



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

Paper 2A: Thematic Studies

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The examining body for this paper is AQA. The **paper reference** is 8062/2A.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Choose **four** themes.
- Answer **all** questions on the four themes you have chosen.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 96 plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (**SPaG**) will be assessed in the 12-mark question. The marks for **SPaG** are shown below the mark allocation for each question. The best of these marks will be included in your total for the paper.

Advice

You are advised to spend 25 minutes on each theme.

You should answer **all** questions from **four** themes.

Theme A: Relationships and families

0	1
---	---

 .

1

 Which **one** of the following means an unmarried couple living together? **[1 mark]**

- A** Procreation
- B** Cohabitation
- C** Divorce
- D** Polygamy

0	1
---	---

 .

2

 Give **two** reasons why many religious believers accept remarriage. **[2 marks]**

0	1
---	---

 .

3

 Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about gender equality.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

0	1
---	---

 .

4

 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the role of children within the family.
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[5 marks]**

0	1
---	---

 .

5

 'Married couples should not use contraception.'
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]
[Plus SPaG 3 marks]

Theme B: Religion and life

0	2
---	---

 .

1

Which **one** of the following terms may be used when describing the general well-being of a person?

[1 mark]

- A** Length of life
- B** Purpose of life
- C** Quality of life
- D** Sanctity of life

0	2
---	---

 .

2

Give **two** reasons why some religious people are against experimenting on animals.

[2 marks]

0	2
---	---

 .

3

Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about an afterlife.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0	2
---	---

 .

4

Explain **two** reasons why many religious people believe they have a duty to look after the world.

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

[5 marks]

0	2
---	---

 .

5

‘Euthanasia is never the best option.’

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]

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]

Turn over ►

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

0	3
---	---

 .

1

Which **one** of the following is a form of special revelation?**[1 mark]**

- A** Being brought up to believe in God
- B** Learning of God through what humans do
- C** Meeting God directly
- D** Seeing God through nature

0	3
---	---

 .

2

Give **two** reasons why some people do **not** believe that revelations about God are real.**[2 marks]**

0	3
---	---

 .

3

Explain **two** contrasting beliefs about miracles.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0	3
---	---

 .

4

Explain **two** religious beliefs about the omnipotence of God.

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

[5 marks]

0	3
---	---

 .

5

'The only way to know God is by being enlightened.'

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]**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

0	4
---	---

 .

1

Which **one** of the following best expresses the idea of accepting someone's apology for what they have done wrong?

[1 mark]

- A Forgiveness
- B Justice
- C Protest
- D Punishment

0	4
---	---

 .

2

Give **two** reasons why a conflict may be said to be a 'holy war'.

[2 marks]

0	4
---	---

 .

3

Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about a country using weapons of mass destruction.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0	4
---	---

 .

4

Explain **two** reasons why some religious believers choose to work for an organisation that helps victims of war.

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

[5 marks]

0	4
---	---

 .

5

'All religious believers should be pacifists and never fight.'

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]

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]

Turn over ►

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment**0 5 . 1**

Which **one** of the following aims of punishment can be described as taking revenge?

[1 mark]

- A** Deterrence
- B** Protection
- C** Reformation
- D** Retribution

0 5 . 2

Give **two** different types of crime.

[2 marks]**0 5 . 3**

Explain **two** contrasting religious views about the treatment of people who have committed evil actions.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]**0 5 . 4**

Explain **two** reasons why some religious believers might break the law.

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

[5 marks]**0 5 . 5**

‘Community service does **not** punish the criminal enough.’

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]**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

- 0 6 . 1** Which **one** of the following means treating people fairly? **[1 mark]**
- A** Exploitation
- B** Hatred
- C** Inequality
- D** Justice
-
- 0 6 . 2** Give **two** causes of poverty. **[2 marks]**
-
- 0 6 . 3** Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about freedom of religion.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**
-
- 0 6 . 4** Explain **two** reasons why religious believers should challenge racial prejudice.
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[5 marks]**
-
- 0 6 . 5** 'People living in poverty must help themselves to overcome any difficulties they face.'
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]**
[Plus SPaG 3 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2023 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

