

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SHORT COURSE (8061)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Judaism

See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Whilst every attempt has been made to show a range of student responses, the following responses and examiner comments provide teachers with the best opportunity to understand the application of the mark scheme. They are not intended to be used as model answers, although they are genuine student responses from the summer examinations which were marked by senior examiners.

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	4
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Explain two Jewish teachings about the importance of the sanctity of human life.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Jewish belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

One teaching is the belief that God gave us the gift of life and to commit suicide or kill someone else directly opposes the sanctity of life. Another teaching is that Jews believe saving a life is the same as saving mankind and to save a life is to honour the sanctity of life.

Answer A

This response does not use the clearest phrasing, but does meet the criteria for a 5 mark question. The first point is that God gave the gift of life, which is developed with the examples of suicide and killing. The second developed point also includes a reference to teaching from the Mishnah which also gains the mark for a correct reference.

5 marks

12 mark questions

Levels of Response

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>References to religion applied to the issue.</p>	10-12
3	<p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>Clear reference to religion.</p>	7-9
2	<p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.</p> <p>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</p>	4-6
1	<p>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</p>	1-3
0	<p>Nothing worthy of credit.</p>	0

12 mark questions (A02)

0	1	.	5
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'For Jews, belief in life after death affects how they live their lives.'
Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Jewish teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

Answer A

Firstly, I disagree with this statement as denominations put emphasis on this life. They believe that they will be rewarded by God in this life so must follow the mitzvot closely. This reward is seen in the story of Job where after all his suffering he was rewarded by God for his loyalty. Also, Jews believe they are the chosen people and are "holy to your G-d." so they have to carry responsibilities in this life so that God can reward them. They have certain obligations such as Brit Milah (covenant of circumcision to carry out). The Tenakh has little reference to the afterlife.

However, on the otherhand Jews believe in Gan Eden a place of spiritual reward in the afterlife. Also, in Gehenna which is where souls are cleaned. God take "every deed in judgment" to which one you will go to based on how you behave in this life.

Although, some Hasardic and Sephardic Jews believe that your body will be reincarnated in order to heal and repair the world. This is called "tikan olam." So it doesn't matter how you behave as everyone is reincarnated in order to save the world as it is Gods creation that Jews must protect.

Contrastly, I agree with the statement as both Reform and Orthodox Jews believe in the Messiah. He will bring eternal life to the righteous. "The earth will awake some to everlasting life." So how they live their lives in important and follow the mitzvah as if they don't they will not be able to live in the Messianic age. In addition, I believe the statement is correct as when Moses was given the Mitzvah in the Covenant at Mt Sinai he said "keep my covenant" exodus. If our action didn't matter in the afterlife then why would God give Jews free will to choose right from wrong if their were no reprecutions.

In conclusion, I believe the statement is correct as if Jews want to live in the peaceful age with the Messiah then they have to be righteous in their life time so they can be rewarded.

Answer A

The response includes two points of view which both include development which forms chains of reasoning. Jewish teaching is applied throughout the response, although at times arguments are not fully clear and there are some inaccuracies (such as, in paragraph 3 the idea that 'it doesn't matter how you behave').

Level 4, 10 marks

SPaG 2 – The response does contain several spelling errors, including in some subject terminology. However, these do not obscure meaning and so intermediate performance seems to be the best fit here. There is use of paragraphing and punctuation is generally well used.

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/8061

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