Answers are provided for one of each question type for each chapter. The full number of marks available for a question is shown with the question. The number of marks gained by the example answer is given in commentary box.

1 Creation

3 In which book of the Bible is the creation story found?
   A  Genesis
   B  Exodus
   C  Leviticus
   D  Deuteronomy
   A  – Genesis
   **Commentary:** Number of marks awarded: 1

5 Give two ideas about God expressed in the statement ‘God is omnipotent’.
   ‘God is omnipotent’ shows us that God is the most powerful being in the universe (well outside it really). It also shows us that God created the world, because only an all-powerful being could create the world.
   **Commentary:** Two clear and correct points made. Try to be really concise with the answers to the 2-mark questions as all the extra writing takes time from your other answers. Here there are unneeded explanations for each point made – the examiner will see you know your stuff, but you won’t get any more marks for it. Number of marks awarded: 2.

10 Explain two similar Christian beliefs about the Bible.
   Catholics believe the Bible is the revealed word of God, given through divine inspiration and therefore must be error free. Some high Anglicans also believe it was inspired by God and is as good a literally true. It has great authority as a result.
   **Commentary:** Although both answers are not at great length they are good in that they are full of relevant correct detail. Both answers are developed enough giving an initial idea and developing it. Number of marks awarded: 4.

11 Explain two ways in which art expresses beliefs about God as creator. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer.
   **Commentary:** There are two clearly developed answers here showing how the image relates to beliefs about a creator God. So 4 marks by doing this. The slip up is not gaining the fifth mark as there is no clearly stated belief/teaching like a quote from Genesis for example. Number of marks awarded: 4.

16 ‘It is more important for Catholics to love their neighbour than for them to care about the environment.’ Evaluate this statement.
   Both of these areas are important for Catholics today but for very different reasons. Some Catholics will say that Jesus’ teaching is central to what they do and in the Bible Jesus taught more about people than the environment. He seemed to put more emphasis on our relationship with each other as a means of good deeds to be recognised in the Kingdom of God. Others however would disagree with this by saying that often nature was used by Jesus as the subject of his parables about the Kingdom like the mustard seed and the sprouting seed, both in St Mark. Many believe that humans are the highest point of creation – in the ‘image of God’ himself whereas creation simply reflects God. While this is true, God’s first instruction was one of stewardship and Pope Francis said that ‘if we move away from creation, then we move away from God as we no longer read his signs’ so it is no point being in God’s image is we are separated from Him.
In everyday practice, most Catholics will always look to preservation of humanity and loving our neighbour is central to this. In fact if everyone lived by this phrase nature would be protected because we wouldn’t want others to suffer (and lack of access to environmental resources directly causes poverty). Others while agreeing with this, would say that when it comes to the crunch, people will naturally tend to protect people because it is people we love and care about the most even if the environment suffers. In conclusion, Pope Benedict said ‘if we wish to build true peace how can we separate or even set at odds, the protection of the environment with the protection of human life. If man respects himself his sense of responsibility for creation is shown’. This clearly shows a Catholic duty is to care for both.

**Commentary:** This is a superb answer clearly showing evaluation. Each point that is raised is argued against clearly evaluating the ideas and then bringing it all together in the conclusion. This answer in the way it reads is a better style than one set of ideas followed by another set of ideas as this verges on being AO1 not AO2. The only issue with the answer is in paragraph 3 where the opposing argument is actually supporting the one made. Be careful with this it is easy to get agrees/disagree mixed up. However, despite this the is enough in the answer to hit L4, especially with the quotes used which really enhance the answer. Number of marks awarded: 11, Level 4.

**2 Incarnation**

1 Which of these is NOT a symbol specifically for Jesus?
   - A Cross
   - B Crucifix
   - C Chi-Rho
   - D Alpha and omega

**Commentary:** Number of marks awarded: 1

4 Give two reasons why Catholics follow the teachings of Jesus.

**Commentary:** Two valid reasons given, so two marks awarded. Using bullet points for this is fine as it keeps your answer very brief. Number of marks awarded: 2.

6 Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about the importance of the sacraments.

The sacraments are important because they are considered the second pillar of faith for Catholics. This means that the sacraments hold up the faith – like pillars do a house.

A second belief is that the sacraments are like stage posts from birth to death, mainly all the important bits of life. They remind us God is with us through our lives from the cleansing of baptism, through confirming the decision of our parents to be part of the faith, to marriage, to making repentance for our wrongs and in death as we are united with the Father in heaven.

**Commentary:** The first sentence is just a statement without explanation, it is the second bit which begins an explanation so only worth 1 mark. The second easily makes 2 marks with the idea of stage posts clearly developed. Number of marks awarded: 3.

9 Explain two ways in which Catholics are influenced by the concept of *imago dei* in terms of the protection of the unborn child. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer.

