



**General Certificate of Secondary Education
2024**

Religious Studies

Paper 2a

The Christian Church with a Focus
on the Catholic Church

[GRE21]

FRIDAY 31 MAY, MORNING

**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**

Answer **all** questions.

1 Church government

(a) (i) What name is given to the leader of the Catholic Church?

- The Pope
(AO1)

[1]

(ii) What is the role of an archbishop?

Answers may include:

- Oversee large areas of churches called archdiocese
- Guide the flock of Christ
- Responsible for teaching doctrine
- Oversee important administrative functions
- Manage bishops/priests
- Appoint priests within archdiocese
- Celebrate the sacraments
- Recommend candidates for the episcopate

Accept valid alternatives
(AO1)

[1]

(iii) Who carries out the ordination of a priest?

- The Bishop
 - Cardinal, archbishop
- Accept valid alternatives
(AO1)

[1]

(iv) Name *two* symbols used during the ceremony of ordination.

Answers may include:

- The Chalice
- The Paten
- The stole and chasuble
- Oil of Chrism
- The sign of peace
- The laying on of hands
- The blessing of the hands
- The sign of the cross

Accept valid alternatives
(AO1)

[2]

(b) Explain why a priest is important in the Catholic Church.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding why a priest is important 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">• 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:

- A priest leads believers in their worship, e.g. to lead Sunday Mass and other services.
- Priests administer the sacraments.
- They preach the Gospel and lead by example.
- They look after the spiritual needs of their parishioners.
- Priests are responsible for the pastoral care of their parishioners, e.g. visit the sick and housebound, help those in need.
- They support parish initiatives that encourage a living faith.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) **“It is best if Catholic priests remain unmarried.”**
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Evaluation of Catholic priests remaining celibate.

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:

- Priests need to focus fully on their duties without distraction.
- Giving up marriage and family is a sacrifice for the sake of God and the Church.
- Jesus expected his disciples to leave everything behind including family life.
- It is a sign of total dedication to service of the community.
- It has been an important tradition in the Church for centuries.
- Having married priests would make them less flexible and more difficult for them to meet the needs of the Church.

On the other hand:

- There is a shortage of priests and therefore allowing them to marry may encourage more men to choose the priesthood.
- Married priests would have a better understanding of marital and family problems.
- Other Christian traditions allow their ministers to marry, e.g. Church of Ireland.
- Celibacy has good points, but it should be optional.
- Some of the apostles were married, e.g. Peter.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

2 Church architecture and furniture

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(a) (i) What are the following used for in a Catholic Church?

- **An altar** – to consecrate the bread and wine
- **A tabernacle** – to store the unused consecrated eucharist, to store the Body of Christ
- **An ambo** – to preach the sermon, to read scriptures and deliver the homily

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[3]

(ii) Name *two* styles of church architecture.

Answers may include:

- Barn style
- Cruciform
- Circular
- Gothic

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

(b) Do you think church furnishings reflect the beliefs of the people who worship there?

Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Analysis of the link between church furnishings and the beliefs of worshippers.

**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:

- Church buildings are filled with symbolism, e.g. the altar is in the centre of the church building demonstrating that the Eucharist is central to the life of the congregation.
- The sanctuary at the front of the Church contains the ambo where the Word of God is read from.
- The tabernacle contains the Body of Christ after transubstantiation has taken place.
- The baptismal font is situated traditionally at the back of the church, close to the main doors symbolising initiation into the membership of the Church.

On the other hand:

- Christian actions are a better reflection of faith than furnishings, e.g. kindness, inclusiveness and compassion were demonstrated by Jesus.
- Jesus urged his followers to give up their riches. Furnishings are expensive and money would be better spent helping those in need.
- During the Covid 19 pandemic, many church furnishings were not used by the congregation when services were streamed live into people's homes.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

(c) “The Church should sell its possessions and give the money to the poor.” Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of whether the Church should sell its possessions and help the poor.

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

Answers may include:

- Jesus teaches Christians about wealth; the Church should lead by example. ‘Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven: then come, follow me’ (Mark 10:21).
- The Church should sell expensive artifacts to help erase global poverty, e.g. the Church holds a wealth of art, buildings, gold vessels.
- Catholic clergy take a vow of poverty. Members of the Church should avoid accumulating wealth which would be a distraction.

