

New  
Specification



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2018

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## Religious Studies

Paper 2a

The Christian Church with a Focus  
on the Catholic Church

[GRE21]

MONDAY 14 MAY, AFTERNOON

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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

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

Answer **all** questions.

### 1 The Early Church

(a) (i) **The Apostles' Creed gives us facts about the life of Jesus. Name three of these facts.**

- Jesus is Son of God, he is our Lord
- Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Born of the Virgin Mary
- Suffered under Pontius Pilate
- Was crucified, died and was buried
- He descended into hell
- He rose from the dead on the third day
- He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God
- He will come to judge the living and the dead.

(AO1)

[3]

(ii) **Name two characteristics of the Early Church.**

- Serving others
- Prayer
- Miracles
- Breaking Bread together
- Preaching and teaching
- Praising and singing hymns
- Christian behaviour – kind, compassionate, forgiving and patient
- Communal living

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[2]

**(b) Explain why the events of Pentecost were so important for the Early Church.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of Pentecost for 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:

- This day marks the beginning of the Christian Church.
- Jesus fulfils his promise of the Holy Spirit.
- The Apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- It confirms their belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- It is a fulfilment of scripture prophecy.
- 3000 people were baptised on this day.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

- (c) “The Apostles’ Creed should be recited during Mass.”  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

**Target: Evaluation of the purpose for reciting the Apostles’ Creed during Mass.**

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 Apostles’ creed is a summary of the key beliefs of the Christian faith.
- It emphasises the teaching of the Trinity and the importance of God the Creator, Jesus the Saviour and the Holy Spirit.
- The Apostles’ creed helps to unify all believers.
- The Apostles’ creed gives factual clarity against heresy.
- By memorising and reciting the creed during Mass the congregation are reaffirming their faith together.
- Regular recitation of the creed also allows for a better understanding of one’s beliefs.

On the other hand:

- The Apostles’ Creed is often said during Mass however some people may not focus on the words or meaning of the creed.
- The creed is a statement of the teachings of the Apostles, however people are not certain if it was put together or written by them.
- Reciting the Apostles’ Creed at every Mass can become monotonous and potentially could lose its meaning.
- The Apostles’ Creed should only be recited at important Masses for example Easter, Pentecost or Christmas.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO2)

[5]

15

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**2 Leadership in the Church and the role of the Church in contemporary society**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**(a) (i) Who is the Head of the Catholic Church worldwide?**

The Pope, Bishop of Rome, e.g. Pope Francis  
(AO1)

[1]

**(ii) What does the word “infallible” mean?**

To be without fault or error when speaking in a formal way about matters of faith.  
(AO1)

[1]

**(iii) Name two duties of a priest.**

- Preaching & teaching the Word of God
  - Preparing sermons
  - Celebrate sacraments or ordinances
  - Funerals
  - Pastoral duties- care for the needs of their parishioners
  - Visit sick people at home or in hospital
  - School visits
  - Prison visits
  - Chairing of meetings
  - Youth or missionary work
  - Administration work
- Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[2]

**(iv) What is the role of Parish Councils?**

- To assist the priest in the practical running of the parish.
  - Organising fund raising events, church collections, children’s liturgies, Pope John Paul Awards and liturgy groups.
- Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[1]

**(b) Do you think it is important to promote Christian unity in the Church today?**

**Give reasons for your answer.**

**Target: Analysis of Christian unity.**

**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:

- All Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians have faith in God, follow the teachings of Jesus and believe the Bible is the Word of God.
- Christians should always display Christ like behaviour. Jesus stated to “Love your neighbour.” It is our Christian duty to respect others.
- If Christians are united and work together then the Christian Church will become stronger.
- If Christians remain divided it may weaken the Church further.
- Sectarianism and division has led to fear, hatred and conflict. It is important to promote Christian unity to build bridges and create a more peaceful future.
- Religious tolerance is having respect for beliefs of others.
- The Ecumenical Movement in the 20th Century and the World Council of Churches has encouraged the different Churches to work together. Christians now communicate with one another and respect each other’s differences.
- The Early Church is an example of Christian unity, Christians should strive to be more like the Early Church.

On the other hand:

- The Christian Church is a divided church which experienced conflict. It is therefore very difficult to try and bring everyone together and to undo the past.
- Promoting Christian unity may create more conflict and further division.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO2)

[5]

(c) 'The Church should do more to meet the needs of young people'  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**Target: Evaluation of the amount of support which the Church could give to young people.**

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:

- Christ cared for the most vulnerable members of society. The Church should do all that it can to support young people as some may feel alienated from the Church.
- The Church must try to engage and embrace young people so they feel valued and loved by Christ.
- The Church should try to make youth ministry fun and exciting so young people can relate to both the church and society.
- The Church should become more active in the lives of young people, to show understanding rather than being judgemental.

