



*Rewarding Learning*

**General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2023**

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## **Religious Studies**

**Paper 2a**

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

**[GRE21]**

**THURSDAY 1 JUNE, MORNING**

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**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

Answer **all** questions.

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### 1 Sacraments in the Catholic Church

(a) (i) What are the *two* types of baptism used by Christians today?

- Infant baptism
- Adult or believer's baptism

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(ii) Name *two* symbols used in the ceremony of baptism in the Catholic Church.

- Water
- White Garment
- Sign of a cross on the forehead
- Anointing with oils
- Baptismal candle

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(iii) What role do godparents play in the ceremony of baptism?

- They make promises to encourage their godchild to grow in faith.
- They commit to helping their godchild understand how to live their life in a Christian way.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[1]

**(b) Explain why baptism is an important sacrament in the Catholic Church.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of why baptism is an important sacrament in the Catholic Church.**

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

Answers may include:

- Through baptism a person becomes a member of the Church.
- It gives a person the opportunity to begin a new life with God and to be cleansed from sin.
- Baptism allows a person to receive other sacraments in the church.
- It is an opportunity to follow the example of Jesus who was also baptised and commanded his disciples to baptise others.
- Baptism enables a believer to make a personal commitment and public declaration of their Christian faith.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Catholics should not be confirmed until they are at least sixteen years old.” Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**Target: Evaluation of the age young people should be when they receive the sacrament of confirmation.**

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 person will understand the sacrament more as they will have reached an age of maturity to make informed decisions about their faith journey.
- The person can make the choice for themselves which means they will be more committed.
- The ceremony will be more meaningful as it is not something that was forced upon them at a young age.

On the other hand:

- The person may be too embarrassed to make his or her confirmation when they're older as they will have become influenced by their peers and secular society.
- It has always been a tradition in the church to receive confirmation at the end of primary school education.
- By receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in Primary 7, children will receive power and strength to face the difficult years of adolescence.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO2)

[5]

15

**2 Christian festivals**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**(a) (i) Name the period of time leading up to Christmas.**

Advent  
(AO1)

[1]

**(ii) What event is remembered at the Epiphany?**

Visit of the wise men/Magi to the infant Jesus  
(AO1)

[1]

**(iii) How long does Lent last?**

Forty days and forty nights  
(AO1)

[1]

**(iv) What happened on Good Friday?**

Crucifixion of Jesus  
(AO1)

[1]

**(v) On what day do Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?**

Easter Sunday  
(AO1)

[1]

**(b) Do you think Christians today spend too much time celebrating Christian festivals and not enough time helping those in need? Give reasons for your answer.**

**AVAILABLE MARKS**

**Target: Analysis of the amount of time the Church spends celebrating Christian festivals in comparison to helping those in need.**

<b>Levels</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Marks</b>
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:

- It would be more beneficial to carry out Christ's example, teaching and actions by actively serving the poor rather than attending church just to remember past events.
- It is better to focus on the challenges of the present rather than dwell in the past.
- It may encourage Christians to only worship on these festivals and neglect God the rest of the time.
- God is active throughout people's lives and is always with them and so there is no need for special feast days.

On the other hand:

- The Church already carries out the actions of Christ by serving and helping those in need through SVP, Trócaire, food banks, charity work and ongoing support.
- Some feasts deserve special recognition, e.g. Easter is the highpoint of the Church year.
- Festivals can give the believer a special sense of purpose and encourage them to share their faith with others.
- Festivals highlight key aspects of the faith and they bring people together to encourage one another.
- Sacrifices are made by some Christians during Advent and Lent when emphasis is placed on giving to the poor.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

(c) “Christmas customs and traditions help Christians remember the true meaning of Christmas.”

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

**Target: Evaluation of the meaning and importance of Christmas customs and traditions.**

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"> <li>The candidate presents some relevant information.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- Some denominations hold carol services with Biblical readings and Christmas carols which retell the reason for Christmas and the significance of Jesus as Saviour.
- Children take part in nativity plays which retells the key events surrounding Jesus’ birth.
- Some churches use Advent wreaths which contain candles representing the patriarchs, prophets, Mary the mother of Jesus and John the Baptist. In the centre is a white candle to represent the purity and sinlessness of Jesus. It is lit on Christmas morning to emphasise that Jesus is the light of the world.
- Some people send religious Christmas cards which contain biblical verses which stress the true meaning of Christmas.
- The use of an evergreen Christmas tree is a reminder that Jesus is eternal, everlasting and for everyone.