On the other hand:

- The Catholic Church does more to aid the poor than any other private organisation. Examples of Church outreach include local charities SVP and global outreach, Trócaire.
- The “Church” isn’t just the leadership, it is all members of the Christian Community who have a duty to help out their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- It is not the responsibility of the Church to manage and remedy social issues such as personal greed, corruption, injustice, governmental problems, economic systems, etc.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE
MARKS

3 The birth of the Christian Church

(a) Outline St Paul's teaching on the Church.

**Target: Knowledge of St Paul's teaching on the Church
(1 Corinthians 12:1–11, 14–22, 25–27).**

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:

- Paul taught that the Spirit distributes different kinds of gifts, each given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4–7).
- Different people within the Church are given different gifts, e.g. wisdom, faith, gifts of healing, prophecy, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8–10).
- The same Spirit distributes the different gifts and determines who will receive each gift (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- Individual members of the Church have different roles to play but everyone is needed to make it function, just like different body parts are needed to make a human body function. Parts of the body that appear weaker are indispensable (1 Corinthians 12:14–22).
- There should be no division within the Church and if one part suffers, every part should suffer with it (1 Corinthians 12:25–26).

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) Explain how Christians today follow the example of the Early Church.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of how Christians today follow the example of the Early Church.

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

Answers may include:

- Today Christians continue to worship and praise God in fellowship/ communion with one another during church services.
- In the Catholic tradition house Masses still take place in some parishes.
- A lot of work is carried out to bring Christians together at ecumenical services and events following the example of Paul in the Early Church.
- There is evidence of Christians today being loving, compassionate, generous, forgiving and selfless through their outreach to local and global charities as well as restorative justice programmes, following the example of the Early Church.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “The Christian Church should be one, and not divided.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of whether there should only be one 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:

- There was no division in the Early Church: Christians worshipped, prayed, shared together. Today the Christian church has many denominations and is divided.
- In Paul’s letters there is an appeal for unity within the Church, e.g. 1 Corinthians 12:25–27.
- All practicing Christians are very devoted to living a life of prayer. Today it seems we are living in a faithless society and overall church attendance is dropping across all Christian churches. One Christian Church would bring practising Christians together in unity.
- Today Christians continue to worship and praise God with one another in ecumenical services allowing different denominations to share their common practice of prayer and worship.

On the other hand:

- The Catholic Church has different beliefs to other denominations, e.g. transubstantiation as opposed to consubstantiation.
- The role of Mary and the Saints plays a more focused role in the liturgical calendar for Catholics.
- The churches in Christianity have been established for so long it may be disruptive and unhelpful to join together due to established traditions and allegiances.
- Diversity adds a richness to the Christian faith – each denomination has unique features that should be valued.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels
(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE
MARKS

4 Church festivals

(a) Outline the main events of Holy Week.

Target: Knowledge of the main events of Holy Week.

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' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday remembers the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches in honour of him and shouted "Hosanna".
- At the Last Supper Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment 'To love one another as I have loved you'. He broke bread and shared wine representing his body and blood. Jesus was arrested and tried before Pilate and the Sanhedrin.
- Good Friday remembers the day that Jesus was crucified on Calvary. It was a day of sadness and sombre reflection on the death of Jesus. Two thieves were crucified either side of Jesus.
- After Jesus was taken from the cross he was buried in a stone tomb.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

**(b) Do you think Lent is relevant to Catholics today?
Give reasons for your answer.**

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Analysis of the relevance of Lent for Catholics today.

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

Answers may include:

- Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is when Christians remember Jesus' time spent in the wilderness. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before he began his ministry.
- During Lent, Christians think about their lives and try to focus on what really matters. It is a time when they try to change their ways and develop a closer relationship with God.
- It is a time of preparation and a period of prayer, fasting and giving alms.

