



Rewarding Learning

**General Certificate of Secondary Education
2025**

Religious Studies

Paper 2b

**The Christian Church with a Focus
on the Protestant Church**

[GRE22]

FRIDAY 30 MAY, AFTERNOON

**MARK
SCHEME**

General Marking Instructions

Introduction

Mark schemes are intended to ensure that the GCSE examinations are marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide markers with an indication of the nature and range of candidates' responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses.

Assessment objectives

Below are the assessment objectives for Religious Studies.

Candidates must:

- AO1** demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority; and
- AO2** analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

Quality of candidates' responses

In marking the examination papers, examiners should be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their GCSE examinations.

Flexibility in marking

Mark schemes are not intended to be totally prescriptive. No mark scheme can cover all the responses which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner.

Positive marking

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for what candidates know, understand and can do rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old GCSE candidate.

Awarding zero marks

Marks should only be awarded for valid responses and no marks should be awarded for an answer which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

Types of mark schemes

Mark schemes for tasks or questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

Levels of response

Tasks and questions requiring candidates to respond in extended writing are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the 'best fit' bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award to any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement. The following guidance is provided to assist examiners.

- **Threshold performance:** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.
- **Intermediate performance:** Response which clearly merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.
- **High performance:** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

AO1 (5 mark responses):

Level 1: The candidate presents something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge and understanding.

Level 2: The candidate presents a clear knowledge and understanding with some development.

Level 3: The candidate presents a detailed answer showing very good development.

AO2 (5 mark responses):

Level 1: The candidate presents opinion supported by one simple reason.

Level 2: The candidate presents opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.

Level 3: The candidate presents a well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.

Quality of written communication

Quality of written communication is assessed in the extended writing questions worth 10 marks in Section B of each examination paper. These questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication.

For conciseness, quality of written communication is distinguished within levels of response as follows:

Level 1: Quality of written communication is basic.

Level 2: Quality of written communication is limited.

Level 3: Quality of written communication is good.

Level 4: Quality of written communication is very good.

Level 5: Quality of written communication is excellent.

In interpreting these level descriptions, examiners should refer to the more detailed guidance which is provided on the next page:

AO2 (10 mark responses):

Level 1 (Basic): The candidate presents some information in a simple form. **Basic arguments** are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Inaccurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; inappropriate style of writing with no coherent structure. Basic use of specialist vocabulary.

Level 2 (Limited): The candidate presents one or two relevant points. **Limited arguments** are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights, some accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; style of writing just appropriate with limited coherent structure. Limited use of specialist vocabulary.

Level 3 (Good): A Level 3 response could be one-sided. One developed reason and one with slight development would reach this level. There must be relevance to religion, but this could be slight/general. **Good reasoned arguments** are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Mainly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a reasonably mature style of writing and some coherent structure evident. Good use of specialist vocabulary.

Level 4 (Very good): Different points of view must be considered, but the consideration does not need to be balanced i.e. one view could be much briefer than the other. **Well-formed and reasoned arguments** are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights, accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a mature style of writing with a mainly coherent structure. Very good use of specialist vocabulary.

Level 5 (Excellent): The difference between Level 4 and Level 5 is the quality of the argument and the coherence of the response. There needs to be more than a passing reference to religion. However, the points of view may not be completely balanced, and a non-religious counter-argument is still acceptable. **Very well-formed and reasoned arguments** are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights, highly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a sophisticated style of writing set within a coherent structure. Excellent use of specialist vocabulary.

Section A

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Candidates must answer **all** questions in this section.

1 The Early Church

(a) (i) Who compared the church to a human body?

- St Paul
(AO1)

[1]

(ii) Name *two* gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Answers may include:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miraculous powers
- Prophecy
- Understanding
- Ability to distinguish between spirits
- Ability to speak in different kinds of tongues
- Ability to interpret tongues

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(iii) Give *two* characteristics of the Early Church.

