



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies B

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Option 1A – 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 1: Religion and Ethics 1A – Catholic Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
Q1 (a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Grace is the underserved love given by God (1) • Catholics are taught that grace can save them from sin (1) • Catholics are taught that God's grace cleanses from sin (1) • Grace is given when Catholics believe in God (1) • Catholics are taught that grace comes from God (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four marks. • The Incarnation is important for Catholics because it is proof of the divinity of Jesus (1). It shows that Jesus is God made flesh (1) • The Incarnation is important because it shows God's love for humanity (1). The Nicene Creed says, 'for our salvation he came down from heaven' (1) • The Incarnation shows Jesus is fully human and fully divine (1). Making him 'the one and only mediator between God and men' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 480) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason / development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each way. Award further marks for each development of the way up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • One way the Bible shows God is a Trinity of Persons is in the Baptism of Jesus (1). The Holy Spirit appeared as a dove (1) and '...a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love.'" (Matthew 3:17) (1) • The Bible records Jesus telling the disciples to baptise in God's name by reciting the three Persons of the Trinity (1), 'make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,' (Matthew 28:19) (1). This is referred to as the Great Commission (1) • A way God is shown as a Trinity of Persons is when Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will be sent to the disciples (1), that God will help them after Jesus leaves them (1). ...'the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things' (John 14:26) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way / development • Development that does not relate both to the way given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the way 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: • Some Catholics would argue that the resurrection is the most significant part of the Paschal Mystery, as it is the event that proves that Jesus is fully divine • Some Catholics would agree with this statement as the resurrection of Jesus is proof that he came to save humanity, by showing the way to eternal life • The resurrection is the most significant part of the Paschal Mystery as all the other elements lead up to it. The resurrection is the ultimate sign of God's power over death. Arguments against the statement: • Some Catholics might argue that the resurrection is not the most significant part of the Paschal Mystery, that the crucifixion is. The crucifixion is when the gates of heaven were opened • Some Catholics may argue that there is no one important part of the Paschal Mystery. All the events are equally important as they are all part of the story of salvation • Some Catholics might argue that the suffering of Jesus is more important as it shows his sacrifice and his humanity because he suffers, and his divinity because he is willing to do it. Accept any other valid response.	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 mark	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. • Marriage is important in Catholic life as it is a sacrament (1) • Marriage is important as it is a public declaration of love (1) • Marriage is important as it is part of God's plan (1) • Marriage is important as it is a secure place to bring up children (1) • Marriage is important as it brings support and companionship to the couple (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Catholics are taught men and women are equal within the family. (1). However, they have different roles (1) • Catholic teachings explain that men and women are equal in dignity in the family (1). Neither partner is regarded as more important than the other (1) • Catholic teachings explain that equality is innate (1); as are the maternal and fatherly roles in the raising of children (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching/ development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(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. • A Catholic belief about the purpose of the family is that it is a vital social group (1); it provides a way for children to become valued members of society (1). 'The family has vital and organic links with society' (Familiaris Consortio 42) (1) • Catholics believe that the purpose of the family is to educate children (1). It is where they learn right from wrong (1). '...parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children' (Familiaris Consortio 36) (1) • Catholics believe that the family should be a part of the Church (1). They believe it is essential to raise children to become active within the Church (1). '...the family is placed at the service of the building up of the Kingdom of God in history by participating in the life and mission of the Church.' (Familiaris Consortio 49) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated belief / development • Development that does not relate both to the belief given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief 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: • Catholics may agree and argue that family planning should be in accordance with God's plans. Natural contraception does not use artificial means, which may interfere with these plans • Catholics would agree with the use of natural family planning as it allows the natural process of sexual intimacy, which is God's will • Many other Christians would agree and argue that artificial contraception encourages selfish sexual activity and that natural family planning, if correctly used, ensures the sexual well-being of the couple. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians would argue that natural family planning is not the most effective method of contraception and that artificial methods should be allowed • Some Churches would explain that artificial family planning allows for the couple to have unitive intimacy without the worry of having children which might arise otherwise • Some Christians may believe natural family planning is too difficult to accurately work and that other methods which prevent infections as well as conception might be better methods. 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
	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.
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'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.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Catholics teach that evangelism is an essential part of Catholic life (1) • Evangelism is part of Jesus' command to 'baptise all nations' (Matthew 28:19) (1) • Evangelism saves people by bringing them into the Church (1) • The Church teaches that evangelism will make society better (1) • The Church teaches that evangelism is needed so that people know they are loved by God (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four marks. • The Church teaches that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life because it gives God's grace (1). The Eucharist gives Catholics God's love (1) • The Eucharist is the source and summit because it can strengthen a Catholic's faith (1). It allows them to unite with God (1) • The Eucharist is the source and summit because all other sacraments are ordered towards it (1). 'The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1327) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching / development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each feature. Award further marks for each development of the feature up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • A feature of the funeral rite is the vigil (1). The vigil can take place in the home or in a church (1). 'Its mood is one of quiet support which helps to prepare the bereaved for the final leave-taking' (Preparing My Funeral, Vincent Nichols) (1) • A feature of the funeral rite is readings within the funeral liturgy (1). The focus is Bible teachings about eternal life (1). '...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16) (1) • The funeral rite includes the committal (1). This final farewell may be a burial or a cremation (1). 'When a body is cremated, it is encouraged that there be a further brief service' (Preparing My Funeral, Vincent Nichols) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated feature / development • Development that does not relate both to the feature given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the feature given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
3(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 this statement: • Catholics would argue that there are seven sacraments that all of these should be accepted as important opportunities to receive grace from God • Catholics and Orthodox Christians accept that all seven sacraments mark important stages in a person's journey of faith, they are rites of passage • Catholics accept all seven sacraments as being instituted by Jesus and are thus holy events ordained by God. All seven sacraments have vital roles to play in Christian life. Arguments against the statement: • Many Christians accept that there are sacraments, but only two should be celebrated. They believe that only two can be seen in the Bible, Baptism and Eucharist • Some Christians may feel that that only two sacraments should be celebrated as they believe that the other five have been created at a later point in Church history rather than being true sacraments • Some Christians do not celebrate any sacraments. They reject the idea that rites of passage should be celebrated in this way. They regard them as empty rituals. 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