**Commentary:** This is one well-developed idea clearly showing the link between *imago dei* and abortion but it uses a lot of time making that link. There is no second idea and no specific reference to belief (*imago dei* is in the question!). Number of marks awarded: 2.

12 ‘Statues of Jesus are important to help believers to understand God.’ Evaluate this statement.

**Agree**

- You can see what Jesus looked like so it helps you to connect.
- A statue of Jesus – Christ the King – reminds us of His power and his sacrifice.
- They include a lot of symbolism so help us understand.
- They show the devotion of the maker – teaches about faith.

**Disagree**

- ‘Do not make idols’ – some people, e.g. Jews would say it is wrong – so they cannot teach us.
They help us understand Jesus not God.
It may also depend on what the statue is like.

Commentary: Never write an answer using bullets unless you have run out of time. Even when they are explained points it doesn’t flow. Bullets often lack explanation, however, this is more than a list as each point is developed. There is little analysis and with no conclusion it is hard to say it is AO2. There is no logical chain of reasoning but does recognise different views with relevant reasons. Number of marks awarded: 6, Level 2.

3 Triune God, mission and prayer

1 Which of the following is not a mass setting?
   A Lord’s Prayer
   B Gloria
   C Alleluia
   D Sanctus
   
   A – the Lord’s Prayer isn’t a mass setting. The others are though.

Commentary: While this answer is correct – there was no need to write the rest (that is just wasted time). Number of marks awarded: 1.

5 Give two forms of music used in Catholic worship.
   Psalms and plainchant

Commentary: Could also have had traditional or modern hymns – avoid using both types of hymns in case they are treated as one. Number of marks awarded: 2.

9 Explain two ways in which prayer expresses beliefs about God. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer

The Prayer of Blessing states ‘God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation...’ This tells us that God created every human throughout time. Every child is made by God - a blessing-imago dei. Secondly the Lord’s Prayer says ‘Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses’. When we say this prayer we are asking God to sustain us and to not hold against us the things we do wrong. This is crucial as it shows we believe God’s love for us to be eternal and unlimited.

Commentary: Always make sure you use two paragraphs for ease of the examiner. Good answer with each idea developed /explained. Number of marks awarded: 2.

10 Explain two Christian beliefs that the Nicene Creed helps us to understand about the Trinity. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer

The Nicene Creed gives us basic teachings about the nature of God. It was written in 325 AD by 300 bishops. It tells us about the Trinity and about Jesus’ life. It helps us understand the Trinity by explaining each part of it. One belief in the Creed is that God the Father created heaven and earth. Also that Jesus is the Son of God.

Commentary: Most of this answer does not actually explain how the Nicene creed helps us to understand the Trinity – instead it is a series of statements – when the Creed was written is irrelevant compared to what it is. The only relevant point about God the Father creating heaven and earth. (and this is an actual quote too. The last sentence has no explanation. Number of marks awarded: 2.

14 ‘Formal prayer does not help ‘raise the heart and mind to God’.’ Evaluate this statement.

I think that all prayer is the raising of the heart and mind to God. A Catholic raises their heart by showing love and devotion, and raises their mind by actually speaking to God and thinking about Him.

Some people – like Catholics – would say formal prayer is better as it gets the words totally right. Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer – it is perfect and covers everything we might need to say to God. The prayer of Blessing reminds us of God’s creation and His love for His creation. It was written to say the right things in the right way to please God. If we pray that way, we must be raising hearts and minds.

Some people would say informal prayer is better, e.g. Quakers. They say this because they only use prayers they make up. So the prayer is ‘from the heart’. They think formal prayer can be insincere and not meant with as much devotion or honesty because they are someone else’s words. So, in conclusion, I still think that all prayer helps to raise the heart and mind to God, but your mood makes one better sometimes.

Commentary: A clearly two-sided response with a number of points and examples in each. Some are developed a little like the Lord’s Prayer and the prayer of Blessing – some quotes from each would have made the answer better quality. In the second half the informal prayer is better developed – more of a logical chain. The conclusion is quite weak – the last sentence appears ‘just stuck there’ without
any real link to the rest of the answer. Number of marks awarded: 8, Level 3.

4 Redemption

2 Which of these items is not a furnishing found in a church?
A Lectern
B Altar
C Real presence
D Font

C

Commentary: Number of marks awarded: 1.

4 Give two teachings about redemption. Catholics teach that every person is born with Original Sin, from which they must find redemption. St Mark’s gospel describes the crucifixion, when Jesus died to bring redemption to humans through his sacrifice.

Commentary: Correct. This answer gives two clear and different teachings about redemption – it would get both marks. Number of marks awarded: 2.

6 Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about salvation. Salvation is when humans are saved from their sins against God.

Catholics believe that through His justice, God condemned humans because of the Original Sin. However, through His mercy, He promised a Messiah who would give humans the chance of salvation. Other Christians believe that faith in Jesus is enough for salvation.

Commentary: No need to write a definition – the examiner will know you know what it is by your answer! The first part is developed while the second is a simple statement with no explanation. It needs the ‘because’ added and then developed. Number of marks awarded: 2.