On the other hand:

- As society has become increasingly secular, self-denial during Lent has become less important for many Christians.
- Lent is not important for all Christian denominations, unlike other Church festivals.
- Advent is more important for some Christians, Lent is about penance and remembering Jesus' suffering and death whereas Advent is about hope and joy.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[5]

- (c) “Christmas is a more important Church festival than Easter.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Target: Evaluation of the importance of Christmas and Easter for Christians.

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

Answers may include:

- Christmas is the most important festival for Christians because it allows them to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- At Christmas, Christians reflect on how God became man in the form of Jesus to bring salvation to humanity.
- If Jesus wasn't born then the other festivals remembering parts of Jesus' life could not be celebrated.
- Christmas is the time of year when Christian families spend more time together.

On the other hand:

- Easter is the most important festival for Christians because without the resurrection of Jesus there would be no Christian faith.
- Easter is less commercialised than Christmas and it is easier to focus on the religious significance of the events, e.g. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection.
- It could be argued that other Church festivals are also more important than Christmas, e.g. Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian church.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels
(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Section B

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

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

5 Sacraments in the Catholic Church

(a) Describe the ceremony of baptism in the Catholic Church.

Target: Knowledge of the ceremony of baptism 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"> • 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:

- Sign of welcoming/admission to the Catholic Church at the door.
- The priest asks for the child’s name and outlines the responsibility of the parents and godparents.
- Scripture readings.
- Anointing with oil.
- The use of water and other symbols or signs – such as the white garment and baptismal candle.
- Vows made by parents and godparents on behalf of the child in order to affirm faith in Jesus.
- Recite the ‘Our Father’.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Choose *two* symbols used in baptism and explain why they are important.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Target: Knowledge and understanding of two symbols used in baptism and why they are important.

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:

- Water is a central symbol of baptism. It symbolises the washing away of original sin and gives new life in Christ.
- Oils used at baptism are symbolic. The oil of catechumens symbolises that the child is given strength to fight against evil and do good. Oil of Chrism symbolises they have been chosen to carry out the work of Christ.
- The candle symbolises Christ the light of the world present in the child's life.
- The white garment symbolises the purity, innocence and dignity of the child who has become clothed in Christ.
- The sign of the cross symbolises ownership – child belongs to God.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “Sacraments have become social occasions, rather than important religious events.” 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 relevance and meaning of the celebration of sacraments.

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:

- Some people only get baptised, celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation because it is a social tradition in the family.
- Some people spend so much time organising an after party that they don't put enough time or thought into the actual ceremony, e.g. baptism.
- Some parents focus on the social aspect of sacraments celebrated as part of the primary school curriculum rather than preparing their children spiritually.
- For many, a wedding is not about the religious event but the celebration afterwards.

On the other hand:

- Many Christians take the sacraments very seriously and fully commit to Christian living.
- Some schools and parents prepare their students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation ensuring they understand the meaning and importance of the sacraments.
- Parents of infants and children usually go on a course prior to the celebration of the sacrament, facilitated by the parish or school to ensure they fully understand the commitment about to be made.
- Friends and members of the family circle should have the opportunity to show their support and to celebrate an important event in the life of a person with celebrations after the ceremony.

- Those who attend the ceremony will sometimes think about their faith and commitment to God.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

20

6 The role of the church in contemporary society

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

(a) Outline some of the changing social trends that challenge Christians today.

Target: Knowledge of the social trends that challenge the Church in society today.

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:

- Society is becoming less religious. With secularisation, religious teaching can be replaced with other outlooks, e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Social media can challenge Christians today. It can be used to spread false information and to incite hatred. Many people are spending too much time on social media and it can become an addiction.
- People are becoming more concerned about their health and for some people, keeping fit has become the most important aspect of their lives.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(b) Explain how the Church contributes to community cohesion.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of how the Church contributes to community cohesion.

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:

- The Church is doing all that it can to support community cohesion through Christian unity events. Examples include Christmas carol services, charity events and guest speakers from various denominations at services.
- Churches hold various events for young people. For example, summer camps, youth clubs.
- Support groups – counselling or advice sessions.
- Many churches have an open-door policy and are always willing to help people in need, especially those in distress or in any kind of trouble through SVP, Christian Aid or foodbanks.
- Some churches have members on the streets at night helping people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- The Inter-Faith Forum and the Ulster Project allow young people to discuss views on contemporary issues together.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

(c) “Religious teaching on moral issues is no longer relevant in people’s lives.”