On the other hand:

- The giving of Christmas presents puts too much pressure on people to spend money. The commercial side of the celebrations undermines the true meaning of the festival.
- Jesus takes second place to Santa in the lives of many families. Most children have Advent calendars with a focus on a cartoon character and chocolate rather than the true meaning of Christmas.
- Some people prefer to send secular rather than religious Christmas cards.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### 3 The role of Mary and the Saints

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Describe how Catholics honour Mary and the Saints.

**Target: Knowledge of the role of Mary and the Saints in the Catholic 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"> <li>One relevant and accurate point.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two relevant and accurate points.</li> <li>Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed.</li> <li>A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two or three relevant and accurate points with development.</li> <li>Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- Catholics honour Mary and the Saints by celebrating Feast Days to remember the life that Mary and the Saints have led and the good works that they have done.
- Catholics honour Mary and the Saints by praying to ask them to intercede to God on their behalf.
- Catholics honour Mary and the Saints by using prayer aids associated with them, e.g. statues or rosary beads.
- Catholics honour Mary and the Saints by trying to follow their example and live according to the qualities they displayed throughout their lives.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain what Catholics today can learn from the example of Mary.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the example set by Mary for Catholics.**

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

Answers may include:

- Be obedient to the will of God – Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son.
- Mary accepted God’s wishes and plans for her at great personal cost.
- To look out for other people’s needs, e.g. the marriage feast of Cana.
- She told others to obey Jesus and we should do the same.
- To be people of prayer.
- To support the suffering and accept all things in faith. She stood at the foot of the cross and remained faithful to her son during the most difficult time of his life.
- She treasured what she had witnessed ‘in her heart’.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Religious objects are important aids to worship.”  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

**Target: Evaluation of whether religious objects are important aids to worship.**

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:

- They can help Christians avoid external distractions to stay focused.
- They remove the need to use words. Icons for example provoke thought.
- Icons can help the person praying to go beyond what is immediately present.
- The lighting of a candle in memory of a loved one may bring comfort to a person who is grieving.
- The presence of statues may bring peace and serenity to a person during prayer.

On the other hand:

- Aids used in prayer, for example, statues could turn into idolatry which is against the first commandment.
- Some people buy expensive aids to prayer, e.g. crosses, beads. This money could be used to help the poor or needy.
- Jesus never used aids to pray but simply prayed directly to his Father.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO2)

[5]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

15

**4 The role of the Church in contemporary society**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**(a) Outline some of the moral issues facing Christians today.**

**Target: Knowledge of the challenge to the Christian Church of changing moral trends.**

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

Answers may include:

- The Church must cope with the rights and wrongs of abortion. There are debates about the point at which life begins and when a group of growing cells count as a human being.
- The issue of euthanasia has led to debate whether all forms of euthanasia should be illegal and whether people have the right to choose to die or to request that others end their lives.
- Equal marriage causes controversy in relation to the place in the church of people in homosexual relationships.
- Sex before marriage and divorce continue to pose problems for the church today.
- Global issues such as greed, poverty and climate change.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Do you think it is best for the Catholic Church to have one leader?  
Give reasons for your answer.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Analysis of the hierarchy of authority in the Catholic 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"> <li>The candidate presents some relevant information.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- Having one leader in a Church shows that there is a clear line of command from the Pope in the highest position of authority down through various positions such as Bishops and priests.
- One strong leader provides accountability with one person taking responsibility for the entire organisation.
- Having one leader maintains unity within the Church. It ensures that the beliefs and traditions of the Church are set out clearly without ambiguity and this prevents false teaching.

On the other hand:

- Having one leader can mean that other people in the Church don't have a say in the way the Church is being organised as one person at the top of the hierarchy has too much power.
- Some argue that it is best to follow other models of leadership because everyone who belongs to the Church is regarded as equal.
- Others believe in a democratic approach to leadership – giving all members of the congregation a chance to be heard.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

(c) “Society today would be better if the Christian Churches worked more closely together.”

