



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second
Religion

Option 2A – Catholic Christianity

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Paper 2: Study of Second Religion 2A – Catholic Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three marks. • The Word became flesh (1) • God became a human being in Jesus (1) • The Incarnation made it possible for humans to have a full relationship with God (1) • Jesus reveals what God is like in a human form (1) • Jesus became incarnate by the Holy Spirit (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Developments in the doctrine of the Trinity came about due to heresies the Church Councils were required to deal with disagreements (1) these heresies were about Jesus' relationship to God (1) • The First Council of Constantinople discussed the Holy Spirit (1) declaring that the Holy Spirit is fully God (1) • The Council of Nicaea declared God and Jesus as consubstantial (1), stating that Jesus is God as the Father is God (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way/ development • Development that does not relate both to the way given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each belief. Award further marks for each development of the belief up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. - The resurrection reminds Christians that life after death is not guaranteed (1) God will judge those who are worthy of eternal life (1) 'The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; (John 11:25) (1) - Resurrection is important for Christians because it fulfils Jesus's promise (1) because it gives Christians a sense of hope for new life after death (1) 'For since death came through a man being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man' (1 Corinthians 15:21) (1) - The resurrection of Jesus gives hope that Christians will personally experience resurrection (1) because Jesus proved it was impossible for death to win (1) 'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 15:57). (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated belief/development - Development that does not relate both to the belief and to the question - Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1(d)	AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. AO2 Arguments for the statement: • God gave humans control of the earth; they have dominion over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:28); suggesting that they are of a higher importance than other creatures • Humans were the only part of creation that were created Imago Dei; so they have a dignity that makes them different to the rest of creation, this difference shows that they are greater • Humans were given the capacity to reason, making them capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1704); unlike the rest of creation proving they are greater. Arguments against the statement: • The Creation account teaches about the importance of stewardship; this responsibility does not make humans greater but just gives them a distinctive role by God • God is the Creator of all parts of creation, Genesis teaches that God saw all of creation was good; so no part is greater than another • The world was given as a gift that needs to be cared for; the Catechism teaches that humans are required to have respect for the natural world (2415); so, humans are not greater than any other living thing. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different Christian points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
Level 2	4–6	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
Level 3	7–9	A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

'Point(s) of view' **always** means arguments for and against the statement. **Where specified in the bullet points under the question**, it may also include one of the following:

- different views within the religion
- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

SPaG

Marks		Descriptors
0 marks	No marks awarded	• The candidate writes nothing • The candidate's response does not relate to the question. • The candidate's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, for example errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning.
1 marks	Threshold performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall. • Candidates use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate.
2 marks	Intermediate performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall. • Candidates use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate.
3 marks	High performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. • Candidates use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three marks. • The priest welcomes with the sign of the cross (1) • The Penitential Rite is said (1) • The Gospel is read (1) • Offertory gifts are brought (1) • Transubstantiation happens on the altar (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
2(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four marks. • The Church provides sacraments (1) this allows people to continue on their journey of faith (1) • They hold ecumenical events (1) this allows them to live out their Christian Mission (1) • They offer education (1) this allows children to learn about God (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way/ development • Development that does not relate both to the way given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each reason. Award further marks for each development of the reason up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • Catholics follow the example of Jesus (1) he taught that humans will be called to account for their actions towards others (1). 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat' (Matthew 25:35) (1) • Catholics believe that God appointed humans as stewards; (1) meaning Catholics have a duty to ensure that all people are given the opportunity to share in the world's resources (1). The Catechism teaches 'the works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbour' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2447) (1) • Catholic Social teaching states that every Catholic is called to show concern to others (1). The Golden Rule highlights that Christians must treat others as they themselves would wish to be treated (1). 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' (Matthew 7:12) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason/development • Development that does not relate both to the reason and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the reason given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2(d)	AO2 12 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. AO2 Arguments for the statement: • Some Catholics feel that pilgrimage is a sign of devotion to God, it is taking time from their daily life to be with God, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that 'Pilgrimage evokes an earthly journey to heaven' (2691) • Some Catholics believe that a pilgrimage to special places like Lourdes gives them the opportunity to be cured of an illness or to gain inner strength to cope with their illnesses and problems in life • Catholics believe that all Christians should take part in pilgrimages as they are able to be closer to God by walking in his footsteps, for example visiting Jerusalem. Arguments against the statement: • Some Protestants feel that placing emphasis on places as holy is wrong because they believe that people can encounter God everywhere • Some Christians would say that pilgrimages are not needed, people can focus on God and develop their faith by prayer at home and the money needed for pilgrimage would be better spent helping the needy • Some Christians feel that places of pilgrimage have become too commercialised, that many people go for the historical buildings and art, therefore it is not a pilgrimage but a holiday. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different Christian points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
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