives structure. (2)
- affords clarity. (2)
- provides focus. (2)
- generates positive karma. (2)

No

- overwhelming responsibility. (2)
- takes away personal choice. (2)

Any reasonable answer accepted.

6 EV

4. (a) Explain **three things** that take place **during** Hindu birth ceremonies.

- When the baby is born the parents inform the priest so a horoscope can be prepared. (2)
- Horoscopes are prepared because Hindus believe that the stars and planets influence a person's life. (2)
- The horoscope also determines the first letter of the baby's name. (2)
- Babies receive two names. One name is to be used for sacred ceremonies and the other to be used on a daily basis. (2)
- Babies are often named after gods/goddess –inspirational. (2)
- Aum drawn on tongue using honey – atman enters body. (2)
- First sunlight -First solid food –to negate the impurities consumed as a foetus. (2)
- First solid food– believed to enhance speech. (2)
- Items (books/fruits, toys/money etc) are spread before the child. The baby is allowed to touch these – these indicate the baby's interests for life. (2)
- Ears pierced – distracts evil spirits. (2)
- First haircut – to cut bad things out of life. (2)

Maximum of 3 for a list.

6 KU

(b) *Do you think there should be religious ceremonies for new babies? Give reasons for your answer.*

Yes

- welcomes new life. (2)
- celebrates new life. (2)
- maintains traditions. (2)
- strengthens religious community. (2)

No

- takes away freedom of choice. (2)
- archaic traditions in a changing world. (2)
- too many samskaras/festivals. (2)

Any reasonable answer accepted.

6 EV

Section C – Islam

5 (a) *Explain how Zakat teaches Muslims submission to the Will of God.*

- Submission means to place God above all other things. **(2)**
- Zakat is when 2.5% of surplus wealth is given to the poor and needy. **(1)**
- emphasises the idea that a Muslim is steward on behalf of God – wealth belongs ultimately to God **(2)** acknowledgement of God's power. **(1)**
- reduces attachment to monetary gain. **(2)**
- faith is deepened as realisation that submission to God is the most important. **(2)**

Any other reasonable answer

6 KU

(b) *'Submission to the Will of God makes life better.'*
How far would a Muslim agree with this statement?

- Submission allows Muslims to accept the guidance of God **(2)** life is more straightforward. **(1)**
- Submission gives ethical structure to life – easy to make the right moral decision. **(2)**
- Promise of Paradise if one submits ,provides incentive to do good. **(2)**
- reduces selfish behaviour and a greater sense of community **(2)** as one is part of the faith community. **(3)**

Any other reasonable answer

6 EV

6. (a) Explain **three things** that take place **during** Muslim birth ceremonies.

- Muslim call to prayer or adhaan ("God is great, there is no God but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Come to prayer.") is whispered into the right ear of the child by his or her father. Introduction to Islam. **(2)**
- The baby's first taste should be something sweet, so parents may chew a piece of date and rub the juice along the baby's gums. It was a practice carried out by Muhammed. **(2)**
- After seven days the baby's head is shaved. This is to show that the child is the servant of Allah. **(2)**
- Muslims weigh it and give the equivalent weight in silver to charity- an act of compassion. **(2)**
- Muslim baby boys are circumcised when they are seven days old - outward sign of being a Muslim. **(2)**
- Baby is named on the seventh day – usually names of prophets or Islamic religious names to identify the baby as a Muslim. **(2)**
- Aqeeqah - a sheep is sacrificed and the meat is distributed to relatives and neighbours and also given to the poor thus strengthening the Ummah. **(2)**

Maximum of 3 for a list.

6 KU

(b) *Do you think there should be religious ceremonies for new babies? Give reasons for your answer.*

Yes

- welcomes child into the religion and first step to becoming part of the Ummah- Muslim community. **(2)**
- child blessed in the eyes of God. **(1)**
- welcomes child into the family. **(1)**
- sets the tone of a religious life - lays a foundation for the future of being a Muslim. **(2)**

No

- child too young to understand or remember the ceremony making it meaningless to the individual. **(2)**
- more meaningful to make the decision as an adult. **(2)**
- child has no choice in joining the religion – infringement of basic human rights. **(2)**

6EV

(See answers also to (4b) non religious specific answers accepted.)

