

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SHORT COURSE (8061)

**Marked Responses**  
Summer 2018 - Themes

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.

## Two mark questions (A01.1)

0	1	.	2
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Give two religious beliefs about same-sex marriage.

**[2 marks]**

### Answer A

Muslims believe same sex marriage isn't allowed.

Some Christians do allow same sex marriage.

### Answer B

Roman Catholics believe that same sex marriage goes against God and should never be allowed. They also believe that same sex marriage is a sin, as the point of marriage is to procreate which is not possible for two men.

#### Answer A

Two simple points which clearly identify two different religious beliefs. There is no requirement in these 2 mark questions to explain the reasons for the beliefs given.

2 marks

#### Answer B

There are more points than needed given in this response, and credit was given for the first two correct points given - 'goes against God' and 'never be allowed'.

2 marks

## Four mark questions (A01.3)

0	4	.	3
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Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about nuclear weapons. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

**[4 marks]**

### Answer A

Some Christians believe that using nuclear weapons is wrong because Jesus said “turn the other cheek” when faced with violence. It also goes against sanctity of life. However, the Bible also said “an eye for an eye” showing that it is ok to retaliate.

### Answer B

Christians may believe that nuclear weapons whilst they should never be used because harming civilians goes against the sanctity of life, could be used as a deterrent to reduce the chance of war and violence. On the other hand, Buddhists believe in ahimsa and nuclear weapons contradict this and the first moral precept is to abstain from taking life, so they would be firmly against nuclear weapons.

#### Answer A

The first belief given in this response is developed, although the use of a quotation is not required by this question, the teaching of Jesus is a valid point which is then developed with the belief in ‘sanctity of life’. The contrasting belief is not developed and although the teaching of ‘an eye for an eye’ could be applied to this question, the use of nuclear weapons for retaliation is not a generally accepted view, therefore the teaching would need to be explained further in this context to gain the second mark.

3 marks

#### Answer B

This response includes two well-developed points. Although both points could be explained more concisely, they nevertheless include clear and accurate beliefs which meet the objective of the question by presenting ‘contrasting’ views.

4 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><b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b></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><b>Clear reference to religion.</b></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><b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</b></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 religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.' Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

**[12 marks]**

### Answer A

Sexual relationships are carried out between people. Many people have various different reasons for carrying out sexual acts. Some people could agree with this statement. Muslims believe that sex can only be had within marriage. This is to preserve its sanctity and it allows everyone to fulfil chastity. Jews believe the main reason to have sex is to create children. Their holy scriptures state "Be fruitful and multiply." This emphasises the importance of having children, Jews believe marriage is the natural state of humans so people should only have children within marriage. Christians could also agree with the statement mentioning that a human can only be classes as a Christian if they're conceived within marriage.

Some people could also disagree with the statement. Some people may have other reasons to have sexual relationships than having children. People may have sexual relationships for fun or even for money. Additionally, people could state that it doesn't truly matter whether sexual relationships are had within or outside marriage because it is just a piece of paper.

Furthermore, one could state that a child who's born as part of a family where the parents aren't married has just as high value in society as a child who has married parents. Some Christians could also rebuttle that Jesus was born outside marriage, proving that marriage doesn't affect the child's life.

In conclusion I believe that marriage doesn't affect sexual relationships. Those who have children from sexual relationships still look after their children as well as a married couple would.

### Answer A

This response drifts significantly from the focus of the statement in the question, which limits the mark that can be awarded. The first sentence is not relevant, and the rest of the first paragraph is more focussed on marriage and having children than sexual relationships. Again, paragraph three focusses on having children. There is reasonable religious content here, despite some inaccuracy of expression concerning Jesus birth, but the accompanying reasoning is limited. Therefore the response just meets the criteria for Level 3.

Level 3, 7 marks

SPaG 3 – good use of sentences and punctuation, high accuracy in spelling.

### Answer B

'For religious believers, sex should only take place inside of marriage' is a statement that many religions differ on. Roman Catholics believe this is true, as the point of marriage is to 'be fruitful' and procreate, bringing more young Catholics into the world who can spread the religion. Muslims share this view to a degree. The overall idea is that sex is a tool given to us by God so that we may procreate, and sex should only take place inside of marriage. In parts of the east, Muslim women are executed for having sex outside of marriage.