On the other hand:

- The Church is doing all that it can to support young people however they cannot force young people to accept support.
- Churches hold various events for young people, yet many young people do not engage. For example, Bible Study Groups, Sunday Schools and Summer Camps.
- Many churches have an open-door policy and are always willing to help the needs of people, especially those in distress or in any kind of trouble.
- Some churches have members on the streets at night helping young people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- The Catholic Church hosts a World Youth Day every three years and millions of young people attend; this shows that many young people feel supported by the Church.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

15

### 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Describe what happens during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Target: Knowledge of the way the Sacrament of Reconciliation is administered 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:

- The Penitents will examine their conscience.
- The person (penitent) will go to the priest for confessions either in a confessional box or a reconciliation service.
- The Priest welcomes the penitent.
- A short excerpt from scripture is shared on the theme of forgiveness.
- The penitent will then confess their sin. The priest will then offer some advice on how they can make better the weakness in their life.
- They will then listen to the advice of the priest and the penance given.
- Act of contrition is said to show that they are heartfully sorry.
- Absolution is then given by the priest extending his right hand over the penitent saying “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Followed by the prayer of absolution.
- Final Blessing – the priest will then tell the penitent to “Go in Peace”.
- The sign of the cross is made.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is important for Catholics.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

<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 person is reconciled to God/themselves and others.
- It gives them an opportunity to make a fresh start.
- It allows them to become aware that God is loving and forgiving.
- Gives them an opportunity to reflect on their human weakness and strive to become better.
- It cleanses and prepares the person to receive other sacraments within the Church.
- It makes Christ's death on the Cross very significant and the penitent may reflect on this and become more thankful.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

(c) 'Catholics must always be willing to forgive others no matter what'.  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

Target: Evaluation of forgiveness.

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:

- Catholics believe that they must follow the teachings of Christ.
- Catholics should forgive because God our Father forgives.
- The Lord's prayer instructs that we should forgive those who trespass against us. Jesus wants us to forgive others.
- Jesus also said Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- Holding a grudge only makes people bitter and they are unable to move away from the past.
- There is no place for revenge.
- Catholics can forgive by asking God for help through prayer.

On the other hand:

- Sometimes it is difficult to forgive when serious hurt has been caused. People may find it very difficult to let go of the past and move on with their lives.
- In the Old Testament it states "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" which indicates that God deemed revenge acceptable in certain circumstances.
- The process of forgiveness can often take a long time so people give up on it.
- Today's society is less faithful and people no longer rely on God. This may impact on their attitudes towards sin and forgiveness.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

15

#### 4 Church Architecture & Furnishings

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(a) Describe three different types of Church architecture.

**Target: Knowledge of different types of Church architecture.**

Levels	Criteria	Comments	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.		0
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit; elementary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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:

- Different styles of architecture reflect the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.
- 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. Sharing together in fellowship/communion is a vital part of church worship.
- Cruciform churches are cross shaped which emphasises the death of Jesus on the cross. Each part of a cruciform church also has a special name. The chancel contains the sanctuary area, this includes the altar. The transepts, or cross aisles are sometimes used for side chapel especially for young children. Candle stands are also kept in the transepts. The nave is the main part of the church where the congregation sits.
- Church 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 our refuge and strength, God will always support us when in trouble.
- Cathedrals are Churches with a spire and this is a reminder of the importance of prayer. Cathedrals are the Mother Church and they are the most important building in a diocese. Cathedrals are usually classical or gothic. The classical style suggests grandeur and design, while a gothic style conveys mystery and holiness. Armagh Cathedral is gothic style with twin spires.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

- (b) Do you think the inside of the church should be plain and not have expensive furnishings?  
Give reasons for your answer.

**Target: Analysis of church buildings.**

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:

- Elaborate and decorative furnishings can be a distraction to worship.
- The money spent on furnishings could be put to better use.
- Plain and simple interiors are easier to maintain and more cost effective.
- God can be worshipped anywhere and plain buildings are just as practical as elaborate ones.
- Quality of worship is more important than the decor.
- People are the Church and not the building.

On the other hand:

- Beautiful buildings reflect the glory of God and only the best should be used.
- They can create a sense of awe and wonder which improves the quality of worship.
- Paintings and stained-glass windows can be used to reinforce aspects of the Christian message.
- Beautiful buildings may attract people to join the church. It may also attract tourists.
- People may have donated expensive items to the church in memory of loved ones.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

(c) 'Priests should do more to encourage people to attend Mass on Sunday'.

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

Target: Evaluation of the attendance of Mass on Sunday.

