



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2025

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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# Religious Studies

Paper 2a

The Christian Church  
with a Focus on the  
Catholic Church

**MV18**

**[GRE21]**

**FRIDAY 30 MAY, AFTERNOON**

## Time

1 hour 30 minutes, plus your additional time allowance

## Instructions to Candidates

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

**You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.**

**Do not write on blank pages.**

Complete in black ink only. **Do not write with a gel pen.**

Answer **all** the questions in **Section A** and **two** from **three** questions in **Section B** in the spaces provided in this booklet.

## Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **Section B** Questions **5(c)**, **6(c)** and **7(c)**, where **two** questions only are required to be completed.

Figures in brackets printed at the end of each question indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

## Section A

Answer **all** questions.

### 1 The birth of the Christian Church

(a) (i) Who compared the church to a human body?  
[1 mark]

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(ii) Name **two** gifts of the Holy Spirit.  
[1 mark for each]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Give **two** characteristics of the Early Church.  
[1 mark for each]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_





## 2 The role of the church in contemporary society

(a) (i) What is community cohesion? [1 mark]

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(ii) Name **one** organisation that works for community cohesion. [1 mark]

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(iii) Suggest **one** way the church can contribute to the local community. [1 mark]

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(iv) Give **two** reasons why fewer people are practising their faith. [1 mark for each]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_





### 3 Church festivals



(a) Describe some of the ways in which Catholics prepare for Easter during Lent. [5 marks]

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**(b)** Explain why the Catholic Church celebrates Easter.  
[5 marks]

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(c) “It is important for Catholics to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

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**(b)** Do you think women should play a greater role in the Catholic Church?

Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

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**(c)** “The Catholic Church could do more to encourage people to become priests.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

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## Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Write on the pages provided at the end of the examination paper.

### 5 Church buildings and furniture

- (a) Describe some of the different styles of church architecture. [5 marks]
- (b) Explain the significance of **three** key items of furniture in the Catholic Church. [5 marks]
- (c) “Praying at home is as important as worshipping in a church building.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10 marks]

## **6 Sacraments in the Catholic Church**

- (a)** Outline the ceremony of Confirmation in the Catholic Church. [5 marks]
- (b)** Explain why the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is important for Catholics. [5 marks]
- (c)** “The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not taken seriously enough by most Catholics.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10 marks]

## **7 Worship in the Catholic Church**

- (a)** Describe the ways in which the rosary is used to help Catholics when praying. [5 marks]
- (b)** Explain why the Bible is important in Catholic worship. [5 marks]
- (c)** “Encouraging all Christians to worship together should be the main priority of the Catholic Church today.”

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view. [10 marks]



**(b)** Explain the significance of **three** key items of furniture in the Catholic Church. [5 marks]

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**(b)** Explain why the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is important for Catholics. [5 marks]

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**(b)** Explain why the Bible is important in Catholic worship.  
[5 marks]

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## SOURCES

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For Examiner's use only	
Question Number	Marks
<b>Section A</b>	
1	
2	
3	
4	
<b>Section B</b>	
5	
6	
7	
<b>Total Marks</b>	

Examiner Number

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