However, there are reasons why this should not be the case. Quakers are often ok with sex outside of marriage, as they believe that the sex is more about the loving relationship shared by the people involved than about God. Buddhists also generally don't have a problem with it. They believe that all sex should be moral and loving, but that is all. The fact that so many religions have differing views on the topic should show that its less about God, and more about the people.

In conclusion, however, I think that this statement is correct, especially for Christians. Marriage is sacred in Christianity (one of the sacraments) and should be respected, as should sex. Those who have sex outside of marriage are labelled fornicators and are considered grave sinners. Even the Pope said all sex should have the chance for life.

## Answer B

This response is about the expected length (241 words) and is well-argued. The response is well focused on the question set, and makes reasonable use of religious teachings. As such, the response is firmly within Level 4, but does not quite reach the top mark. A tighter focus on the question of sexual relationships, rather than the purposes of marriage could have aided this.

Level 4, 11 marks

SPaG 3 – this response fully meets the criteria for high performance with a good level of accuracy throughout.

0	4	.	5
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'War is the best way to solve problems between countries.'  
Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

**[12 marks]**



## Answer A

War is when two countries fight, usually over land or power. For centuries, war has been the solution for conflicts between countries, something that has been around so long must be effective in dealing with problems.

War is a fair way of deciding on a winner. It has to be approved by the UN which then allows the countries to settle the problems in a test of each country's strength and determination.

Jesus said that he approved of war by telling his followers that if they didn't "own a sword, then sell your cloak and buy one." There have also been many Holy Wars in the name of God, for example the Crusades. However, war often forces people to leave their homes and families to fight, and maybe die for their country. Although civilians aren't killed thousands of innocent soldiers die.

Before starting a war, the countries have to prove that there is no other way of solving the conflict. If they could negotiate their terms and avoid starting a war, it would be better for both countries. Finally, Gandhi told Hindus "an eye for an eye and the whole world would be blind" meaning that if everyone tried to inflict pain on anyone who had wronged them we would all be in pain.

To conclude, I think that war is not the best solution as there are others that can be effective. As John F Kennedy said "mankind must put an end to war before puts an end to mankind."

### Answer A

This response gives points on both sides of the argument but lacks evaluations and development of the accurate and relevant points that are given. There are some inaccuracies and confusion, for example the second paragraph and the point about civilians in the third. Furthermore, the reference to holy war and Gandhi are not made relevant with reference to 'countries.' Due to some inaccuracies and lack of focus on the statement, this response does not meet the criteria for Level 3.

Level 2, 6 marks

SPaG 3 – good use of spelling and grammar, which allows clarity of meaning throughout.

## Answer B

War is the best way to solve problems between countries. Whether it be regular war, Holy War, or Just War, it always has the most impact and makes sure there is no messing about. War can be moral in the case of Holy War and Just War, where the point is not to take as many lives as possible, but rather to achieve some sort of goal. For example, God approved Muhammad going to war to take back Makkah, showing that it can be religiously acceptable. The alternatives are often slow, and open to political abuse.

However, Christians would argue that war will never be the best way to solve problems between countries. Jesus taught us the idea of reconciliation, which is very important in christianity (as it is one of the sacraments). They would always try to reconcile broken relations between two bodies, for example Corymeela in Northern Ireland. The least violent way is the best way. This is an idea shared by Buddhists, who believe in Ahimsa – pacifism and peaceful protest at all costs.

I do not believe that War is the best way to solve problems between countries. I agree with the idea that there are many suitable alternatives which cause far less loss of life and are much more morally acceptable. I also know that war is often overdone, and that there are never any real winners to it. I believe that the lives of the public should always be put first.

### Answer B

A well-argued response of the expected length (246 words). The religious arguments are used well, although throughout the answer there could have been more focus on the issue of 'between countries'. This clear focus on the exact statement at hand is required for a top mark.

Level 4, 10 marks

SPaG 3 – good use of spelling and grammar, which allows clarity of meaning throughout.

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