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:

- Recent surveys show that people living on the island of Ireland believe in God, yet many do not attend Mass.
- There has been a gradual drop in the numbers attending church and therefore the church needs to take action.
- Priests should offer a variety of church services and sermons to meet the needs of different age groups.
- Priests should also arrange informal services for prayer so people do not feel alienated.
- All Church leaders must be held accountable for their actions and try to undo past mistakes and rebuild trust.

On the other hand:

- People's faith and their belief in God is a personal matter.
- Religion provides a way to express the beliefs people have in their hearts.
- Religious belief and religious practice are therefore connected but they are not the same.
- The priest cannot force people to attend Mass; he can only encourage.
- Society today is secular and people no longer feel the need to practice their faith. The priest will not be able to change this.
- Lots of people continue to attend church on a weekly basis and this is an example to others.
- It is not the responsibility of the priest to encourage church attendance, it is the responsibility of all Catholics.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[5]

15

Section A

60

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**Section B**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

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

**5 Festivals**

**(a) Describe some ways in which Catholics use the four weeks of Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.**

**Target: Knowledge of the different ways Catholics prepare for Christmas during the four weeks of Advent.**

<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:

- Catholics prepare themselves during Advent for the celebrations of Christmas by going to Mass every Sunday: There is a different focus each week on the coming of the Messiah.
- They prepare by reflecting on their lives through daily prayer.
- Some Catholics seek forgiveness during the month of Advent by attending Reconciliation services.
- The liturgical colour for Advent is purple; a symbol of reflection and royalty.
- Catholics also prepare for Christmas by singing carols and giving to those in need.
- Catholics may attend and take part in ecumenical services, promoting Christian unity.
- The Advent wreath symbolises the four weeks of Advent. The wreath is displayed in all churches and in schools
- The Jesse tree allows Christians to remember the ancestry of Jesus during advent.
- Some people spend time practising for Nativity Plays.
- Some people display advent calendars in their homes, this helps them to count down the days to Christmas.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain why Easter is an important festival for Catholics.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the importance of Easter.**

<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:

- Easter forms the basis of the Catholic faith.
- Jesus overcame the power of death and sin which gives Catholics hope of a future resurrection and eternal life.
- Jesus performed the greatest miracle by rising from the dead.
- He proved that he was the Son of God.
- Jesus fulfilled the prophecies he had made and Catholics have the confidence that he will fulfil the other prophecies he has made.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

- (c) 'Catholics should do more to highlight the real meaning of Christmas'. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view.

**Target: Analysis and evaluation of emphasising the real meaning of Christmas.**

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:

- Catholics should do more by encouraging people especially non-practising Catholics to take part in the Advent services in the lead up to Christmas. This would help people to focus on the real meaning of Christmas.
- Regular bible study should try to focus Catholics on the coming of the Messiah rather than the buying of gifts.
- Catholics could encourage family members and friends to purchase Christmas cards that present the real meaning of Christmas.
- They could buy Trocaire or Oxfam gifts for friends and family and to contribute to Christian charities for example Saint Vincent de Paul.
- Catholics should actively promote and take part in carol singing and charity work during Advent and Christmas.
- Catholics should try to be more self-disciplined and not allow themselves to get caught up with commercialism.

On the other hand:

- There are many Catholics who are already focused on the real meaning of Christmas and are doing all that they can to promote this whereas it is the rest of society who is overcome by the commercialism.
- Weekly Mass during Advent focuses on the significance of Christmas.
- Advent wreaths, Advent calendars and Jesse Trees are constant reminders.

- Most Catholics already understand the real meaning of Christmas and therefore may not consider this as an issue for others.
- Catholics schools play a major role in educating young people on the true meaning of Christmas in Religious Education classes, Advent liturgical events and during whole school assemblies.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[10]

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

20

## 6 Sacrament of Confirmation

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### (a) Describe the Confirmation Ceremony in the Catholic Church.

**Target: Knowledge of the confirmation ceremony 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:

- Confirmation is administered usually by the bishop of the diocese.
- The confirmation ceremony takes place during the Mass between the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Presentation of the candidates. The name of the candidate for confirmation is read out from the confirmation card and he or she stands up.
- Renewal of Baptismal promises. These take the form of question and answer, and are the same as those asked at baptism. The candidate renews those promises for themselves, making a personal commitment to their faith.
- The laying on of hands. The bishop raises his hands over those to be confirmed saying: "Send down your Holy Spirit as helper and guide..." The Holy Spirit will come down upon them in power and strength.
- The anointing with chrism. The candidate kneels before the bishop. The new name of the candidate is read out from the confirmation card. The sponsor places their right hand on the shoulder of the candidate, the bishop anoints the candidate on the forehead with the chrism oil, making the sign of the cross. "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit". Final blessing and dismissal- The mass continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. A special blessing is given at the end before everyone is dismissed.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

