

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies A

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J620

Unit: B577 (Islam)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies A specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE Religious Studies A

J620 B577 Islam 1 (Beliefs, Special Days, Divisions, Interpretations)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualifications Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

3(e) ‘It is easier to be a true Muslim in a Muslim country.’	
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiners commentary</i>
<p><i>I would imagine that this must be the case because in a Muslim country everyone is following the same religion and therefore you would be encouraged to keep to your religion by seeing everyone around you doing the same thing. The whole country would revolve around the religion so work places and schools would have places to pray and would stop for prayer time. All the food shops could close in the day during Ramadan and open at night making it easier for Muslims to go without food. There would be lots of Mosques so you could get to prayer time more easily. Where everyone is a Muslim there would be fewer distractions and young Muslims would not feel pressured into</i></p>	<p>High Level Response</p> <p>This is a good response beginning with an appropriate personal response that is supported by relevant arguments and evidence. The candidate draws upon a variety of examples to develop the response, all showing a clear understanding of the religion.</p> <p>Another view is given – in this case the candidate offers what they think some Muslims might argue. It is perhaps not the slant you would expect but nevertheless is supported by relevant argument and evidence and so is perfectly appropriate.</p> <p>There is personal engagement with the issue and a clear understanding of the significance of</p>

not following their religion.

However, Muslims might argue that it doesn't matter where you live because being a Muslim is about submitting to the will of Allah and living by His rules and this can be hard anywhere, even in a Muslim country. The rules of Islam are very strict and need a lot of will power and it won't matter if there is a Mosque on every corner. You must be dedicated to Allah or you could still not go and do your 5 prayers. Some Muslims might say that if you have things made easy for you then it is not really showing true dedication and a true Muslim is one who can still follow Allah when they live in a non-Muslim country. By trying your hardest when there are very few Muslims around you might be seen as a proof of your faith and if it is not possible to do everything right because there are no Mosques then Allah forgives you providing your intention was good. So maybe it's just as hard to be a Muslim wherever you live.

the issue is shown. The candidate has clearly tried to empathise with the Muslim's situation and imagine where being a Muslim is more difficult

Use of Muslim terminology is accurate and appropriate, and the written communication is good.

<p>3(e) 'It is easier to be a true Muslim in a Muslim country.' Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. (12)</p>	
<p><i>Candidate style answer</i></p>	<p><i>Examiners commentary</i></p>
<p><i>I agree with this statement because they are all doing the same things and so no one feels left out and they will not be called names for doing something that is different so muslims will feel ok and they will be able to do all the things that thy must do and no one will laugh at them. They can go to the mosk and all pray together and they will have special parties and they will all go to schools and learn about the religion. This is easy in a muslim country because everyone is a muslim and doing the same thing.</i></p>	<p>Medium Level Response</p> <p>This is a medium level answer where some relevant material has been selected and organised into a response to the question. It is a personal response but it is almost one sided with hardly any consideration of a different point of view.</p> <p>The response is vague (without the question you would not really know what the candidate is talking about). The views lack support or exemplification.</p> <p>To help students get to the next level of response it is sometimes useful to ask them to use the formula of 'Some people would say..... while other people would say.....' This makes them think about different responses.</p> <p>Another way might be, 'Muslims believe this..... and/but I think.....' This encourages students to comment on a point of view which develops the skill of evaluation.</p> <p>Written communication is satisfactory but is hampered by some errors in the spelling of key terminology</p>