2.4 Christian Persecution Today: Causes and the Church's Response: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give two effects persecution can have on the faith of individual Christians, in the context of personal belief and practice.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain two effects of persecution on Christian believers and their local communities, in the context of the worldwide church today.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain two practical ways Christian organisations may help victims of persecution, in the context of worldwide church activity.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Explain two challenges churches face when giving help to persecuted Christians abroad, in the context of logistical and ethical considerations.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about the value of suffering and persecution, and refer to a sacred writing or other source of belief in your answer. Context: beliefs about suffering in Christian teaching.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

6 Evaluate the view that the persecuted church needs support from Christians elsewhere. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to religious arguments, and reach a justified conclusion. Context: the role of outside support for persecuted Christian communities today.

(Total for Question 6 is 12 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.4 Christian Persecution Today: Causes and the Church's Response: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

one effect, e.g. it may strengthen personal faith and reliance on prayer, oe	**B1**
one other effect, e.g. it may cause doubt, fear or a weakening of practice, oe	**B1**

Answer: Any two: may strengthen faith and reliance on prayer; may cause doubt, fear or reduced practice; may result in deeper commitment or withdrawal, etc.

Question 2

point 1: believers may be forced to hide or meet in secret, oe	**B1**
development: this can weaken visible community life and reduce public worship and outreach, oe	**B1**
point 2: persecution can cause loss of property, livelihood or displacement, oe	**B1**
development: this can lead to hardship for families and pressure on other church communities providing shelter or support, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. meeting in secret, reducing visible community life; loss of property or displacement causing hardship and pressure on other churches.

Question 3

point 1: they can supply emergency food, medical help and temporary housing, oe	**B1**
development: this provides immediate relief and helps families survive displacement, oe	**B1**
point 2: they can offer legal support and advocacy to protect rights and seek safe outcomes, oe	**B1**
development: this can reduce injustice and help persecuted people access asylum or protection, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. emergency food/medical help and housing to relieve suffering; legal support and advocacy to protect rights and seek safe outcomes.

Question 4

point 1: security risks and the safety of local believers and aid workers, oe	**B1**
development: sending overt help can increase danger for locals, so careful planning and discreet support are needed, oe	**B1**
point 2: potential dependency or undermining of local church leadership, oe	**B1**
development: large-scale external aid can weaken local initiative or create tensions, so support must be appropriate and empowering, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. security risks requiring discreet support; risk of dependency or undermining local leadership, requiring empowering approaches.

Question 5

belief 1: some Christians believe suffering is a way to share in Christ's suffering and grow spiritually, oe	**B1**
development: this is supported by passages such as Philippians 1:29, which speaks of being granted to suffer for Christ, oe	**B1**
belief 2: other Christians believe suffering should be resisted and that believers should work to avoid persecution where possible, oe	**B1**
development: this view is supported by teaching that Christians should preserve life and seek peaceful solutions, oe	**B1**
accurate reference to a sacred writing or other source made, e.g. Philippians 1:29, Hebrews 13:3, or a recognised teaching, oe	**B1**

Answer: Contrast example: some view suffering as participation in Christ and spiritual growth (Philippians 1:29), others emphasise avoiding harm and seeking protection, both with scriptural or doctrinal support.

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Question 6

Level 4 A well-developed, balanced evaluation that gives clear reasons supporting and opposing the view, includes relevant religious arguments and scripture or teaching, and reaches a justified conclusion. Arguments are developed with clear reasoning and examples.	**10-12**
Level 3 A balanced answer that offers several developed arguments on both sides and refers to religious arguments or scripture, with a conclusion that is supported but may lack detailed justification.	**7-9**
Level 2 An answer that gives some relevant arguments for and/or against the view, with limited development and some reference to religious ideas, but the conclusion is weak or only partially justified.	**4-6**
Level 1 Simple, undeveloped points are made for one side only or a brief unsupported judgement is given, with little or no reference to religious ideas.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant material.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the view: practical help can save lives, provide shelter and medical care, and relieve immediate suffering.
- Supporting religious argument: teachings about loving and helping others, e.g. Matthew 25:35-36, and the duty to remember those who suffer, e.g. Hebrews 13:3.
- Supporting argument: outside support shows Christian solidarity and strengthens persecuted communities' morale and global witness.
- Arguments against the view: external support can bring security risks or draw negative attention to local believers, making situations worse.
- Counter religious argument: some teaching emphasises the need for local churches to be self-reliant and avoid cultural dependence, and that faith should not rely on outside material support.
- Counter argument: external aid can create dependency, undermine local leadership, or be ineffective if poorly coordinated, so support must be sensitive and empowering.
- Judgement: a balanced conclusion may argue that support is often necessary and right, but must be carefully planned, discreet where required, and aimed at empowering local churches rather than creating dependency.

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