Answers may include:

- Preaching
- Teaching
- Prayer
- Miracles
- Hymn singing
- Sharing

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(b) Explain why the events of Pentecost were so important for the apostles.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of Pentecost for the apostles.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- This day marks the birth of the Christian Church and the beginning of its mission to the rest of the world.
- Jesus fulfilled his promise of the Holy Spirit, e.g. in Luke 24:49 Jesus told the apostles that he would send the Holy Spirit.
- The Apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- It confirmed their belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 3000 people were baptised on this day.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “Christians today have a lot to learn from the Early Church.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Target: Evaluation of the relevance of the characteristics of the Early Church for Christians today.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	The candidate presents some relevant information.	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	4–5

Answers may include:

- The Early Church shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and gave to those who were in need. (Acts 2:42–47)
- Members of the Early Church weren’t afraid to preach to the unconverted and to speak out to teach their converts about how to live as true followers of Jesus. (Matthew 10:5–14)
- Members of the Early Church met on the first day of the week to worship and to remember the events of the Last Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:23–25) They also devoted themselves to prayer and hymn singing. (Colossians 3:16) In recent times there has been a significant decline in religious observance.

On the other hand:

- The Early Church didn’t always set a good example for Christians today. Paul refers to divisions in the Early Church.
- There were no clear roles or structure within the Early Church, compared to how well organised the Christian Churches are today.
- Community living/sharing possessions isn’t possible or practical today for many reasons.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

2 The role of the church in contemporary society

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

(a) (i) What is community cohesion?

Answers may include:

Community cohesion describes the ability of a community to be inclusive.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[1]

(ii) Name *one* organisation that works for community cohesion.

Answers may include:

- Salvation Army
- Corrymeela
- Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[1]

(iii) Suggest *one* way the church can contribute to the local community.

Answers may include:

- Food banks
- Collections at Christmas
- Visit the sick/lonely
- Community events, e.g. youth groups

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[1]

(iv) Give *two* reasons why fewer people are practising their faith.

Answers may include:

- Society has become more secular
- There are too many distractions
- Some people disagree with the church's stance on moral issues

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(b) Do you think the Christian Church does enough to promote community cohesion?

Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Analysis of the role of the Christian Church in promoting community cohesion.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	The candidate presents some relevant information.	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	4–5

Answers may include:

- The Christian Church contributes to community cohesion by making parish communities more inclusive. For example, some churches hold Sunday services in different languages and host events to celebrate different cultures within the community.
- Church based organisations such as the Salvation Army help members of the community who are vulnerable and lonely.
- The Christian Church is doing all it can to promote community cohesion. There is only so much that it can do in an increasingly secular society where the Church has less influence on how people choose to live their lives.

On the other hand:

- The Christian Church needs to do more to promote community cohesion because there are so many problems that still need to be addressed in local communities, e.g. poverty and discrimination.
- Church teaching on issues such as same sex relationships and the role of women in the Church may make some members of the community feel excluded. Therefore, more still needs to be done by the church to promote community cohesion.
- Christians in Northern Ireland are divided on many issues. If Christians want to promote community cohesion, then the different Christian Churches need to show that they are united and have greater respect for one another.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

(c) “Church sermons should be used to teach about social and moral issues.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of whether church sermons should be used to comment on social and moral issues.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate presents some relevant information. 	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- The Church has a responsibility to set a moral example in the world for its followers with many looking to the sermon, the Bible and Church doctrine for moral guidance to address contemporary issues.
- Ministers and pastors use sermons to address the moral issues people are facing today, e.g. abortion, poverty, war etc.
- Within a secular society it can be challenging for Christians to understand fully how they should express their faith without regular spiritual nourishment and sermons are often used as an opportunity for believers to develop their moral compass to help guide them.
- Sermons and teaching with a focus on social and moral issues help give clear instruction for Church members and these can be passed from generation to generation in the home.

On the other hand:

- Many would argue that the church is a place for worship and prayer and it isn't a place for preaching about matters of personal choice.
- In the example of abortion – all Christian churches agree that life begins in the womb, but in cases of rape or incest many argue the mother's mental health and future life must be considered. Such sermons may be inappropriate if young children are present.
- In the issue of euthanasia there is debate on whether all forms of euthanasia should be considered immoral in Christian Churches. Some members may ask if this is the most compassionate and loving viewpoint.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

3 Church festivals

(a) Describe some of the ways in which Christians prepare for Christmas during Advent.