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

**Target: Evaluation of how the Christian Churches can contribute to community cohesion.**

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"> <li>The candidate presents some relevant information.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons or one developed reason.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A well-argued response with evidence of informed insights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-formed and reasoned arguments are given to analyse and evaluate personal responses.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- There are already good links between the different denominations. Developing these links through shared worship, for example, could bring different communities together under the same roof and help break down barriers in society.
- The Christian Churches have so much in common that it makes sense for them to work more closely together. All Churches have similar beliefs and stress the importance of the Bible during worship.
- There are too many different Churches attracting people to do the same thing. This duplication is not a sustainable use of buildings and the time of ministers and priests.

On the other hand:

- There are significant theological differences on a range of issues, e.g. the sacrament of baptism and how often holy communion is celebrated. It may not be possible for Churches to work more closely together while maintaining their unique identity.
- Shared worship may not be possible as the styles of worship vary across the different denominations, e.g. liturgical and non-liturgical worship or the layout and design of church buildings could be an issue.
- If Church buildings became unused, they could fall into disrepair and have a negative impact on the community.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

## Section B

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

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

### 5 Worship in the Catholic Church

(a) Describe the main types of prayer used during worship.

**Target: Knowledge of the main types of prayer used during worship in the Catholic 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"> <li>One relevant and accurate point.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two relevant and accurate points.</li> <li>Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed.</li> <li>A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two or three relevant and accurate points with development.</li> <li>Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- Prayers of adoration acknowledging the greatness of God.
- Prayer of confession acknowledging the need to seek God's forgiveness.
- Prayer of thanksgiving acknowledging all that God has done for individuals.
- Prayers of supplication which can take the form of petition (asking God to meet our needs) or intercession (praying for the needs of other people).
- Reference could be made to specific prayers like the Our Father, Eucharistic prayer, Gloria.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain why some Catholics may find it difficult to pray.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the difficulties Catholics may encounter when trying to pray.**

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

Answers may include:

- When people speak to God in prayer, God doesn't answer them and this can be frustrating.
- Prayers do not work like magic and sometimes when people pray and when their request is not answered they may become disappointed.
- Unanswered prayer may make some people question the existence of God.
- The worries of life can often distract people from forming a relationship with God. This is mainly due to having busy lives and constantly putting other things before God.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Churches should do more to make public worship appealing to young people.”

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

Target: Analysis and evaluation of how appealing Christian worship is for young people today.

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:

- The Church should try to embrace and engage with young people, so they feel valued and loved by Christ.
- The Church should try to make youth ministry fun and interesting so that young people as the next generation of believers can relate to both the Church and society.
- Religious observance and church attendance among young people is in decline. More appealing Church services could bring more people back to the faith.

On the other hand:

- Churches are already doing all they can to make worship more appealing to young people. They hold various events to enhance their experience of worship with their peers, e.g. Youth ministry and Summer Camps.
- The Churches cannot force people to attend services. Many young people in society today will never want to attend no matter how appealing worship may be.
- Some Churches need to go beyond making worship more appealing to young people. Churches may become more appealing to younger people if they try to rebuild trust after some of the mistakes of the past.

Accept valid alternatives (AO2)

[10]

20

**6 The birth of the Christian Church and Christianity in Ireland**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**(a) Outline the key teachings of the Apostles' Creed.**

**Target: Knowledge of the Apostles' Creed as a summary of Christian belief.**

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"> <li>One relevant and accurate point.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two relevant and accurate points.</li> <li>Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed.</li> <li>A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two or three relevant and accurate points with development.</li> <li>Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- It stresses that God is the Creator of all things. He is father of all people and is almighty and all-powerful.
- The Creed professes Christian belief in the Incarnation. This is the idea of God coming to earth and taking on human form as man.
- Jesus was both fully human as he was born as a human being and fully divine because he was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- It stresses the death of Jesus which paid for the sins of the world and brought God's forgiveness.
- Belief in Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension proves that Jesus was the Son of God. Christians believe that Jesus is alive.
- The Creed expresses the belief that Jesus will be judge of the living and the dead.
- The Creed contains beliefs about the Holy Spirit.
- The Creed stresses the Christian belief in the Trinity in that God can be known as three persons. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- It teaches that the Church is universal and is a world-wide fellowship of people who believe in and follow Christ.
- Christians believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and everlasting life.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain why Pentecost was an important event in the Early Church.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of why Pentecost was an important event in the Early Church.**

