

IGCSE Cambridge Topical Past Papers

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490 | Paper 2

2017 — 2023

Chapter 1	Christianity	Page 1
Chapter 2	Islam	Page 43
Chapter 3	Judaism	Page 85
	Answers	Page 126

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1 - (0490/21_Winter_2017_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) What happens in a traditional Christian marriage ceremony? [7]
- (b) Explain the ways in which traditional teaching on the roles of men and women might affect a Christian marriage. [7]
- (c) 'Marriages are stronger if husband and wife share the same religion.'
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

2 - (0490/22_Winter_2017_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) Describe a service of Holy Communion (Eucharist/Mass) in a Christian church. [7]
- (b) Explain why **both** public and private acts of worship are important for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Everyone should agree about what it means to be a Christian.'
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

3 - (0490/21_Winter_2017_Q2) - Christianity

- (a) Give an account of a Christian Confirmation service. [7]
- (b) Explain why First Communion is an important step of commitment in faith. [7]
- (c) 'Becoming a Christian is not an easy step to take.'
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

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4 - (0490/22_Winter_2017_Q2) - Christianity

- (a) Describe how Jesus was treated cruelly in the week leading up to his death. [7]
- (b) Explain why Christians celebrate Ascension Day. [7]
- (c) 'Only members of minority religions are persecuted today.'
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

5 - (0490/21_Winter_2017_Q3) - Christianity

- (a) Describe **one** place of Christian pilgrimage. [7]
- (b) Explain the ways in which a Christian might benefit from visiting a place of pilgrimage. [7]
- (c) 'Christian pilgrim sites should only be open for Christians.'
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

ANSWERS

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1 - (0490/21_Winter_2017_Q1) - Christianity

(a) **What happens in a traditional Christian marriage ceremony?**

7

Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective A. Knowledge.

Responses might include:

Candidates might describe a traditional marriage ceremony or a rite they have knowledge of or have attended which includes some of the traditional elements common to most denominations of Christianity.

Answers are likely to include that the only items necessary for a marriage ceremony are: a bride and bridegroom (same sex marriages are not acceptable in most denominations/churches) who make certain legal statements, witnesses and someone who is authorised to conduct the wedding. The witnesses might be best man, bridesmaid, parents, elders etc. and the person officiating could be a priest, minister, lay person etc. Vows are made between the bride and groom and there are questions/responses from the person officiating e.g. 'Do you ... take ...' Candidates may give some details of the vows exchanged. Rings are usually exchanged. The person officiating usually addresses the people present and declares the couple to be man and wife, adding the statement e.g. 'That which God has joined together, let man not divide'. A wish that the marriage may be fruitful and bear children might also be expressed.

Blessings, prayers, bible reading, music and hymns are also usual features of the ceremony.

(b) **Explain the ways in which traditional teaching on the roles of men and women might affect a Christian marriage.**

7

Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective B: Understanding and Interpretation.

Responses might explain some of the following:

Candidates might explain that the traditional roles of men and women have been, until recent times, focused on the procreation of children and the rearing and providing for a family. The woman's role is to bear children and provide a comfortable, loving home for her husband and family. The man's role is to work outside the home to provide for the family. These traditional roles create circumstances in which the man has authority in all matters and the woman should be subservient and obedient to this. Traditional teaching clearly defines the roles of men and women as equal but with different responsibilities and both parties are expected to respect each other's roles. For example, in Ephesians, St. Paul compared marriage with the authoritarian structure of the church. 'Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord for the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church ... Husband love your wives just as Christ loved the church ...' As these traditional roles are supported by teaching in the New Testament, Christians believe that their marriage will have a strong foundation and be the correct moral and religious environment, in which to raise children.

Some candidates might explain that the role of women and the social/economic makeup of society has changed dramatically in modern times, so the traditional teachings of the New Testament might at times create conflict or not be workable in many marriages today. In many denominations, in response to the pressures of modern life, Christian teachings emphasize mutual love and responsibility in all aspects of marriage, so traditions are changing.

Note. The assessment objective is B and so only explanation and interpretation are required, candidates are not required to be critical of traditional teaching.

- (c) **'Marriages are stronger if husband and wife share the same religion.'**
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

6

Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective C. Evaluation.

Responses might include:

Candidates might offer views in support of the statement and give reasons to show that sharing the same religion means that a husband and wife share mutual beliefs about religion, commitment (to each other and to God) and raising a family. There is more likely to be harmony and agreement on religion and other issues. However, even within Christianity there are different denominations with different beliefs and attitudes and some responses might comment on differences or conflict that might arise within the same religion.

Many candidates are likely to assess the disadvantages and/or advantages of marriages where people have different religious beliefs and evaluate the strengths/weaknesses of such a union in comparison with the marriage of a husband and wife who share the same religion.

It is likely that candidates will consider issues such as: religious belief and practice, contraception/birth control, raising children, roles within the marriage etc.

All valid arguments should be credited appropriately.

2 - (0490/22_Winter_2017_Q1) - Christianity

(a)	<p>Describe a service of Holy Communion (Eucharist/Mass) in a Christian church.</p>	7
<p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective A. Knowledge.</p>		
<p>Responses might include some of the following:</p>		
<p>Candidates are likely to describe a Eucharist or Mass from a denomination they are familiar with.</p>		
<p>There will be common elements in all descriptions and these are likely to include a description of some of the following:</p>		
<p>Hymns; prayers; confession of sins; readings from the scriptures; sermon; offerings; the Peace; presentation of bread and wine; the priest saying a version of the words of Jesus at the Last Supper; congregation partaking in communion; blessings.</p>		
(b)	<p>Explain why <u>both</u> public and private acts of worship are important for Christians.</p>	7
<p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective B. Understanding and interpretation.</p>		
<p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p>		
<p>Public acts of worship, especially the Mass, are central to Christian worship and in most denominations, they are seen to strengthen the faith of Christians and their bond with one another. They are public declarations of faith. People are reminded of their beliefs and that they are members of a world-wide faith. They enjoy the hymns and the atmosphere of joint celebration/worship. A variety of activities take place such as Bible reading and Sermon, as well as prayer and worship. Notices are given and marriage banns read, people feel part of the community. There is also a social side, with food and drink sometimes offered.</p>		
<p>Private worship is more introspective but believers may feel a more personal connection with God in the privacy of their own homes or a solitary place. Private worship can bring comfort at times of distress or grief and there may be problems Christians wish to share with God but not with a congregation of people. There may be a sense of stillness and peace achieved which is not possible in public worship.</p>		