11 Explain two Christian beliefs about the conscience as the voice of God. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer. Conscience is in our hearts, and tells us to love others, to do good and to avoid evil. This is why it is the voice of God.

Commentary: The Catechism says that it contains God’s laws – ‘Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law which he must obey’. This means it contains the voice of God.

Commentary: Both parts are simple explanations: ‘that is why it is the voice of God’ and ‘this means it contains the voice of God’ – yes it links to the question but not really a development so each part is worth 1 mark plus the mark for the specific reference. Number of marks awarded: 3.

13 ‘Redemption is the central message of Catholicism.’ Evaluate this statement. Redemption is the central message of Catholicism that is true. Jesus came to redeem humans because of them angering God by sinning – way back to Adam. By dying he redeemed, and by rising from the dead he redeemed.

Also, yes, because it is why we have Mass and Confession – to constantly earn the right to be redeemed by saying sorry to God and having a new start. Some Catholics do this every day – so they must see it as the most important.

On the other hand, hope is a bigger message. We hope for the Kingdom of God to come, and to be able to enter heaven with God after we die. Hope keeps Catholics being Catholics and following Catholic ways.

However, really I think that Jesus is the central message. God sent Jesus to fix everything. Without Jesus there is no religion. In every church there are paintings and statues of Jesus (and every Catholic house!). Jesus’ prayer is the most important one. Jesus saved us, gave us salvation. To me, everything revolves around Jesus – what he did and what he said – so Jesus is the central message.

Commentary: Clearly a two-sided answer with a conclusion, the latter being the best part of the answer. The whole answer is a little simplistic – it lacks real depth. Some examiners would say this lack of depth to the reasoning keeps the answer in level 2. Others might say there are two ideas on one side, one on the other and a different one in the conclusion which just allows it to climb into level 3. Make sure that both sides have more than one idea and more depth to your development with quotes or examples. Number of marks awarded: 7, Level 3.
5 Church and the Kingdom of God

1. Which of these is NOT one of the four marks of the Church?
   A. Holy
   B. One
   C. Worldwide
   D. Catholic

**Commentary:** Oh no! The four characteristics are specific words: one, holy, catholic and apostolic. This is the wrong answer. ‘Worldwide’ (C) is an explanation of the key word ‘catholic’, so is the correct answer here. Number of marks awarded: 1.

3. Give two reasons Mary is important in the Roman Catholic Church.

   **Because she is Jesus’ mum, chosen by God.**

   **Commentary:** Although one very short statement, this does give two different reasons why Mary is important. Number of marks awarded: 2.

6. Explain two ways in which pilgrimage influences Catholics today.

   A pilgrimage involves a journey which symbolises the journey of life and a journey in faith. A Catholic may make a pilgrimage which has a physical journey, like walking the Camino de Santiago to get to Santiago de Compostela to see the burial place of St James. If they make this journey, they had to walk a long way and make a lot of physical effort, perhaps having troubles along the way. This is time to reflect on their life and the troubles in their life, and how God has helped them overcome them. So the journey is a big part of the pilgrimage and important for their spirit.

   Secondly, going to somewhere like Rome to catch sight of the Holy Father, and hear his sermons from his mouth (not the internet or on paper) shows devotion. It reminds them to be devoted and can make them feel more spiritual and closer to their faith – like ‘recharging the batteries of the soul’.

   **Commentary:** This is a high level response – even perhaps overly detailed. Remember, writing too much on one answer leaves less time on another. Remember clear succinct answers are the best in terms of quality and time. Number of marks awarded: 4.

11. Explain two Christian beliefs about reconciliation. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer.

   Christians believe that humans were separated from God, but have been reconciled with Him by Jesus. Jesus said to love enemies, and that is reconciliation.

   **Commentary:** The first part is a simple explanation – a little more development about how Jesus reconciled humans to God would have topped it up. The second part is really a simple statement and lacks explanation, so is worth nothing. However the ‘love enemies’ is a specific reference so would pick up a mark. Number of marks awarded: 2.

13. ‘In today’s world, the Magnificat is the first prayer a Catholic should say.’ Evaluate this statement.

   I can see good reasons to agree with this statement. The Magnificat says: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour’. Any person who calls themselves a Catholic will believe both these statements as they try to live properly by God’s rules. People can see that way of living and believing in them. Christians know that God has redeemed their spirit, so they are happy in that. Saying these words reminds a Christian of what God has given them, so it is really important in the world – which is so materialistic.

   The world today is very divided. The massive numbers of refugees travelling all over the world trying anything and risking everything for a safe life shows how difficult things are. In the meantime, the rich get richer. The Magnificat says ‘He has put down the mighty and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.’ This is telling us that God will bring justice to the world – it is a message which is perfect for our world. It gives those in the worst positions hope for the future.

