



Cambridge IGCSE™

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490/02

Paper 2 Festivals, Fasts, Family Life and Social Action

For examination from 2025

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **four** questions in total:
You must answer from **two** sections.
In each of your chosen sections, you must answer **two** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages.

Answer **four** questions in total. You must answer from **two** sections.

Section A – Christianity

If you have chosen this section, you must answer **two** questions.

- 1 (a) (i) State **two** Easter Sunday customs for Christians. [2]
(ii) Outline what Christians remember on Maundy/Holy Thursday. [4]
- (b) Explain why Christians celebrate Christmas. [6]
- (c) Evaluate whether Pentecost is the most important festival for Christians.
You must refer to Christianity in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
- [Total: 20]
- 2 Vows are one feature of a Christian marriage ceremony.
- (a) (i) State **two** vows that might be made at a Christian marriage ceremony. [2]
(ii) Outline **other** features that might be part of a Christian marriage ceremony. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of marriage for Christians. [6]
- (c) Evaluate whether divorce is sometimes the best decision for a Christian couple.
You must refer to Christianity in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
- [Total: 20]
- 3 (a) (i) State the Two Greatest Commandments. [2]
(ii) Describe how Christians might follow the Two Greatest Commandments. [4]
- (b) Explain how the work done by Caritas is motivated by Christian teachings. [6]
- (c) Evaluate whether it is possible for Christians to love people that they have never met.
You must refer to Christianity in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
- [Total: 20]

Section B – Islam

If you have chosen this section, you must answer **two** questions.

- 4 (a) (i) State **two** things that are haram in Islam. [2]
 (ii) Describe how fiqh is used in Shari'ah law. [4]
- (b) Explain the value of traditional family life in Islam. [6]
- (c) Discuss whether social change is a challenge for Muslim communities. You must refer to Islam in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
 [Total: 20]
- 5 (a) (i) Give **two** benefits of sawm. [2]
 (ii) Describe how fasting is practised in Islam. [4]
- (b) Explain why Muslims celebrate 'Id al-Adha. [6]
- (c) Discuss whether 'Id al-Fitr is more important as a social event than as a religious celebration. You must refer to Islam in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
 [Total: 20]
- 6 (a) (i) State **two** things Muslims do to welcome a baby into the Muslim community. [2]
 (ii) Outline reasons why a Muslim family might encourage their children to be khalifahs of the environment. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of marriage ceremonies in Islam. [6]
- (c) Discuss whether it is important for a Muslim to be able to choose how they mourn the dead. You must refer to Islam in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]
 [Total: 20]

Section C – Judaism

If you have chosen this section, you must answer **two** questions.

- 7 (a) (i) State **two** things that Jews can do to care for the elderly. [2]
- (ii) Outline Jewish teachings on nurture of the young. [4]
- (b) Explain how the teaching of tzedakah shows love and concern for other people. [6]
- (c) Evaluate whether concern for other people is the most important feature of Judaism. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]

[Total: 20]

- 8 (a) (i) Name **two** items on the Seder table. [2]
- (ii) Outline how Pesach may be celebrated. [4]
- (b) Explain some of the benefits to Jews of observing festivals. [6]
- (c) Compare the significance of Jewish festivals you have studied. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]

[Total: 20]

- 9 (a) (i) State **two** things that happen during shiva. [2]
- (ii) Describe **two** rituals connected with the treatment of the dead in Judaism. [4]
- (b) Explain why Jewish communities have ceremonies to mark a child becoming an adult. [6]
- (c) Evaluate how difficult it is for Jews to keep kashrut in today's world. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. Your response should consider different points of view when you evaluate the question. [8]

[Total: 20]

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