



Rewarding Learning

**General Certificate of Secondary Education
2025**

Religious Studies

Paper 1

**The Christian Church through a Study of
the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church**

[GRE11]

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 birth of the 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
- 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 that he would send the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49)
- 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:

- 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)
- The Early Church shared everything they had. They rejected materialism (Matthew 10:9) sold their possessions and gave to those who were in need. (Acts 2:42–47)
- 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:

- St Vincent de Paul
- 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 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 Mass/Sunday services in different languages and host events to celebrate different cultures within the community.
- Church based organisations such as the St Vincent de Paul Society or 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 each other.

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.

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 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/pastors/priests should 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 example of homosexuality – the practice is against the church teaching of many denominations. This may be uncomfortable for some members of the congregation if the minister/pastor/priest is condemning it during a sermon.
- Sermons should not be used to promote political bias.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

15

3 Church festivals

(a) Describe some of the ways in which Christians prepare for Easter during Lent.

Target: Knowledge of the ways Christians prepare for Easter during Lent.

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 spend time in prayer by attending church services or studying the Bible. They may also attend special prayer meetings during Lent. They take time to reflect on how they are living as Christians.
- Christians make sacrifices during Lent by fasting or abstaining from certain luxuries. This helps them to remember how Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days and nights.
- In some denominations Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are special days, e.g. people receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.
- During Lent Christians may give alms to the poor or care for those who are marginalised. Many get involved in charitable organisations such as Christian Aid or Oxfam.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) Explain why the Christian Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the meaning of Jesus' Ascension 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:

- Jesus' Ascension is important because it shows that Jesus is alive and in glory with His Father in heaven. It shows that Jesus wasn't resurrected to die again but that he would live forever in heaven.
- Many Christians believe that the Ascension reminds them that all people can gain access to heaven through faith in Jesus.
- The Ascension should be celebrated because it signalled the end of Jesus' earthly mission. He completed God's work on earth and returned to God in heaven.
- The Ascension informs Christians today that Jesus did not abandon his followers. In Matthew's account, Jesus said "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20).

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “Christmas is the most important Christian festival.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of the importance of Christmas for Christians.

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:

- Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, when God became man and this is the most important celebration for many Christians.
- God sent his son to save humanity from sin. If Jesus was never born, humanity could not have been saved.
- Christmas is an important time when families come together to celebrate and exchange gifts.

On the other hand:

- Many Christians consider Easter to be the most important festival as it celebrates Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.
- Some Christians believe that Good Friday is the most important Christian celebration because Jesus’ death was an act of atonement that took away the sins of the world, and restored the relationship of people with God.
- Some Christians might argue that all festivals are equally important because they all celebrate important parts of Jesus’ life.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE
MARKS

4 Key leadership roles

(a) Describe the work of a minister/pastor/priest.

Target: Knowledge of the role of a minister/pastor/priest.

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/pastors/priests work in parishes or their local communities. They have been given authority to serve God’s people and guide them to union with God.
- They lead Sunday worship – they preach the sermon and consecrate the bread and wine.
- They celebrate the sacraments/ordinances with the parish community, e.g. baptisms and marriages.
- Ministers/pastors/priests 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 Church?
Give reasons for your answer.**

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Analysis of the role of women in the Church.

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:

- 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 ordain women.
- There is a significant shortage of ministers and priests. Allowing women to be ordained as ministers and priests may help address this issue.

On the other hand:

- Women already play a significant role in the Christian Churches, e.g. as female ministers or as eucharistic ministers.
- It is a tradition in the Catholic Church that priests are male to reflect Jesus who was male. Priests are Christ's representatives on earth and must always be men.
- Despite treating men and women equally on many occasions, Jesus only chose twelve men as his apostles. Male priests are ordained by male bishops who form an unbroken line of succession back to the twelve 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/pastors/priests.”