   The Magnificat is the prayer of Mary – the Holy Mother and as such it has significant importance to Catholics. It is a canticle based on biblical text and when Mary then goes to her cousin it serves as a reminder of service to others which glorify the Lord. Mary’s song reminds Catholics of the link between humility and holiness – a reminder for all our lives.

   On the other hand, actually the Magnificat is by Mary, and Christianity is about Jesus. Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer, which has all the
things we need to say to God. It says how great God is, thanks God, asks for forgiveness, and for protection. It says we believe God’s kingdom will come. So it is the perfect prayer – and it is from the Son of God himself. Jesus himself says ‘this is how you should pray’ which is an instruction. To me, that makes it probably the most important prayer.

In conclusion I believe that Christians should pray how they want – it means more if it is from the heart. There is no doubt that there is much to learn from the Magnificat about the greatness of God and praise for Him, but also about how God rewards the meek and humble – none more so than Mary – and that what God gives us is far more than material wealth. As part of a service then it is very important but our own prayer, reflecting on our own lives, rather than Mary’s prayer may be more appropriate.

Commentary: This is a superb response – note it is not balanced on both sides but that does not matter. The answer clearly shows an understanding of the Magnificat and life today by responding to the ‘In today’s world’ part of the question which is easy to miss. Reference to modern day issues builds a really good answer. The conclusion brings the answer together very well. Number of marks awarded: 12, Level 4.

6 Eschatology

1 When is the Pascal Candle first used?
   A Palm Sunday
   B Good Friday
   C Holy Saturday
   D Easter Sunday

   D – Easter Sunday

   Commentary: Read the question carefully – it says ‘first used.’ So this is wrong, correct answer is C. Number of marks awarded: 0.

4 Give two forms of memorial expression. ‘RIP’, and ‘In loving memory’ written on the gravestone.

   Commentary: For this course, ‘memorial expressions’ are not words and phrases, they are physical items. So this answer is wrong, but gets a mark by mistake – it offers two phrases (wrong), but then says where these statements are written and gets a mark for ‘gravestone’. Learn the terms carefully. Number of marks awarded: 1.

7 Explain two ways in which belief in the sanctity of life influences attitudes to euthanasia for Catholics today.

   Sanctity of life is how good life is, how comfortable and pain-free it is. Catholics don’t agree with euthanasia because it says, ‘Do not kill’ in the Ten Commandments, so euthanasia would be going against God’s rules. Catholics wouldn’t be against passive euthanasia because that is letting nature take a person away, so it fulfils natural law.

   Commentary: The first part of the answer is giving an explanation of the wrong term, so wouldn’t be relevant! The rest is perfectly correct BUT neither point is developed, and neither is obviously linking sanctity of life and euthanasia. So the examiner is having to work out how these points link to sanctity of life. Number of marks awarded: 2.

9 Explain two Christian beliefs about the end time. Refer to Christian beliefs in your answer.

   Christians believe that after death they go to heaven ‘the endless moment of love’ if they were judged as good. Or they go to hell ‘everlasting separation from God, the absolute absence of love’ if they are judged as being bad.

   Commentary: Both these answers are a simple explanation. The quotes are impressive but for each part to reach the 2 marks available to them there needs to be a little more than ‘judged as good’ or ‘judged as bad’. The mark for specific reference to teachings: picked up here. Number of marks awarded: 3.

12 ‘It is not important to have memorials for the dead.’ Evaluate this statement.

   I think it is really important to have memorials to the dead. That is showing our respect and love. For example, a war hero needs to have his grave marked so people don’t forget him or where he is.

   When my granddad died, we had a gravestone put up for him, and that gives me a place to go and talk to him. I know he has gone, but it still helps me work some things out. Having said that it depends what kind of memorial. I mean some are ridiculous because they are too big, or over the top, like some of the huge tombs in our local cemetery. It just seems to me that their families want to make a show of how rich and important their family is. Once you are dead, everyone is equal. In the same way, those tiny graves with barely any writing
on them aren’t enough – they make the person seem not important at all, so why did we bother?

Commentary: This is a totally secular answer so cannot get above level 2. (even though there are two sides). Sounds like a bit of a chat/opinion – lacks formality and structure. It really is a series of unsupported points other than with the writer’s opinion. They are valid ideas though but have little depth. Number of marks awarded: 5, Level 2.

7 Judaism – Beliefs

1 What is meant by chesed?
   A Justice
   B Charity
   C Loving kindness
   D Repairing the world
   C – loving kindness
   Commentary: It isn’t necessary to write letter information. Number of marks awarded: 1.

3 Name two Prophets with whom God made covenants.
   Abraham and Moses.
   Commentary: You only study two covenants for the course – learn them with the name of the key person (Moses, law covenant; Abraham, circumcision covenant). Number of marks awarded: 2.