**(b) Explain the meanings of three main symbols used during a confirmation ceremony.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the different symbols used during the confirmation ceremony.**

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:

- Laying on of hands: This is an ancient way of calling down the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a sign that someone is set apart for a special task. It is a sign that the Holy Spirit will come upon them in power and strength.
- The Anointing with Chrism: This is a symbol of healing and strengthening. It will help the candidate to meet all the challenges of adult Christian life.
- Confirmation Name: This is also symbolic of being set aside to carry out a special task and to be called forward by God to be a witness to Christ. God calls everyone by name. It also is a sign of our unique personal relationship with God.
- The sign of the cross is a mark of God's ownership of the person. It also reflects that we are born with Christ and that we will die with Christ. It reminds us of the suffering of Christ. It is a reminder that Christ will help us to overcome the struggles of life.
- The sign of peace is exchanged after the anointing. This is symbolic of the Holy Spirit bringing the gift of peace and courage to the candidate.

Accept valid alternatives

(AO1)

[5]

(c) 'Catholics should not be confirmed until they are at least sixteen years old'.

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

**Target: Analysis and evaluation of when a person should be confirmed in the Catholic Church.**

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:

- 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)

[10]

## 7 Worship

(a) Describe how Catholics use aids to help them pray.

**Target: Knowledge of the different types of aids which help Catholics to pray.**

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 some of the following:

- Statues of Jesus, Mary and the Saints. People light candles and pray in front of their favourite statue. The statues are not objects of worship. People use statues to help them focus on prayer. The votive candles are a sign of the prayer that has been offered to God.
- Stained glass windows: Stained glass windows show scenes from the Bible or represent the lives of various saints. In the past, they were teaching aids for people who were poor and unable to read the Bible for themselves.
- Icons /Religious Art: Catholics worship God they do not worship Icons, but they venerate them. That means they show special respect for the Icons. They do this because the Icons are a way of joining them to the goodness and holiness of God and His Saints. The stillness of the icon allows the person to draw closer to God. Icons help the person to focus when they are praying or meditating.
- The Stations of the Cross are 14 images around the walls of the church. Each one illustrates an event on Jesus' final journey to his death in Calvary. People walk from each station, stopping at each one to pray and meditate on the suffering of Jesus.
- Rosary beads are an aid towards saying the Rosary in the proper sequence. The beads help the person to focus on each prayer that is said.
- The Holy Bible is an important aid to prayer. Some Catholics use the Bible to receive wisdom and comfort from God during prayer. By reading the scriptures they will try to live their lives according to God's word.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**(b) Explain how Catholics might follow the example of Mary in their lives.**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of Mary and how her life is a good example for Catholics today.**

<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:

- Catholics believe in Mary as Mediatrix and they believe that she prays for people. Catholics can live by this example by living a life of prayer.
- Mary remained faithful even when she was told by Simeon that ‘a sword will pierce your own soul’ –Catholics can be dedicated to the service of God and show faith.
- Catholics can be willing to work with and for other people and put others’ needs before their own as Mary did when she visited her cousin Elizabeth.
- Like Mary, Catholics can encourage others to listen and act on the teachings of Jesus, e.g. at the marriage feast of Cana when Jesus turned water into wine, Mary told the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you’ (John 2: 1–11).
- Catholics can be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit like Mary was e.g. the Virgin Birth and show obedience to God.
- Catholics can show support to those who are grieving or dying like Mary did at the cross when her son was dying.
- Catholics can try to lead a life without sin like Mary did, she is a role model for Catholics today.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO1)

[5]

- (c) 'Catholics only think about God when they are in trouble'.  
Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered different points of view.

**Target: Analysis and evaluation of when Catholics communicate with God.**

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

Answers may include:

- Catholics only think about God when there is a time of crisis in their lives, e.g. serious illness. This is mainly due to having busy lives and constantly putting other things before God.
- Catholics call on God when everything else has failed and so they turn as a last resort to God.
- They turn to God when they find themselves in danger or are faced with what appears to be an insurmountable problem.

On the other hand:

- Many Catholics pray to God daily because they believe it is a fundamental part of Christian living.
- It is part of their relationship with God and prayer helps them to develop it.
- They may turn to God when in difficulty but they also use prayer to seek forgiveness, to give thanks and praise, and to pray for the needs of others.
- Like Jesus, they turn to God in prayer when they are faced with major decisions in their lives.

Accept valid alternatives  
(AO2)

[10]

20

**Section B**

40

**Total**

**100**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**