Target: Knowledge of the ways Christians prepare for Christmas during Advent.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Advent is a time of reflection when people re-evaluate their lives in the lead up to Christmas. Many Christians decide on changes they want to make in their own lives and ask God to help them make a fresh start.
- The Advent wreath is lit each Sunday representing the patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. On Christmas Day a white candle is lit symbolising Jesus as the 'light of the world'. Advent wreaths are circular and have evergreen leaves to represent the eternal life of God.
- Some individuals create a Jesse Tree as the family tree of Jesus, tracing his ancestry back to Jesse, the father of King David. It focuses on the humanity of Jesus and reminds them of the importance of the Incarnation.
- Children may open an Advent Calendar and carry out more good deeds for others.
- Many Christians attend services and children make Christingles representing Jesus as the light of the world, his sacrifice and the love Jesus has for all.
- Some Christians use the time of Advent to help those less fortunate locally by supporting the Salvation Army or other charities.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) Explain why Christians celebrate Christmas.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of Christmas for Christians.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One relevant and accurate point.	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two relevant and accurate points.• Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed.• A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level.	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two or three relevant and accurate points with development.• Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development.	4–5

Answers may include:

- Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Jesus' birth was a miracle – he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary.
- Christians are thankful that God sent his son Jesus to bring salvation to the world. Christians celebrate the love God has shown for the world at Christmas.
- At Christmas, Christians remember how God became 'incarnate' or became man in the form of Jesus.
- Christians celebrate Christmas because the birth of Jesus was 'good news', as the angel said.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “It is important for Christians to celebrate the Epiphany.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Target: Evaluation of the importance of the Epiphany.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	The candidate presents some relevant information.	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.	4–5

Answers may include:

- Epiphany is an important festival because it marks the day Jesus was revealed to the world. It is the twelfth day of Christmas and an end of the Christmas festival.
- It commemorates the visit of the Wise Men and Jesus’ revelation to the Gentiles. The symbolism of the gifts informs Christians about the nature of Jesus, e.g. gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, myrrh for mortality (Jesus suffering and death).
- It is an important reminder that the journey of faith continues beyond Christmas and there are many important Christian traditions associated with Epiphany. For example, in some countries families exchange presents, there are parades and special food is eaten, e.g. Three Kings Bread.

On the other hand:

- The Epiphany is not one of the most important festivals for Christians and many Christians don’t celebrate it. It is more important to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Without Jesus’ birth the Epiphany wouldn’t have happened.
- The Epiphany is only one event recorded in one Gospel. The resurrection of Jesus is a more significant event for Christians to celebrate because it is central to the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of Jesus there would be no Christian faith.
- There are other more important festivals for Christians to celebrate e.g. Pentecost and Harvest.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels
(AO2)

[5]

15

4 Church government

(a) Describe the work of a minister or pastor.

Target: Knowledge of the role of a minister or pastor.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two relevant and accurate points. • Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. • A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. • Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Ministers or pastors work in parishes or their local communities. They have been given authority to serve God’s people and lead them to union with God.
- They lead Sunday worship – they preach the sermon and celebrate communion.
- They celebrate the sacraments / ordinances with the parish community, e.g. baptisms and marriages.
- Ministers or pastors support the local community in times of need, e.g. they visit the sick and lead funeral services.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE MARKS

(b) Do you think women should play a greater role in the Protestant churches?

Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Analysis of the role of women in the Protestant churches.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate presents some relevant information. 	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- In society it is wrong and illegal to discriminate against someone based on their gender. Women should be allowed to have an equal role to that of men in the Christian Churches.
- Jesus had many followers who were women, e.g. women witnessed the resurrection. Jesus treated everyone as equals and the Church today must do the same.
- The Anglican Church have allowed women to have leadership roles, e.g. ministers and bishops. Other Christian Churches should follow their example and allow women to become ministers.
- There is a shortage of ministers and pastors. Allowing women to be ordained may help address this issue.