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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
4(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • The Catholic Church teaches abortion is wrong (1) • It is Catholic teaching that abortion is against the sanctity of life (1) • The Bible teaches that ending a life is wrong (1) • The Church teaches that the mother's life takes priority (1) • Catholics teach that abortion is murder (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Catholics believe God created humans to be stewards of the Earth (1). This means caring for the world is a God-given role (1) • Catholics are taught that stewardship is part of Catholic Social Teaching (1). Catholics are guardians of God's Creation. (1) • Catholics are taught that stewardship is a moral imperative (1). The Catechism teaches 'It is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2418) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated belief /development • Development that does not relate both to the belief given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each response. Award further marks for each development of the response up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • Catholics will respond to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life by saying that many are in-line with Catholic teachings (1), which support evolution (1). Pope Francis said, 'Evolution in nature is not in contrast with the notion of [divine] creation' (Pontifical Academy of Sciences 27/10/2014) (1) • Catholics respond that non-religious explanations may show that God is the power behind the creation of humanity (1). Evolution explains how God created human life, (1). Pope Francis said 'He created human beings and let them develop according to the internal laws' (Pontifical Academy of Sciences 27/10/2014) (1) • Catholics respond that the non-religious explanations show the nature of God (1). Only God can be the cause of the discoveries scientists are making (1). 'These discoveries invite us to even greater admiration for the greatness of the Creator' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 283) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated response / development • Development that does not relate both to the response given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the response given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(d)	A02 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. A02 Arguments for the statement: • Catholics believe that euthanasia is never acceptable because humans are part of God's Creation. Humans should not reject God's gift of life • Catholics are taught that euthanasia is never acceptable because it ignores the value of life. The Catechism explains it is 'gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2324) • Catholics would argue that euthanasia is morally wrong. They would argue that it is akin to murder, as it prematurely ends the life of another person. Arguments against the statement: • Some people would argue that euthanasia is sometimes acceptable. People applying situation ethics might argue that is more loving to allow a person who is dying in pain to end their life, rather than to keep them alive • Some Catholics would argue that passive euthanasia is acceptable. It is acceptable to stop the use of extraordinary means of keeping people alive, knowing that it will hasten their death • Some utilitarians would argue that euthanasia is acceptable because it allows a person to determine their time of death, so that they have a good death rather than one which may be painful and drawn out. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider ethical arguments (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	12

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