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

Target: Analysis and evaluation of the relevance of religious teaching on moral issues.

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:

- Church teachings on marriage, birth control, abortion, euthanasia and the role of women are controversial in a modern world.
- The Pope is a first among equals and is fallible, like everyone else. Church teachings are not in line with the diverse situations in which believers live and for some, the Pope cannot make decisions for 1.1 billion people to follow unilaterally.
- Scriptural teaching, e.g. the Rich Young Man or the Widow's Coin are seen as out of date in the modern world. Some people no longer put God first. Materialism and wealth are the priorities of a secular society driven by social media.
- Some people give their children a choice to believe in a religion or not and those who do follow Church teachings may face criticism for their faith and practice as the teaching is perceived by many as being out of date.
- Some may view religious teaching as a burden or the main reason for conflict and war within society, infringing peoples' basic human rights.
- Some perceive Church teachings as sexist.

On the other hand:

- Church teachings are based on the authority that has been handed down to the successor of St Peter and Catholics believe the Pope is infallible on matters of doctrine that has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to create Church teachings.

- It is a tradition to accept and obey Church teachings and it is important to obey church teachings to guard orthodoxy. People need a religious voice and moral guidance in a secular world. Church teachings help people to live in a way that God wants.
- Religious teaching can help protect the sanctity of life and protect society from a culture of death, e.g. teaching against euthanasia.
- Elements of religious teaching on moral issues have a universal appeal, e.g. environmental ethics.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

20

7 The role of the Saints

(a) Describe how St Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland.

Target: Knowledge of how St Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland.

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:

- Saint Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. In his Confession he wrote about his calling and mission to the Irish.
- He was brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He prayed frequently throughout his captivity. He escaped after 6 years.
- He returned to Ireland in response to a call he had from the Irish in a dream, begging him to return to the land of his captivity.
- The people Patrick lived among in Ireland were pagan and believed in many different gods. Patrick converted many of them by preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments of initiation. He baptised many thousands of people he converted to Christianity.
- Patrick faced many difficulties during his ministry in Ireland but despite this he baptised many thousands of people and ordained many people to the priesthood.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) Explain the meaning and purpose of Saints' days.

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the meaning and purpose of Saints' Days.

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:

- Saints' days are celebrated by Catholics and they allow people to remember a particular saint and focus on an aspect of the saint's life, character or ministry.
- Saints' days help Christians remember great men and women of the Church, e.g. St Patrick and St Brigid and how they contributed to the spread of the Christian faith.
- Saints' days help inspire Catholics by dedicating time to thinking about individuals who have been role models in relation to how people today should serve God and their neighbour. Many saints were martyrs, and it is important to remember that they were willing to die for their Christian faith.
- Catholics believe that saints are already in heaven. Saints' days give Christians an opportunity to pray to saints who, due to their closeness to God, can intercede on their behalf.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO1)

[5]

- (c) **“Religious figures from the past can still guide Catholics 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 how religious figures from the past can still guide Catholics.

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:

- The life and teaching of Jesus is the best example of Christian living for Catholics today.
- St Paul's letters are used in worship and these guide Catholics on how to live better Christian lives.
- Many Saints, e.g. Pope John Paul II and St. Therese of Lisieux celebrated in the Catholic Church showed total reliance on God, devoting their lives to faith in the face of adversity. This supports and encourages Catholics in a secularised society.
- Saints including St Bernadette, were humble and selfless, always putting the needs of others first. This remains a goal for Catholics.

On the other hand:

- Society has changed dramatically and as a result faith is irrelevant for many in a secularised society. Therefore religious figures from the past are unknown to many Catholics today.
- The issues Catholics have to address today are far removed from the lives of religious figures from the past, e.g anti-social behaviour, issues on the environment and healthy relationships.
- There are modern secular figures that are more inspirational and set good examples on how to live today, e.g. celebrities such as Emma Watson and activists such as Greta Thunberg.

Accept valid alternatives

Mark in levels

(AO2)

[10]

20