8 Contrast the beliefs of Judaism and the main religious tradition of Great Britain about the Messiah. Refer to two differences in your answer.
   Judaism believes the Messiah is yet to come. He will be born of human parents, so not God.
   In Christianity, the Messiah is the anointed one – they believe Jesus was the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament and he brought salvation for mankind.
   Commentary: The answer is correct, even though it just says what Jews believe and then what Christians believe. There is no attempt to show how one differs from the other. The best answers will do that ‘Jews believe…whereas Christian believe…’ The lack of development also counts against it – really the two sets of beliefs are just lists. Number of marks awarded: 2.

11 Explain two Jewish teachings about God as Law-giver and Judge. Refer to scripture or another source of Jewish belief and teaching in your answer.
   In Leviticus it says, ‘Keep all my decrees and my laws and follow them,’ which tells Jews that God directly instructed them to follow His laws.
   The prophet Isaiah says ‘For the Lord is our judge’ so Jews are told that God will judge them.
   Commentary: Two excellent quotes but the development is only simple in both parts. The ‘teachings’ mark would also be awarded. Each point needs to be explained rather than giving just a rewording of the quotes. Number of marks awarded: 3 (1 for each part plus 1 for the quotes).

15 ‘It is impossible to repair the world so the Messianic Age will never happen.’ Evaluate this statement.
   Jewish people would not believe that the coming of the Messianic Age relies on repairing the world. Some Jews believe the world needs to be in its worst shape – which suggests that by not repairing it we bring the Messianic Age closer. Other Jews believe that God has already decided when it will happen – it isn’t reliant on humans fixing the world at all. These both disagree with the statement.
   On the other hand, Jews believe in Tikkun olam (repairing the world), and that by working to repair the world, they bring the Messianic Age nearer – because in Isaiah, it is shown a time of peace and harmony with no suffering (so must be a fixed world).
   In conclusion I know that in the Talmud it says the world will become a truly terrible place with people turning on each other, no laws and so on as society is entirely corrupt. This is about what people are doing, and repairing the world is about fixing the planet and the damage people have done. Although many environmental problems are caused by people not doing the right thing by each other. So the Talmud could be used to agree or disagree depending on how you interpret ‘reparing the world’.
   Commentary: This is a difficult question which has been well managed. It contains two developed arguments on the first side. The second side has only one idea, but it is supported by a good, appropriate teaching from Isaiah.
   The conclusion is a good example to follow, as it contains different arguments – the common mistake is for conclusions to simply repeat an idea already stated earlier. Reference to the Talmud is also linked well. The answer is reasoned well, logical and flows nicely as it is read. Number of marks awarded: 10/11, Level 4.
8 Judaism – Practices

1. Which of the following is the Oral Law?
   A. Torah  
   B. Tefillin  
   C. Talmud  
   D. Tenakh  
   [1]

   Commentary: The correct answer is C (Talmud), so no marks here. Make sure you learn the key terms. Number of marks awarded: 0.

2. Give two things that Jews do on the Friday Shabbat.
   Eat food and go to the synagogue.
   [2]

   Commentary: While technically ‘eat food’ is right, it needs to show the religious aspect (‘eat a special family meal’: better). A mark is given for the second point. Number of marks awarded: 1.

3. Explain two contrasting ways in which a boy’s bar mitzvah and a girl’s bat mitzvah are carried out.
   A boy’s bar mitzvah takes place on the Shabbat after his 13th birthday in the synagogue whereas for a girl it is at 12 years of age and takes place in the home. This is because a boy is now a son of the commandment and an adult male in the congregation. The boy will read from the Torah on the Shabbat service while a girl will recite a blessing and talk about the importance of the day. She has more of a role in the home and does not read from the Torah as she is female.
   [4]

   Commentary: You can clearly see two differences – notice the word ‘whereas’ – a good word to use in a direct comparison question, flagging up to the examiner that you are stating a difference. A common mistake is stating the differences, not explaining. If you reread the last section of each paragraph, you can see that this answer does the ‘explaining’ bit of the question, hence reaching full marks. Number of marks awarded: 4.

4. ‘Jewish mourning is more about supporting the living than remembering the dead.’ Evaluate this statement.
   I agree because the person is buried as soon as possible, and no time is given to it. Most time is given to the relatives and making sure they are supported and ok.
   [12]

9 Religion, relationships and families

1. Religious believers disagree with sexism. What type of prejudice is sexism?
   A. Against race  
   B. Against colour  
   C. Against gender  
   D. Against age  
   [1]

   Commentary: Correct answer. Number of marks awarded: 1.

2. Give two Catholic ideas about family planning.
   Catholics believe that life is sacred from conception, and that only natural methods of family planning should be used.
   [2]

   Commentary: While the second point is clearly about family planning so is valid, the first is not (in the way it is written – too brief). Make sure the examiner doesn’t have to do any thinking – that your answers are clearly right. Number of marks awarded: 1.

3. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary society about the rights of same-sex couples to have children. You must refer to Christian belief. You must refer to a different religious and/or non-religious belief.
   One belief held by Catholics is that same-sex couples should not have children. God intended sex to be both unitive and procreative, and from this come children. While gay sex may be seen as unitive by some, it cannot ever be procreative. All the ways a gay couple could use to have a baby would be seen as sinful because they are not through sex which is unitive and procreative.
Many other Christians also think it is wrong because they say all children should have a mother and father, not two of one or the other.

**Commentary:** The first part is a developed explanation. The second part is also against the statement, so it is not a contrast. It does give a different reason to be against same-sex couples having children but not contrasting. The answer would need an ‘agree’ to go with the Catholic ‘disagree’. Number of marks awarded: 2.

9 Explain two Christian beliefs about adultery.

Refer to scripture or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5]

All Christians believe that adultery is completely wrong and out of order. ‘Do not commit adultery’ is one of the Ten Commandments. The Catechism says that all sex must take place within marriage, and adultery is with someone else you are not married to.

**Commentary:** The first part is worth only 1 mark – the simple statement needs more development. The second part again needs development as the last part is simply a definition. There is a direct quote which will be credited. Number of marks awarded: 3.

12 ‘The vows are the most important symbol of a marriage ceremony.’ Evaluate this statement. [12]

I personally agree with this. I think that the vows are the promises, and when they are made before God you should feel you have a greater motivation to keep them through everything that happens. You are also saying them in front of many people – so if you don’t mean them and won’t work at them, you will be lying really. The vows cover everything that you need to say – your commitment (‘do you take...’) through all the things that can happen (‘for better for worse’) and for the rest of your life (‘until death do us part’). In society we hear business people saying the contract is everything – it is what makes people do what they said they would. Marriage vows are like those contracts.

Haven’t said that, some might say the ring was the most important symbol. In the service, you exchange rings (‘with this ring, I thee wed’) – solid gold circles. The circle represents that everlasting commitment as a circle has no end. However, you wear that for the rest of your life – anyone can see you are married. It is like a constant announcement of the ceremony you went through. It also reminds you of what you promised whenever you see it.

Others might say that you can’t pick out one aspect of the ceremony as the most important symbol – everything is important. For example, the priest asks three key questions – about being able to agree to marriage, about love and about having children – these are the most important because they show you know what is expected in marriage. When the priest blesses the couple, this seals the marriage – so this starts it off. Without starting a marriage, nothing would follow, so it has to be the key thing.

In conclusion, I still think the vows are the most important – they symbolise a promise to God, and so make people make their marriage work. However, I can see why the ring might top other people’s lists.

**Commentary:** Not always a good structure to start with a personal statement in an evaluation (keep this for the conclusion). However, there is good evaluation on different sides though it isn’t balanced. The conclusion is the weakest part as it is simply repetition using earlier points made. Number of marks awarded: 10, Level 4.

10 Religion, peace and conflict

2 Religious believers disagree with repeated behaviour designed to hurt someone emotionally or physically. What is the term used for this?

A Friendship breakdown
B Bullying
C Assault
D Unkindness

**Commentary:** It is not necessary to write the answer as well as the letter, so this is correct. Just make sure your letter is easily readable as the right letter! Number of marks awarded: 1.

5 Give two ways a religious believer can help victims of war.

They can donate to a charity like War Child, and they can pray for them.

**Commentary:** Two simple ideas are correct. This question is about actions, so make sure that your answer is as well. Number of marks awarded: 2.

6 Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society to WMDs. You must refer to Christian belief. You must refer to contrasting religious and/or non-religious belief.
One belief is that we have to have them because we could be bullied and threatened by other countries if we didn’t have them. They protect us.

Another belief is that there is no good reason to have them. They will never be used, and they cost too much – so why bother?

Commentary: The first part just about gets the 2 marks as does the second. This is about the minimum amount needed for development. Number of marks awarded: 4.

9 Explain two Christian beliefs about forgiveness. Refer to scripture or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5]

The Catechism says that ‘Only God forgives sins.’ It then says Jesus forgives sins because he is the Son of God, and he can give authority to men to do the same. This means that God gives power to people to forgive sins – like the priest absolving a person through confession.

In the Apostles Creed it states ‘I believe in the forgiveness of sins. As Catholics we believe God will forgive us our sins because it says he will.’

Commentary: The first part is clearly 2 marks for a developed explanation. The second part has a statement with a simple explanation from the ‘- as Catholics…’ bit. Teachings are also specific. Number of marks awarded: 4.

13 ‘Catholics should be at the forefront of peace-making activities in the modern world.’ Evaluate this statement. [12]

I don’t agree with this statement. I think everybody should be trying to make the world have peace not just Catholics. It is wrong to label Catholics and leave it to them. There are lots of things people can do for peace-making - helping victims of war, protesting to get fighting stopped, making sides talk to each other, and religious things like praying for peace and so on.

I do agree because Pope John 13 said ‘Peace is the fruit of justice’, so if we want to get justice for the world, we have to get peace.

