



RS.CP11 Evaluating the Reasons for and Importance of Christian Pilgrimage

AQA 8062 · Calculators not allowed · about 50 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

- 1** Which one of the following best describes a common personal reason why Christians go on pilgrimage, in the context of Christian belief and practice?

- ☐ To find a place where God is more powerful than elsewhere
- ☐ To deepen personal faith through focused prayer and reflection
- ☐ To avoid local church responsibility for the rest of the year
- ☐ To take part in a compulsory rite that all churches require

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Give two reasons why individual Christians might choose to go on pilgrimage, naming the Christian context of seeking spiritual benefit or worship.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 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 reasons why Christians might go on pilgrimage seeking healing, and refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer, naming the scripture used.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

- 5 Give three reasons why groups of Christians sometimes go on pilgrimage together rather than alone, naming the communal Christian context.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

- 6 Explain the importance of pilgrimage for some Christians today.

(Total for Question 6 is 6 marks)

- 7 Explain two ways pilgrimage might affect the daily life and practice of a Christian after they return home.

(Total for Question 7 is 4 marks)

- 8** Give two ways in which pilgrimage can be an act of penance for a Christian, naming the context of repentance.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

- 9** Give two benefits of shared corporate worship during a pilgrimage for a local church community when the pilgrims return, naming the communal Christian context.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

- 10** 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 10 is 5 marks)

- 11** 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 11 is 12 marks)

- 12** 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 12 is 12 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.CP11 Evaluating the Reasons for and Importance of Christian Pilgrimage

Question 1

- **B1** correct option identified, deepen personal faith through focused prayer and reflection, cao
- **Answer: To deepen personal faith through focused prayer and reflection.**

Question 2

- **B1** one reason, e.g. to seek physical or spiritual healing, oe
- **B1** one reason, e.g. to give thanks to God or express gratitude, oe
- **Answer: Any two distinct reasons from the specification, for example: to seek healing; to give thanks to God.**

Question 3

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: E.g. concentrated prayer and reflection leading to clearer commitment; a tangible link to Christian history making belief feel more real.**

Question 4

- **B1** point 1: pilgrimage provides a place to ask God for physical or spiritual healing, oe
- **B1** development: pilgrims may join in prayer, receive pastoral care, and take part in rituals that express hope and faith in God's healing, oe
- **B1** point 2: pilgrimage can encourage repentance and trust in God, which some Christians associate with spiritual renewal and healing, oe
- **B1** development: the change of environment and supportive community can strengthen faith and psychological wellbeing, aiding perceived recovery, oe
- **B1** accurate reference to scripture used as a source of wisdom, e.g. James 5:14 about calling the elders to pray for the sick, oe
- **Answer: E.g. visiting a healing shrine to ask God for healing and receive pastoral prayer; pilgrimage encouraging repentance, trust and community support which can aid recovery, supported by James 5:14 about calling the elders to pray for the sick.**

Question 5

- **B1** to share corporate worship and prayer, strengthening communal faith, oe
- **B1** to support one another through shared experience, oe
- **B1** to celebrate and give thanks together as a church group, oe
- **Answer: Any three: to share corporate worship; to support one another; to celebrate and give thanks together.**

Question 6

- **Level 3** (5-6): A detailed, well-organised answer that explains several reasons why pilgrimage is important for some Christians, supported by accurate reference to belief, practice or scripture, with clear links made between the reasons given.
- **Level 2** (3-4): An answer that explains some reasons why pilgrimage is important, with some relevant supporting detail, though links between points may be limited.
- **Level 1** (1-2): One or two isolated relevant points are made about the importance of pilgrimage, with little supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 0** (0): No relevant content.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Pilgrimage offers concentrated time for prayer and reflection, helping believers to grow spiritually.
 - It can provide occasions for healing, repentance and renewal, supported by communal prayer and pastoral care.
 - Shared pilgrimage strengthens church unity by enabling corporate worship and mutual support.
 - Visiting places connected to Christian history, saints or scripture can make faith feel more tangible and real.
 - Some Christians use pilgrimage to express gratitude to God after receiving blessings or answers to prayer.
 - Pilgrimage may change long term behaviour by renewing commitment and inspiring service to others.

Question 7

- **B1** point 1: it might lead to increased personal prayer and devotion, oe
- **B1** development: the pilgrim may adopt new spiritual habits or Bible reading that continue the inward change begun on pilgrimage, oe
- **B1** point 2: it might inspire greater service or charitable action in their local church or community, oe
- **B1** development: renewed commitment may motivate practical acts of love, fundraising or volunteering, oe
- **Answer: E.g. increased daily prayer and new spiritual habits; renewed commitment leading to more service and charitable action locally.**

Question 8

- **B1** one way: visiting a holy site and praying for forgiveness, oe
- **B1** one way: carrying out acts of sacrifice or hardship to show repentance, oe
- **Answer: Any two: praying for forgiveness at a holy site; undertaking hardship or sacrifice as an act of repentance.**

Question 9

- **B1** one benefit: stories and testimony from pilgrims can encourage and strengthen the faith of others, oe
- **B1** one benefit: new ideas for worship or outreach learned on pilgrimage may be shared and adopted, strengthening church life, oe
- **Answer: E.g. testimonies encourage others; new worship ideas or outreach practices strengthen church life.**

Question 10

- **B1** 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
- **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.**

Question 11

- **Level 4** (10-12): 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.
- **Level 3** (7-9): A clear evaluation with arguments on both sides and some reference to Christian belief or practice, but the conclusion may be less fully justified.
- **Level 2** (4-6): 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.
- **Level 1** (1-3): Simple, undeveloped statements of for or against with little or no reference to Christian belief; no real conclusion.
- **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 12

- **Level 4** (10-12): 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.
- **Level 3** (7-9): A clear evaluation with arguments on both sides and some reference to Christian belief or practice, but the conclusion may be less fully justified.
- **Level 2** (4-6): 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.
- **Level 1** (1-3): Simple, undeveloped statements of for or against with little or no reference to Christian belief; no real conclusion.
- **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.