On the other hand:

- Women already play a significant role in the Christian Churches. There are many other roles for women in the church, not just ordained ministry.
- Despite treating men and women equally on many occasions, Jesus only chose twelve men as his apostles.
- Some Christians still follow teaching from St Paul who wrote that women shouldn't have authority over men and that women should be silent in church.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

(c) “Churches could do more to encourage people to be ordained as ministers or pastors.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of key leadership roles in the Christian Church.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported by one simple reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate presents some relevant information. 	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Ordination gives formal recognition that a person has been called by God to ministry. Only ordained ministers can celebrate the sacraments and it is important that people are appointed to continue with these important Christian traditions.
- All denominations need to do more to encourage people to become ministers/pastors as there are so few of them today. If more people aren’t encouraged to become ordained, there will be a severe shortage and fewer people available to serve and meet the needs of their community.
- Some Christian denominations could do more to encourage people to become priests by allowing women to be ordained as priests.

On the other hand:

- Some Churches don’t want to change traditions that have been followed for hundreds of years by encouraging female clergy.
- Christian Churches need to do more to encourage people to get involved in their church regardless of whether they are ordained. It would make members of the congregation feel valued as they are making a worthwhile contribution to the church.
- The Church can do very little to encourage more people to become ministers or pastors in a society that has become increasingly secular and less concerned about religion in general.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

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MARKS

Section B

Candidates must answer **two** questions from this section.

5 Church buildings and furniture

(a) Describe some of the different styles of church architecture.

Target: Knowledge of different styles of church architecture.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Church buildings are generally constructed in one of three shapes: rectangular/barn style, cruciform or circular. Some have other unique features such as hall and tower or gothic style.
- Churches that are barn style are used by denominations that focus on the importance of the Word of God. Associated mainly with Baptist and Presbyterian Churches.
- Churches that are cruciform meaning they are cross shaped tend to highlight the importance of the death of Christ. It is divided into three main parts; the nave which is the main part or body of the church where the congregation sits; the transepts often used for small chapels and the chancel which is the sanctuary area for the altar and possibly the choir.
- Churches that are circular are often new or modern churches. This style of Church represents community and fellowship. It also highlights that every member of the church is of equal importance. The circle also represents Christ's never-ending love for his people.
- Churches which are hall and tower are very similar to barn style churches.
- Historically church buildings were seen to be a place of refuge from attacks. Some church buildings may also be like a fortress. The tower is symbolic of taking refuge in God. High towers are often decorated with steeples or spires pointing towards the sky symbolising the Resurrection of Christ.
- Churches that are gothic in style are from the Middle Ages and Victorian times. It is associated with high ceilings and pointed arches, large

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

towers and spires. The design points to the mystery and holiness along with the majesty of God. Many cathedrals are gothic in style.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

(b) Explain the significance of *three* key items of church furniture in a Protestant church.

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MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of items of church furniture.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

Reference should be made to any three key furnishings, e.g. pulpit, lectern, font/baptistery, communion table/altar or tabernacle.

- The communion table: Located at the front of the church in the sanctuary area. The minister celebrates communion here. It is visible for everyone in the church to see and it is usually raised up.
- Pulpit: A raised platform and reading desk, from which the sermon is given usually by the minister, elder or pastor. It is raised to signify its importance and so all can see and hear when the sermon is being preached. It is a central and prominent feature in many Protestant traditions. The central location of the pulpit symbolises the centrality and authority of the Word of God in the life of the Church.
- Baptismal Font: The font is found either to the side of the sanctuary area or at the back of the church at the main entrance. The Baptismal font is used to welcome new members to the church. This is mainly infants. Baptism is one of the sacraments of the church and the first sacrament of initiation.
- Baptismal pool: This is a large tiled tank which holds water for baptism. It is a very important feature of a Baptist Church. The baptistery is for believer's baptism and full immersion takes place. This type of baptism reminds Christians of Christ's baptism. It is directly below the communion table and is covered when not in use.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Praying at home is as important as worshipping in a church building.”
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Target: Analysis and evaluation of the importance of different types of worship.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported which may be by one or two simple reasons.	The candidate presents some information in a simple form. Basic arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Inaccurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; inappropriate style of writing with no coherent structure. Basic use of specialist vocabulary.	1–2
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons with one developed.	The candidate presents one or two relevant points. Limited arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Some accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; style of writing just appropriate with limited coherent structure. Limited use of specialist vocabulary.	3–4
Level 3	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	A Level 3 response could be one-sided. One developed reason and one with slight development would reach this level. There must be relevance to religion, but this could be slight/general. Good reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Mainly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a reasonably mature style of writing with some coherent structure evident. Good use of specialist vocabulary.	5–6

