

Religious Studies: GCSE Exam structure

You will sit TWO exams: a 'Religion' paper (Christianity and Buddhism) and a 'Themes' paper. BOTH exams will consist of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12-mark questions.

1-mark questions: These are multiple choice questions and are most likely to be about the meaning of key words. A final decision is yet to be made as to how these questions will be laid out on the exam paper, but it is likely to be a case of underlining/ circling/ ticking the correct answer from a choice of four.

2-mark questions: These are questions that will ask you to 'Give two...'. Your answers do NOT need to be detailed to get the full 2 marks. E.g.

'Give two religious beliefs about forgiveness'

Christians believe that there should be no limit to a person's forgiveness (1). Muslims believe that showing forgiveness will please Allah (1).

4-mark questions: These are questions that will ask you to 'Explain two ways in which ... influences Christians/ Muslims' (Religion paper) OR 'Explain two similar/ contrasting religious beliefs about ...' (Religion and Themes papers). Unlike the 2-mark questions, you DO need to make sure you explain each point well- each point needs to be developed as it is worth 2 marks. On the themes paper you MUST talk about a Christian view in your answer, the second point could then be from a different religion OR another Christian view. E.g.

'Explain two ways in which belief in the afterlife influences Christians today'

Belief in the afterlife may encourage a Christian to be a good person and follow the teachings of Jesus (1); this is based on their belief that after death everyone will be judged according to how they have lived their life (1). Most Christians believe in resurrection and because of this they feel as though the next life is more important than this life (1) - this could influence how they deal with things, such as being able to cope with suffering in this life (1).

'Explain two contrasting religious views about sex before marriage'

Most Christians think people should wait until they are married to have sex and sex before marriage is a sin (1). The Roman Catholic church teaches that married couples should have sex to create children (1). However, some Christians think it's acceptable if the couple intend to get married (1)- sex is an expression of love and is acceptable in a committed relationship (1).

5-mark questions: These are questions that will ask you to 'Explain two religious beliefs about'. Unlike the 2-mark questions, you DO need to make sure you explain each point well- each point needs to be developed as it is worth 2 marks. There is also 1 mark available for referring to religious scripture- to get this mark you do NOT need to give a direct quote and you do NOT need to reference any quote. In the 'Religion' exam these questions will be specific to Christianity and Buddhism, in the themes paper you should either include two teachings from one religion, such as Christianity, or two teachings from two different religions, such as Islam and Christianity. It does not matter if the teachings are different/ similar. You only need to refer to religious scripture once in your answer. E.g.

'Explain two religious beliefs about adultery. Refer to religious scripture in your answer'

Christians believe adultery is wrong- it is a sin (1). The 10 commandments clearly say 'Thou shall not commit adultery' (1). Christians believe that even looking at someone lustfully is wrong (1).

Muslims believe that married couples should only have sex with each other (1). The Qur'an sets out harsh

12-mark questions: These are the biggest questions and they will ask you to:

'.....' Evaluate this statement.

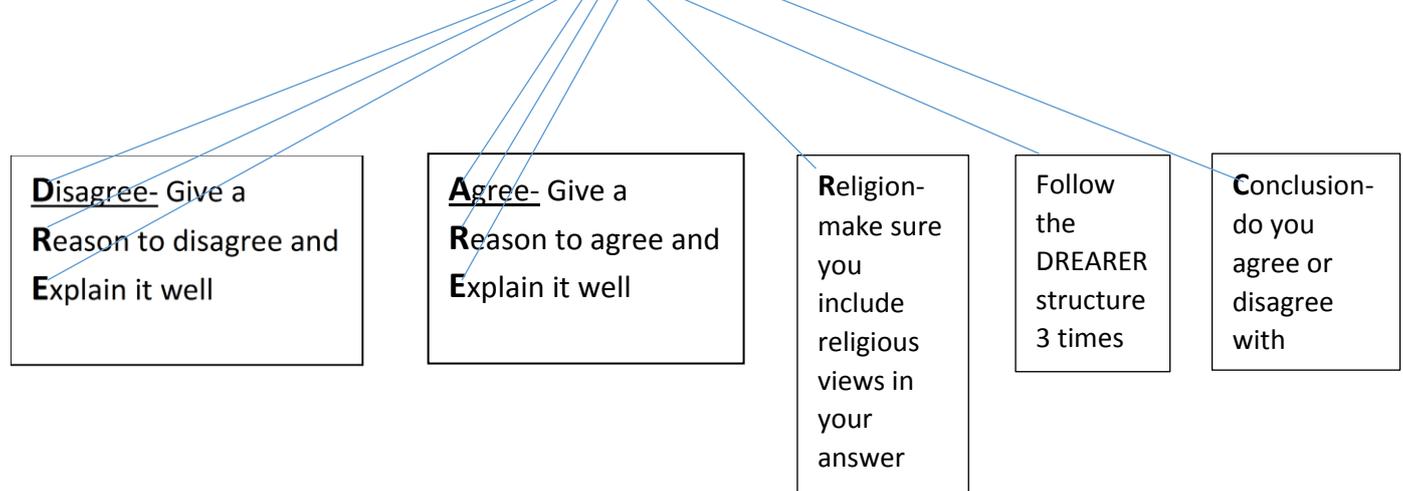
In your answer you are expected to:

- Give arguments to support this statement (aim for 3)
- Give arguments to disagree with this statement (aim for 3)
- Make sure most of your points are religious points of view, but you can include non-religious views
- Show a 'chain of reasoning'- this means that you should not just give six isolated points in your answer, but instead there should be some links between points.
- Reach a conclusion- overall do you agree or disagree with statement? Give a brief summary why

You are likely to get a maximum of 9 marks if you do not include a conclusion and you are likely to get a maximum of 6 marks if you don't include religious views/ give a one-sided answer/ don't show evidence of a chain of reasoning.

One way to help you answer the 12-mark questions is to use the formula

'DREARERx3 and C' ...



'Men and women do not have equal rights' Evaluate this statement.

D Many people would disagree with this statement as the vast majority of employers do not
R discriminate against women in the workplace. Legislation has given women equal rights (1)-
E for example the equal pay act was brought in in 1970.
A However, many people would agree with this statement as there are many situations in
R society when women are treated unfairly. For example, there is a 'gender gap' in pay where
E sometimes women may do the same job as men but get paid less than men would.

D Christians would argue that this statement is incorrect- men and women are equal as they
R were all created equally in the image of God. Jesus showed that it is wrong to discriminate
E against women and Christians will wish to follow the example set by Jesus. However, some
A Christians may point out that there are occasions when women do not have the same
R opportunities as men. For example, in the Catholic Church women are still not allowed to
E become priests, only men can fulfil this role in the Church.
R

D Many Muslims would disagree with this statement as they believe Allah created all people
R equally. The Qur'an teaches that men and women were created from a single soul. However,
E some people may point out examples where men and women are treated differently, such as
A women having to sit separately to men at mosque. Also, in some Muslim countries women's
R rights are restricted- e.g. not being allowed to drive or vote.
E
R

C In conclusion, I largely disagree with the statement, as although there are still occasions in society and religion where women may not have the same opportunities as men, I feel that overall there is a lot more emphasis on the equality of men and women- laws are in place to reflect this in society, and all religions are based on the principle of equality.