



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A
Paper 3: Philosophy & Ethics
3A 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 3: Philosophy and Ethics 3A – Catholic Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	<p>AO1 3 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miracles show the Holy Spirit is active in the world (1) • Miracles show the power of God (1) • Miracles show God can answer peoples' prayers (1) • Miracles show the loving nature of God (1) • There is no other explanation to the miracle apart from God (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing an issue. Award a second mark for development of the issue. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If God is omnibenevolent, he must want to eliminate suffering (1), but suffering continues so they question God's existence (1) • If God is omniscient, he would know about the real possibility of natural disasters (1), yet God does not warn people before a natural disaster (1) • If God was omnipotent, he must be able to prevent all the suffering (1) when suffering happens, they question God's power (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated issue/ development • Development that does not relate both to the issue given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each attitude. Award further marks for each development of the attitude up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a private prayer is answered it confirms that God is listening (1) and answering prayers (1) this is supported by the Catechism that states 'God has revealed himself to man by gradually communicating his own mystery in deeds' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 69) (1) • Religious experiences show something greater than themselves must be causing the event (1) the only possible cause of the experience is God (1), the Magisterium seeks to validate these experiences; 'the sensus fidelium knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 67) (1) • If someone has a conversion experience it leads them to believe in God (1) proving his existence because they now have direct experience of God's presence (1) like St Paul 'he got up and was baptised'. (Acts 9:18) (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated attitude / development • Development that does not relate both to the attitude and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the attitude given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1(d)	<p>AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AO2</p> <p>Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catholic Church teaches that Catholics must help to remove suffering from the world because this is what Jesus did. He cured the sick and helped those suffering. He also taught in the Sheep and the Goats that Christians must help those suffer • Some Christians accept only God knows the answer and humans cannot understand God's reasons for doing things, even Jesus had to suffer and asked his followers to help those who suffer • Catholics respond to suffering in practical ways which is why it has CAFOD, allowing Catholics to put into practice the command to 'love your neighbour as yourself.' <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians believe that the world was not created as a paradise; God created this world as preparation for paradise, suffering allows humans to develop and appreciate the good as demonstrated by Job • Some Christians believe that their duty is to become closer to God as indicated by the first Greatest commandment. They trust that God has the power to end suffering • Some Christians support St Augustine who claims suffering is the fault of humans as God created people with free will, suffering is caused by human misuse of free will and so is not the fault of God and so Christians do not need to respond to suffering. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p> <p>Candidates who do not consider different points of view within the religious tradition (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	15

'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.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	<p>A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.</p>
Level 2	4–6	<p>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.</p> <p>This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.</p>
Level 3	7–9	<p>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.</p> <p>This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.</p>
Level 4	10–12	<p>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.</p> <p>This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.</p>

SPaG

Marks		Descriptors
0 marks	No marks awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)	<p>AO1 3 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God created both genders in his image (1) • Jesus' ministry has examples of male and female followers (1) • St Paul teaches we are all one in Christ (1) • The Catholic Church teaches men and women are equal but have different roles (1) • Catholics follow the Golden rule (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
2(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the tradition of the Church that sexual activity should create life (1), it is not possible for same-sex couples to have sex which creates life (1) • The Catholic Church does not accept any sexual relationships before marriage (1), the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is for a man and a woman to join together as one (1) • The Catholic attitude towards same-sex relationships is that being attracted to someone of the same sex is not a sin, but that sexual activity is (1). The Catholic Church asks those with same-sex attraction to be celibate (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason/ development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Francis urges society to return to lifelong marriage (1) because the union of man and woman in marriage is good for society (1) '...benefits that marriage can provide to children, the spouses themselves, and to society' (Not Just Good but Beautiful) (1) • Catholics believe marriage is important as it is life giving (1) the couple promise to bring themselves together in a new life together based on trust and love (1) as seen in the statement of intention 'Are you ready to love and honour each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?' (1) • Marriage is the legitimate place for sexual intercourse to take place (1) and the best place to raise a family (1). Evangelii Gaudium states that the contribution of marriage to society is 'indispensable' (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	<p>AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AO2</p> <p>Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish has a role in supporting families and helping them keep children on their journey of faith, Jesus said 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them' (Matthew 19:13-14) • The parish needs families to carry on the local community of faith, many when they are old enough to question God, feel the church does not provide for teenagers and they leave the Church • Many non-traditional families feel that people within the parish do not approve of their union, the church needs to welcome people as in 1 Timothy 4:12 it says, 'set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.' Therefore, the church should provide role models, counselling and wholesome activities to encourage all families. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many parish districts already have counsellors and youth leaders to support, mentor and guide young people. Many churches have appointed ministers for children who are especially trained in the needs of modern youth • There are youth camps and organisations that bring church groups together from around the country. Many churches work together to support young people in international charity projects or run young leaders awards such as CAFOD • Many parish communities offer support for families through the work of the SVP, supporting families in difficult situations, they also have coffee morning and toddler groups that allow Catholic families to enjoy play and scripture. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	12

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