Section D – Judaism

7 ***“Never forget these commands I am giving you today. Teach them to your children.”*** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

(a) *Explain the importance of God’s commands for Jews.*

- They include positive and negative commands, so they tell Jews what to do and what **not** to do. (2)
- A direct revelation from God to Moses on Sinai, therefore completely trustworthy. (2)
- Halakah -they provide a “path” which covers all aspects of life - worship, ethics, society etc. (2)
- They form the basis of the Jews’ Covenant relationship with God - keeping the Commandments is the responsibility of all Jews and benefits all Jews. (3)
- Keeping the commands is a kind of worship because Jews believe they are serving God and connecting with Him as they keep them. (2)
- Jewish scriptures show that things went badly for Israel when the Jews strayed from God’s laws. (2)

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

6 KU

(b) *“Following all the commandments makes life better.”*
How far would Jews agree with this statement?

Agree

- As they try to keep His commands, Jewish people have a constant reminder of their relationship with God. (2)
- God’s guidelines for life mean you don’t have to figure out what’s right for yourself. (2)
- God has promised to defend and protect them when they keep the Covenant. (2)
- Jews are united in their observation of the commandments so it strengthens community. (2)
- Because the commands cover every aspect of life, following them helps Jews to live disciplined lives and to grow stronger. (2)
- Most of the laws have a positive purpose, eg to protect life or encourage responsibility or compassion – all benefit from this. (2)
- By following God’s rules, Jews are a “light to the nations”, pointing others to God and making the whole world more holy. (2)

Disagree

- Every aspect of life is governed by rules, so some may find this constraining or burdensome. (2)
- Some see halakah (Jewish Law) as a legalistic approach to religion which is more about ritual than spirituality. (2)
- Rules which make Jews stand out (eg about ritual purity) could attract resentment, ridicule or persecution. (2)
- Keeping the covenant can be practically difficult in an increasingly secular world. (2) eg observing the Sabbath (+1 for example)
- The downside of feeling special is that you might feel different and that you don’t fit in. (2)
- Some laws (chukim) don’t seem to have any practical purpose, eg rules about food and clothing (2)

2 marks available for each reason given. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark. 3 marks for a well developed reason. Candidates may offer arguments for one side or both.

6 EV

8. (a) Explain **three things** that take place **during** Jewish birth ceremonies.

Boys

- Friends and relatives gather at home, synagogue or hospital to celebrate with a meal as required by Jewish Law. **(2)**
- Father wears tallit and tefillin. **(1)**, as a reminder of the Commandments. **(1)**
- A woman takes the child from the mother and carries him on a cushion to a room where the men are waiting. **(1)** because women are not present at the ceremony. **(1)**
- Woman hands the child to her husband who hands him to the mohel **(1)**
- A man who is religiously qualified to perform the brit. **(2)**
- Child is briefly placed on an empty chair/chair of Elijah **(1)** who is thought to preside over all circumcisions. **(1)**
- Child is placed in the lap of a man chosen to be Sandek (godfather) and he holds child's legs while operation takes place. **(2)**
- Mohel performs circumcision/removal of foreskin. **(1)** as an outward sign of the covenant. **(2)**
- Father recites blessing marking child's entry into the covenant. **(2)**
- Mohel blesses the child and publicly announces the Hebrew name. **(1)** which he will use in formal rituals. **(1)**
- Child is returned to the mother for feeding. **(2)**
- Rabbi blesses the baby. **(1)**

Girls

- Blessed and given Hebrew name at Synagogue on first Sabbath after birth. **(2)**
- Father reads from the Torah. **(1)**
- Rabbi prays for welfare of the mother and child. **(2)**
- In some places Simchat Bat – a more elaborate ceremony for girls (No fixed pattern but often includes reference to important Jewish women in history.) **(2)**
- Rabbi blesses the baby. **(1)**

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

Maximum of 3 for a list.

6 KU

- (b)** *Do you think there should be religious ceremonies for new babies?
Give reasons for your answer.*

Yes

- A chance for the baby to be part of the community and to belong from the start of their life. **(2)**
- For Jews it's essential because children are included in the covenant. **(2)**
- The ceremony gives the family a chance to thank God for the safe arrival of the baby. **(2)**

No

- Could be resented later by children who feel they had no choice. **(2)**
- Children should be able to explore different religious and world views. **(2)**
- Children should be allowed to form their own beliefs when they are older. **(2)**
- Babies are too young to understand what's going on, so the ceremony is meaningless. **(2)**

2 marks available for each reason given. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark. 3 marks for a well developed reason. Candidates may offer arguments for one side or both.