Commentary: It is not a good style to use two paragraphs like this as ‘I don’t agree…’ then ‘I do agree.’ like this as sounds as if you are confused! Regarding the first sentence, the question does not say Only Catholics, but rather they should be at the forefront: with others but leading the activities. There is correct information but muddled and not answering the question directly enough. Number of marks awarded: 4, Level 2.

11 Religion, human rights and social justice

2 Religious believers ‘do not agree with the exploitation of the poor. Which of these would NOT be seen as this?

A Excessive loans
B Minimum wage
C Making people work in unsafe conditions
D Making people work for long hours for very low wages

B – minimum wage.

Commentary: Correct. Number of marks awarded: 1.

5 Give two teachings from the ‘Preferential Option for the Poor’. [2]

It is the Church’s desire that the poor should rise above poverty. When it is a matter of protecting the rights of individuals, the poor have a claim to special consideration. The rich population has many ways of protecting themselves, and stands less in need of help.

Commentary: It is very impressive to know full quotes like this, but not needed – you can learn approximations and generalisations of quotes and get the same marks. This still gets full marks. Number of marks awarded: 2.

7 Explain two similar beliefs about the use of wealth. You must refer to Christian belief. You must refer to contrasting religious and/or non-religious belief. [4]

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus says we must use our wealth kindly to help those in need. If we don’t use it this way, we will go to hell when we die, just as the Rich Man did when he didn’t help the beggar Lazarus.

In Timothy it says, ‘Command those who are rich to do good, be generous and share’. This means those with lots of money should share it with others generously.

Commentary: The first part is a good, so gains 2 marks. In the second part, be careful if you give a teaching, to simply explain it and then develop it. The quote is not enough by itself as it would just be a statement. Number of marks awarded: 3.

11 Explain two Christian beliefs about equality. Refer to scripture or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5]
All humans are made in the image of God.
This means we are equal. When Jesus died, He
died for everyone, not just some people, and that
shows equality.

**Commentary:** Always write in two paragraphs –
this is an example of it being hard for the examiner
to see where one answer ends and another begins.
The first would get 1 mark; the second also is a
simple development so 1 mark also. The teaching is
correct so overall number of marks awarded: 3.

13 ‘Religious believers do not show enough
compassion in the world.’ Evaluate this
statement. [12]

Compassion means being kind and helping
people. Most religious people are kind and
help other people. My grandmother is always
giving to charity and sending money off to
the Leprosy Mission, or CAFOD, or some other
charities abroad. You read about religious people
leaving money in their will for animals or poor
people – even when they die they are being kind.
However, there are still loads of rich Christians
and even more poor people – so the rich Christians
aren’t doing enough really. The Bible says
‘give your wealth to the poor and follow me’, so
they should give their money over if they have
more than they need. There are empty churches
around which could be sold to give the money to
the poor. If more religious people helped more poor
people, there would be less world poverty.

**Commentary:** Although this is two sided it isn’t
a very complex answer in structure or content.
It recognises different points of view supported
by some evidence/examples. Number of marks
awarded: 4, Level 2.

12 St Mark’s Gospel –
the life of Jesus

1 What name is Hebrew means ‘God is saviour’?
   A Moses
   B David
   C Jesus
   D John. [1]

   C – Jesus

   **Commentary:** Correct. Number of marks
   awarded: 1.

3 Give the names of two of Jesus’ disciples. [2]

   John and Peter

   **Commentary:** Correct. Number of marks
   awarded: 2.

6 Explain two contrasting views about the
authorship of St Mark’s Gospel. [4]

Some say that Mark was an eye witness,
someone who may have seen Jesus teaching the
people. Others say that Mark wrote the story that
Peter told him while he was in prison in Rome –
his memories.

**Commentary:** Here we have two simple responses
– the ‘someone who may have seen Jesus teaching
the people’ and ‘his memories’ are just enough
to class as simple explanations. Number of marks
awarded: 2.

11 Explain two ways in which Jesus is portrayed as
a teacher in St Mark’s Gospel. Refer to St Mark’s
Gospel in your answer. [5]

One way that Jesus is shown as a teacher in
Mark’s Gospel is because crowds came to listen to
his stories and speeches. The feeding of the 5000
is a good example of this – Mark says Jesus saw
a large crowd ‘like sheep without a shepherd, so he
began teaching them many things.’

Another way is through the name given to
him by Bartimaeus. He calls him ‘Rabbuni’
which means ‘my teacher’ before Jesus heals his
blindness. Mark is letting everyone know Jesus
is a teacher with great power.

