2.3 Evaluating the Reasons for and Importance of Christian Pilgrimage: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Evaluate the view that pilgrimage is essential for Christians today. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to Christian arguments, and reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 1 is 12 marks)

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2 Evaluate the view that pilgrimage is unnecessary for Christians today. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to Christian arguments, and reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

3 Explain two ways pilgrimage can help to deepen a Christian's faith, in the context of an individual visiting a holy place for devotion.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about whether pilgrimage is necessary or unnecessary, and refer to a source of wisdom or authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.3 Evaluating the Reasons for and Importance of Christian Pilgrimage: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 4 A well-developed, balanced evaluation that gives reasoned arguments for and against the view, refers to Christian beliefs, teachings or scripture, and reaches a justified conclusion relevant to the question.	**10-12**
Level 3 A clear evaluation with arguments on both sides and some reference to Christian belief or practice, but the conclusion may be less fully justified.	**7-9**
Level 2 Arguments are given for and against the view but are limited in development, and reference to Christian beliefs or scripture may be brief or general.	**4-6**
Level 1 Simple, undeveloped statements of for or against with little or no reference to Christian belief; no real conclusion.	**1-3**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that pilgrimage is essential: it provides extended time for prayer and reflection which many find necessary for deepening faith; places linked to Christian history or saints make beliefs more tangible and can lead to conversion or renewal.
- Pilgrimage as a means of healing, repentance and gratitude that some Christians see as a vital expression of faith, supported by communal worship and pastoral care.
- Arguments that pilgrimage is not essential: God is omnipresent and can be worshipped anywhere; true faith and obedience matter more than location.
- Practical objections: not everyone can afford or is physically able to go on pilgrimage, and insisting it is essential risks excluding and judging other believers.
- Scriptural and theological considerations: use of passages such as James 5:14 and Luke 17:11-19 to illustrate differing emphases on prayer, healing and the presence of God.
- Possible balanced conclusion: pilgrimage may be essential for some believers as a powerful means of grace and renewal, but it is not a universal requirement for Christian faith and practice.

Question 2

Level 4 A well-developed, balanced evaluation that gives reasoned arguments for and against the view, refers to Christian beliefs, teachings or scripture, and reaches a justified conclusion relevant to the question.	**10-12**
Level 3 A clear evaluation with arguments on both sides and some reference to Christian belief or practice, but the conclusion may be less fully justified.	**7-9**
Level 2 Arguments are given for and against the view but are limited in development, and reference to Christian beliefs or scripture may be brief or general.	**4-6**
Level 1 Simple, undeveloped statements of for or against with little or no reference to Christian belief; no real conclusion.	**1-3**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that pilgrimage is unnecessary: Christian doctrine emphasises that God is everywhere and worship is not confined to special places, so pilgrimage is not required for salvation or authentic worship.
- Passages and teachings emphasising faith, obedience and daily discipleship over ritual journeys, and examples such as Jesus healing people without a shrine to show God's presence is not limited to places.
- Arguments that pilgrimage can still be valuable: it can lead to spiritual renewal, communal worship and healing for those who undertake it; examples such as some pilgrims to Iona or Lourdes may be used as evidence although practices themselves are not described in detail.
- Practical and pastoral considerations: pilgrimage may be transformative for some but making it unnecessary in doctrine prevents exclusion, while recognising its pastoral benefits for believers who choose it.
- Possible balanced conclusion: while pilgrimage is not doctrinally essential for all Christians, it remains a valuable practice for many and should be respected as one legitimate way to grow in faith.

Question 3

point 1: pilgrimage provides concentrated time for prayer and reflection, oe	**B1**
development: this focused time can lead to clearer understanding of beliefs and a stronger personal commitment, oe	**B1**
point 2: visiting a place linked with Christian history or a saint can make aspects of faith feel more real, oe	**B1**
development: the emotional or sensory experience can strengthen belief by creating a tangible connection with tradition, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. concentrated prayer and reflection leading to clearer commitment; a tangible link to Christian history making belief feel more real.

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Question 4

belief 1: some Christians believe pilgrimage is valuable or necessary as a special act of devotion that can deepen faith, oe **B1**

development: this is supported by the idea that visiting holy places or following saints' examples makes faith tangible and can lead to spiritual renewal, oe **B1**

belief 2: other Christians believe pilgrimage is unnecessary because God can be worshipped and encountered anywhere, oe **B1**

development: this view is supported by teaching that God is omnipresent and that true worship depends on faith and obedience rather than place, oe **B1**

accurate reference to a source of wisdom or authority used to illustrate one side, e.g. Luke 17:11-19 showing Jesus healing without a shrine, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: some say pilgrimage deepens devotion by making faith tangible; others say it is unnecessary because God is present everywhere and worship depends on faith not location, illustrated by Luke 17:11-19 where healing occurs without a shrine.

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