6 EV

Section E – Issues of Belief and Morality

9. (a) *Christians believe in life after death. Choose **another** religion you have studied.
What does it teach about life after death?*

Hinduism

- Your soul/atman returns for another life as a new baby person or animal. **(2)**
- The cycle of life means your soul keeps returning for many lives. **(2)**
- If you have good karma you come back for a better life but if you have bad karma you come back for a worse life. **(2)**
- If your soul is pure/you have lots of good karma, you achieve Moksha/escape from Samsara/join up with God/Brahman. **(2)**

Sikhs and **Buddhists** accept the main elements of the Hindu belief in Karma and Samsara, however there are a few differences which candidates might know about, eg

- In Buddhism there is no soul or atman to reincarnate. One life just sparks off the next. **(2)**
- Buddhists seek liberation to Nirvana (which is extinction). There is no God. **(2)**
- Sikhs also depend on God's grace for liberation. **(2)**
- If a Sikh is "Gurmukh"/God-filled/devoted to God they can join God at liberation. **(2)**

Islam

- "Life in the Grave" after burial (either blissful or painful). **(2)**
- You are resurrected on judgement day (in your own body). **(2)**
- Angels read record of deeds during life. **(2)**
- Allah judges who is rewarded and who is punished. **(2)**
- Good rewarded with Paradise (Jannah)/evil are punished with hell (Jahannam). **(2)**

Judaism

- Jews believe in life after death, but it isn't clearly defined. **(2)**
- Some kind of reward or cleansing (no eternal hell). **(2)**
- Reward is heaven or nearness to God. **(2)**
- Some say resurrection when the Messiah comes. **(2)**
- Some believe in reincarnation. **(1)**
- Some say wicked souls are destroyed after death. **(2)**

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

6 KU

- (b) *“The evidence for life after death is convincing.”*
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

Yes

- There are many documented cases of out-of-body experiences which show that a person’s consciousness (mind? soul?) can live outside the body. This supports the idea that people are more than just physical stuff. **(2)**
- Near death experiences (tunnel, light etc) are similar wherever they happen in the world, so not culturally driven. **(2)**
- Christians may argue that people’s transformed lives prove that Jesus really did beat death and rise again. **(2)**
- Many People claim to have memory of past lives which may be evidence of reincarnation. **(2)**
- If Holy scriptures are revealed by God their teaching about life after death must be true. **(2)**

No

- While it may be very convincing for the individual, it’s totally subjective so not much use as evidence for others. **(2)**
- People who are religious tend to give a religious interpretation to their experiences, where an atheist would look for a physical explanation. **(2)**
- Life after death is a transcendent idea, so it can’t be tested or measured scientifically. **(2)**
- There are alternative natural explanations for the things people cite as evidence for life after death. **(2) (+2 additional marks available for examples of alternative explanations).**
- Some will reject the idea of Holy Scriptures as reliable sources of truth about key questions because they don’t accept ideas like “revelation” or “ultimate truth”.**(2)**

2 marks available for each reason given. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark. 3 marks for a well developed reason. Candidates may offer arguments for one side or both.

6 EV

10. (a) Explain **three** reasons why wars start.

- Negotiation has failed to achieve compromise/surrender so war is seen as the only option left for resolving a conflict. **(2)**
- Some leaders will take their country to war as a show of strength to other nations. **(2)**
- Persistent breach of UN resolutions might lead to war as a last resort. **(2)**
- It's the duty of a state to defend its people/land/property/resources from an aggressor. **(2)**
- To overthrow an evil government/dictator who is seen as a potential future threat. **(2)**
- To defend innocent citizens from their own governments where they are oppressive. **(2)**
- To increase power/territory by taking another country's assets/resources/land etc. **(2)**
- To support/protect an ally who may have asked for help. **(2)**
- A civil war might be started to try to bring about a change of government or to achieve independence. **(2)**

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

6 KU

(b) *"Religious people should always be willing to fight for their country."*
How far do you agree?

Agree

- Refusing to fight means failing to meet the responsibility every citizen has to defend and protect others. **(2)**
- Respect for the sanctity of life makes it necessary to fight to defend and protect it. **(2)**
- Refusing to fight is cowardly and it's unfair to leave it to others to do the fighting. **(2)**
- Fighting may be necessary to secure the sort of freedom religious people want to enjoy. **(2)**
- Fighting might be necessary if you want to "love your neighbour." **(2)**

Disagree

- Fighting in a war is a moral choice, so it should be up to individuals to live according to the principles they hold. **(2)**
- A person may feel that their holy scriptures forbid fighting or killing, eg "You shall not kill". **(2)**
- There are other ways in which they could contribute to the war effort, e.g. medical corp. **(2)**
- The war might not meet the criteria for a Just or Moral war, eg, it might not be a last resort. **(2)**

2 marks available for each reason given. A simple point which is not developed may attract 1 mark. 3 marks for a well developed reason. Candidates may offer arguments for one side or both.

6 EV

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]