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.	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:

- All denominations need to do more to encourage people to become ministers/pastors/priests as there are so few ministers/pastors/priests today. If more people aren't encouraged to join, there will be a severe shortage and fewer people available to serve and meet the needs of their community.
- Catholics should allow priests to marry so that more men would be encouraged to become priests. Also, fewer men might leave the priesthood.
- Some Christian denominations could do more to encourage people to become ministers/pastors/priests by allowing women to be ordained as ministers/pastors/priests.

On the other hand:

- The Churches can do very little to encourage more people to become ministers/pastors/priests in a society that has become increasingly secular and less concerned about religion in general.
- Some Churches, e.g. the Catholic Church won't break or change traditions that have been followed for hundreds of years by allowing priests to marry or by allowing female priests.
- Churches are already doing all they can to encourage people, e.g. some Churches have a 'Vocations Sunday' which is a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. Other Churches promote the Alpha course to encourage people to be ordained.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE
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 types 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.
- Churches that are cruciform, meaning they are cross shaped, tend to highlight the importance of the death of Christ. They are divided into three main parts; the nave, the transepts and the chancel.
- 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 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 furniture from *one* Christian Church.

**AVAILABLE
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 altar or communion table: Located at the front of the church in the sanctuary area. The minister/pastor/priest celebrates communion here and consecrates the bread and wine here. It is visible for everyone in the church to see and it is usually raised up. It is made from either marble or wood.
- 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.
- Lectern: Also located in the sanctuary area beside the altar usually to the left. It is a reading stand for the Bible. The Word of God is read from the lectern and the minister will also deliver his sermon from here. Some ministers in Protestant traditions prefer to use the lectern to deliver a sermon rather than the pulpit as it brings them into close fellowship with the congregation.
- 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.

- The tabernacle: the consecrated hosts are kept in the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp will be lit when the hosts are present.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
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.

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

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
20

Answers may include:

- Praying at home is a more intimate experience. It also 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 for 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 the Eucharist or celebrate 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]

20

6 Sacraments and ordinances

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

Target: Knowledge of the way baptism is celebrated in a Christian denomination.

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) “Celebrating the Eucharist or Communion is the most important part of being a Christian.”

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

Target: Analysis and evaluation of the importance of sacraments/ordinances for Christians.

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:

- Sacraments and ordinances bring God’s grace or blessing to the recipient and they are sometimes referred to as ‘rites of passage’ as each sacrament or ordinance, including Eucharist/Communion, is seen as contributing to the life journey of a Christian.
- Communion is an important time to remember Jesus’ sacrifice. The Last Supper is re-enacted, and it is seen as a time of spiritual reflection. Communion brings the Christian community together and is a public declaration of following Christ.
- Jesus asked his followers to celebrate communion in his memory.
- Communion provides spiritual nourishment.

On the other hand:

- The most important part of being a Christian is following the teaching of Jesus by showing concern for others and by leading a good Christian life.
- Baptism welcomes people into the Christian faith and makes sure that they are beginning their life journey without sin. It is also a public sign that the child/adult is a member of the Christian faith. Therefore baptism is the most important sacrament/ordinance.
- It isn’t necessary to receive communion to be a good Christian or to remember Jesus’ death. Believers can read the Bible to learn about being a good Christian and to remember key events from Jesus’ life.
- Some believers may argue that prayer is the most important part

of being a Christian because it allows them to experience God by communicating with him. People can become closer to God through prayer and ask God for forgiveness or help.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

20

7 Christian worship

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

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

Target: Knowledge of the role of the Bible in Christian 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/pastor/priest 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 Christian 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 all 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.

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
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AVAILABLE MARKS
20

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 different beliefs and bringing them together could create more conflict and lead to further division.
- There are other more important things that should be the main priority for the different Christian denominations. The Christian Church faces many challenges on moral issues such as attitudes to female priests, equal marriage and abortion and should prioritise tackling these important issues.

Accept valid alternatives
Mark in levels
(AO2)

[10]