

Answering Questions

General Advice

1. You should answer one questions from each topic. Each questions is subdivided into 4 parts (a,b,c,d) and so if you choose question 1 you should answer all parts in that section.
2. When you are asked for **one religion other than Christianity** you should use **Islam**.
3. Only give your opinion if the question asks you for it.
4. If you are asked for different opinions make sure you give 2 different opinions – if you only give one you will get no marks for not answering the question.
5. In your answers refer to **SOME** Christians or **MANY** Muslims. If you put 'Muslims believe..' you will get no more marks because you are implying that all Muslims think the same.
6. If you are not sure if your information is correct then still write it down. Marks will not be taken away for wrong answers – it will simply be ignored! If your answer includes right and wrong information the wrong will be ignored and you will be given marks for the correct information.

The Questions

As you know by now the exam questions are split into 4 parts. It is not just what you know about the topics that is important but understanding how to answer the questions is vital for success.

Part A – These are ALWAYS questions about the key words e.g. what is a sin? You only need to give the answer. DO NOT include what you, or religious people, think about it.

Part B – These questions ask you to *describe* or *outline* different religious beliefs. This means that you have to state what that religion believes. You do not have to give reasons for the beliefs.

These questions are always worth 6 marks. You receive 2 marks for every relevant comment you make. This means that you should aim to give 3 different pieces of information about the topic.

Part C – these questions ask you to give more detail than part B questions. They tend to ask you to *explain* what a religion believes or *explain why* there are different opinions. This means that you have to give reasons for what Christians or Muslims believe. Try to think about the jigsaws e.g Authority, belief, value and practice – this will help you to explain in detail. Think about where Muslims/ Christians get their beliefs from e.g. Some Christians believe in animal rights because the Bible teaches that all of God's creation are equal. In your answer you should state what the religion believes, use the word 'because', and give reasons for the beliefs. If it is a question about different opinions and why they exist then think about conflicting teachings and how they come from people reading the Bible or Qur'an in different ways and the holy books being unclear.

Remember this is an 8 mark question – you will get a maximum of 4 marks for telling what people believe and the extra marks for telling me WHY they believe it.

Part D – Evaluation questions. This is where you give your opinion. The question is always a statement which you have to say what other people believe and what you think. Try to use the formula below – it will give you full marks.

Some people agree because...

Other people disagree because ...

I agree / disagree because.....

One of the opinions you give MUST be religious. You MUST give reasons why people would agree and disagree. Make sure you read the statements carefully and say why people agree/ disagree with the statement.