Level 4	Evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	Different points of view must be considered, but the consideration does not need to be balanced, i.e. one view could be much briefer than the other. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a mature style of writing with a mainly coherent structure. Very good use of specialist vocabulary.	7–8
Level 5	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	The difference between Level 4 and Level 5 is the quality of the argument and the coherence of the response. There needs to be more than a passing reference to religion. However, the points of view may not be completely balanced, and a non-religious counter-argument is still acceptable. Very well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Highly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a sophisticated style of writing set within a coherent structure. Excellent use of specialist vocabulary.	9–10

AVAILABLE MARKS
20

Answers may include:

- Praying at home is a more intimate experience. It allows the believer to pray at any time on any given day of the week.
- Jesus told his followers to pray in secret. Jesus also went to lonely places to pray alone. Christians should follow his example.
- Public worship can be distracting whereas praying at home is more focused. The believer can reflect or meditate as long as necessary on their intention or thanksgiving.

On the other hand:

- Public worship in a church building creates a sense of community and enables the faith community to support each other spiritually.
- Worship in a church building is important because it gives Christians the opportunity to receive communion. This brings people closer to God.
- Public worship in a church building follows Jesus' teaching: 'Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.'

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

6 Sacraments and ordinances

(a) Describe the ceremony of baptism in a Protestant Church of your choice.

Target: Knowledge of the ceremony of baptism in a Protestant Church.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

Infant baptism, e.g. The Church of Ireland

- At the baptism of infants, parents and godparents are required to make promises on behalf of the child and to undertake to encourage them in the life and faith of the Christian Community. As they are answering on behalf of the child, they must also affirm their own Christian faith.
- Those being presented for baptism will then have water poured on their head and the words “I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” are said.
- The sign of the cross is made on the forehead and the minister says ‘Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross. Live as a disciple of Christ’.
- A lighted candle may be presented with the words ‘You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father’.

Adult baptism, e.g. The Baptist Church

- The service begins with a scripture reading and time is devoted to worship through singing.
- The candidate will publicly confess their faith in God and outline the reasons why they want to be baptised.
- The pastor will give a sermon explaining the importance of baptism.
- Following this, the candidates are prayed for and are asked questions about accepting Jesus as their Saviour and turning away from sin.
- After they respond ‘I do’ to the questions they go into the water to be baptised. A song is sung to conclude the service.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels
(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) Explain why some Christian parents choose baptism for their children.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of infant baptism.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Infant baptism brings the child into the faith community from a young age and brings God’s grace and goodness. Children shouldn’t be excluded from this.
- Parents wish to baptise their children because they want to follow Jesus’ instructions to “baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”. Jesus also said that “No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the spirit.”
- It is important to baptise babies so they can receive other sacraments/ordinances as they grow older, e.g. communion, confirmation.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Baptism has become more of a social occasion rather than a religious event.”

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

Target: Analysis and evaluation of whether baptism has lost religious significance for some believers.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported which may be by one or two simple reasons.	The candidate presents some information in a simple form. Basic arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Inaccurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; inappropriate style of writing with no coherent structure. Basic use of specialist vocabulary.	1–2
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons with one developed.	The candidate presents one or two relevant points. Limited arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Some accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; style of writing just appropriate with limited coherent structure. Limited use of specialist vocabulary.	3–4
Level 3	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	A Level 3 response could be one-sided. One developed reason and one with slight development would reach this level. There must be relevance to religion, but this could be slight/general. Good reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Mainly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a reasonably mature style of writing with some coherent structure evident. Good use of specialist vocabulary.	5–6

Level 4	Evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	Different points of view must be considered, but the consideration does not need to be balanced, i.e. one view could be much briefer than the other. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a mature style of writing with a mainly coherent structure. Very good use of specialist vocabulary.	7–8
Level 5	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	The difference between Level 4 and Level 5 is the quality of the argument and the coherence of the response. There needs to be more than a passing reference to religion. However, the points of view may not be completely balanced, and a non-religious counter-argument is still acceptable. Very well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Highly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a sophisticated style of writing set within a coherent structure. Excellent use of specialist vocabulary.	9–10

AVAILABLE MARKS

Answers may include:

- Some only get baptised because it is a tradition in the family.
- Some spend more time organising an after party and they don't put time or thought into the celebration of the sacrament.
- Some get baptised and then don't fully commit to the Christian way of life.
- Communal baptisms tend to lose focus on the religious significance of baptism as people may become easily distracted with a greater number of people in attendance.