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

Answers may include:

- Pentecost was the beginning of the Christian Church. It is the birthday of Christianity.
- Pentecost saw the coming of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised to the disciples following his resurrection and before his Ascension.
- The Holy Spirit gave the first disciples the courage to witness the Christian message.
- It showed the Early Church the power of the Holy Spirit by the impact it made on the lives of the Apostles and how they became changed men.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “St Patrick is a good role model for Christians today.”  
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. Showing you have considered different points of view.

**Target: Analysis and evaluation of the role of St Patrick in the lives of Christians as a role model.**

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:

- St Patrick was a man of faith and prayer – he showed total reliance on God, he repaid God by devoting his life to converting the people of Ireland.
- Patrick was very honest, admits his failings and strives to please God, seeking forgiveness and shows a willingness to forgive others.
- Patrick spoke out against injustice.
- Patrick shows the importance of loving your neighbour.
- Patrick was very humble and selfless, always putting the needs of others first.

On the other hand:

- The historical context of Patrick’s life makes his teaching and experiences irrelevant for Christians today.
- The life and teaching of Jesus is the best example of Christian living. Jesus should be the only role model Christians today need to follow.
- St Paul is the best example for Christian living as he wrote letters instructing Christians on how to live better Christian lives.
- There are modern Christian figures that are inspirational and set good examples on how to live a Christ like life, e.g. Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King.

Accept valid alternatives (AO2)

[10]

20

**7 Church buildings and furniture**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**(a) Describe the location and purpose of *three* key furnishings in the Catholic Church.**

**Target: Knowledge of furnishings in the Catholic Church.**

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

Answers may include:

- The altar is the table where the priest says the words of the Mass and people come forward to receive the Eucharist.
- The ambo is a reading desk and is used for the scripture readings.
- The baptismal font is near the main entrance door because baptism is a welcoming into the church community.
- The tabernacle is a special box in which the priest places the “Blessed Sacrament” of bread.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain the significance of the different types of Church architecture.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding how the significance of the 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"> <li>One relevant and accurate point.</li> </ul>	1
Level 2	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two relevant and accurate points.</li> <li>Two or more relevant and accurate points with one developed.</li> <li>A single point that is exceptionally well-developed may reach this level.</li> </ul>	2–3
Level 3	A detailed answer showing very good development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two or three relevant and accurate points with development.</li> <li>Level 3 answers will be well-structured with good development.</li> </ul>	4–5

Answers may include:

- Circular churches reflect more modern church designs. They are built in the shape of a circle or oval to highlight the equality of all the people who worship there. The focus is the altar for the consecration.
- Cruciform churches are cross shaped which emphasises the death of Jesus on the cross.
- Churches with a tower symbolises the church as a place of refuge. This style of Church is usually a rectangle/barn style. The tall tower reflects that God is a source of refuge and strength. Some churches have a spire pointing towards the sky representing the resurrection of Jesus.
- Cathedrals are usually classical or gothic. The classical style suggests grandeur and design, while a gothic style conveys mystery and holiness.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Churches could make better use of their buildings to serve the whole community.”

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 use of Church buildings to contribute to the local community.**

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
20

Answers may include:

- Some Churches have multi-functional buildings that could be used for both worship and holding community events. This would promote community cohesion.
- Churches could remain open for longer so people could visit when they feel under pressure and spend time in prayer with God or just to reflect.
- Churches could offer a range of classes or activities for the community to create a greater sense of community spirit.
- Local clubs from across the community could be allowed to use Church buildings as a place to bring people together. This would make the church a more welcoming place for everyone.

On the other hand:

- A church is a house of God and a place of worship. The church building should be reserved for this purpose only.
- People can spend time with God anywhere and do not need a religious building.
- There are many alternative buildings in local communities, e.g. sports halls, parish halls and community centres. These buildings could be used for classes and activities and by local clubs.
- If other events are held in Church buildings, there is a risk that some expensive artefacts/significant furnishings may be damaged or destroyed.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[10]