**Commentary:** Good development to each part
and good use of specific teaching. Number of marks
awarded: 5.

12 ‘The most important event in Mark’s Gospel was
the baptism of Jesus.’ Evaluate this statement. [12]

The baptism of Jesus is where Mark starts his
Gospel and it is where Jesus is told by the voice of
God ‘you are my son’ (in private) and it is from
here that Jesus starts his work. Mark finishes
his Gospel with the Roman Centurion declares
– ‘truly this man was Son of God. In this way
the baptism is most important because it sets off
Jesus work as God’s Son and it ends when it is
realised (in this case by a Gentile centurion).
It is also the most important as it appears from
this point that Jesus has God’s power and can
now begin his miracles – the temptations seem
to show that Jesus needed to think about how to
use this power (as if he hadn’t had it before) but
once he does he starts his work, Mark wants to
show Jesus as a ‘man of action’. For Mark this is
his main purpose, so the baptism is what sets it
all going.
On the other hand, for Mark, although the baptism is key he doesn't prolong the story, rather he wants to get on with showing us what Jesus could do. We see 18 miracles all showing Jesus power. This all builds up the picture that Jesus was the Son of God and in the end, it wasn't one of his closest friends but a total stranger and initial unbeliever who has the realisation and openly says who Jesus is. Up until this point Mark seems to want to keep Jesus' identity secret (as he tells people he healed not to tell anyone). This Messianic Secret has to be kept until Jesus' death and at that point Jesus is identified as the Son of God. This is the most important because it is at this point Mark brings his Gospel to a close. The miracles prove who Jesus was it was then only to say that the resurrection happened for Mark to complete his Gospel.

In conclusion I believe that for Mark, his Gospel is all part of a story, a build up to reveal who Jesus was. There isn't a most important event because I don't think Mark was that complex. He tells us a story of what Jesus did and what he taught, it is the story that matters overall not individual events.

**Commentary:** This answer shows a great understanding of Mark. It is very easy to just refer to single events and explain why each one is important, but this answer rather looks at themes that run through Mark (Son of God, miracle man, Messianic Secret etc) which is very impressive. It is a balanced answer – well-structured and nicely brought together in its conclusion. Number of marks awarded: 12, Level 4.

### 13 St Mark's Gospel as a source of spiritual truth

1. In the Parable of the Sower how many types of soil did seed fall on?
   - A 2
   - B 3
   - C 4
   - D 5

   **Commentary:** The question asks you to give the letter rather than the answer. However, it: likely you'd get the mark. Always better to do what you are meant to – just in case! Number of marks awarded: 1.

3. Give two parables told by Jesus.
   - Parable of the Mustard Seed and Parable of the Fig Tree.

   **Commentary:** The question seeks two parables from Mark, which these are. The second one is not in this Theme for study, but would still be credited. Number of marks awarded: 2.

7. Explain two contrasting understandings about the Kingdom of God. Refer to Islam/Judaism and the main religious tradition of Great Britain.

   In the Parable of the growing seed, Jesus says the kingdom of God is like a seed right now – people need to be patient because it will come one day, and then it will be magnificent.

   In Mark chapter 9 verse 1, Jesus says that the kingdom of God will come before even some of those people in front of him die. This is showing his belief that the Kingdom of God was about to happen soon.

   **Commentary:** Two clearly developed answers using correct teachings from Mark. Number of marks awarded: 4.

9. Explain two ways that Jesus showed care for the disregarded in society. Refer to St Mark’s Gospel in your answer.

   Jesus showed care for the disregarded of society by helping them – he healed blind people. He also showed care by turning his back on them, like Mary Magdalene and Zacchaeus.

   **Commentary:** Two simple explanations here – the examples acting as simple development. There are no specific teachings used so number of marks awarded: 2.

13. ‘Faith is more important than action in Mark’s Gospel.’ Evaluate this statement.

   Faith is a really important part of Mark’s Gospel. Jesus asks people or sees faith in them before he carries out his miracles to heal people. In some cases Jesus cannot act or heal like in Nazareth so faith is more important as without faith – there is no action!

   Faith is the thing that actually heals people like for Blind Bartimaeus – it is not Jesus touch but ‘your faith has healed you’ and with the paralysed man it is the faith of the four friends that heals that man. With the woman with haemorrhages Jesus feels the power go out of him in healing her as she knows if she is just able to...
touch Jesus cloak she will be healed. Her sense of faith again is what leads Jesus to heal.

In Mark the writer simply seems to move from one event to the next showing what Jesus ‘did’. He uses ‘immediately’ 28 times moving Jesus from one event to the next. Jesus did this, then he did that, then he did the other moving from one event to the next. He is a man of action showing who he was. The problem is no-one recognised him. Faith was a secret so if only Jesus knew, how could it be the most important?

I think that faith is the most important for the reader today and for Jesus himself at the time but for Mark and for Peter his source action was more important. Peter wanted everyone to know what Jesus had done. I think faith became more of an issue as the early church developed.

Commentary: Good knowledge shown of the faith miracles but also of the role of ‘action’. Structured and clear. It is stronger on the ‘agree’ side here than the ‘disagree’ side though. This is definitely a Level 4 but perhaps not quite full marks. Number of marks awarded: 10/11, Level 4.