On the other hand:

- Many Christians take baptism very seriously and commit to Christian living.
- Parents of infants and candidates who are ready for adult baptism tend to go on a course prior to baptism to ensure they fully understand the commitment they are about to make.
- Private baptisms tend to be less social and more intimate with a great emphasis placed on God's grace and Holy Spirit.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20

7 Christian worship

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

(a) Describe how the Bible is used in Protestant worship.

Target: Knowledge of the role of the Bible in Protestant worship.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two relevant and accurate points. • Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. • A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. • Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- Christians read the Bible because it is the Word of God. By reading the Bible during private worship, Christians believe that they can improve their relationship with God by understanding God better.
- Some prayers used by Christians during private worship are taken from the Bible, e.g. the Lord’s Prayer.
- The Bible is also used by Christians during public worship. Bible readings are used, and Psalms are often sung as part of the service.
- The minister or pastor will use the homily/sermon to explain the meaning and importance of the Bible reading.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Explain why some Protestant Churches use liturgical worship.

AVAILABLE MARKS

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of liturgical worship.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One relevant and accurate point. 	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two relevant and accurate points. Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed. A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level. 	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or three relevant and accurate points with development. Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development. 	4–5

Answers may include:

- It creates a sense of community because believers know that in other churches belonging to their denomination, congregations are having the same experience of worship.
- It gives a clear structure to the service as it follows a set pattern, so it is a more organised approach to worship.
- Everyone is familiar with the service and knows what to expect each week, so believers know how to respond and feel more comfortable.
- It means that a person can go to any other church in that denomination and expect the same service to take place.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “Encouraging Christians to worship together should be the main priority of the churches today.”
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view.

Target: Analysis and evaluation of public worship and how the churches contribute to community cohesion.

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Opinion supported which may be by one or two simple reasons.	The candidate presents some information in a simple form. Basic arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Inaccurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; inappropriate style of writing with no coherent structure. Basic use of specialist vocabulary.	1–2
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons with one developed.	The candidate presents one or two relevant points. Limited arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Some accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; style of writing just appropriate with limited coherent structure. Limited use of specialist vocabulary.	3–4
Level 3	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	A Level 3 response could be one-sided. One developed reason and one with slight development would reach this level. There must be relevance to religion, but this could be slight/general. Good reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Mainly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a reasonably mature style of writing with some coherent structure evident. Good use of specialist vocabulary.	5–6

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Level 4	Evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	Different points of view must be considered, but the consideration does not need to be balanced, i.e. one view could be much briefer than the other. Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a mature style of writing with a mainly coherent structure. Very good use of specialist vocabulary.	7–8
Level 5	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of different points of view, showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	The difference between Level 4 and Level 5 is the quality of the argument and the coherence of the response. There needs to be more than a passing reference to religion. However, the points of view may not be completely balanced, and a non-religious counter-argument is still acceptable. Very well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses and informed insights. Highly accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar; a sophisticated style of writing set within a coherent structure. Excellent use of specialist vocabulary.	9–10

AVAILABLE MARKS

Answers may include:

- Christians in Northern Ireland have been divided after years of sectarian conflict. Encouraging Christians to worship together would promote community cohesion and help create a stronger, more united society.
- Worshipping together means that churches will become better at communicating with each other and will respect each other's differences.
- The Early Church set a good example of Christian unity. Christians should strive to reflect the Early Church by having fewer divisions.

On the other hand:

- Church attendance is in rapid decline. Churches need to encourage people from their own religious communities to make a greater effort to attend worship, never mind trying to get different communities to worship together.
- The different Christian denominations have differing beliefs and bringing them together could create more conflict and lead to further divisions.
- There are other more important things that should be the main priority of the different Christian denominations. The Christian church faces many challenges on moral issues such as attitudes to female clergy, equal marriage and abortion and should prioritise tackling these important issues.

Accept valid alternatives
Mark in levels
(AO2)

[10]

20