2.7 Pilgrimage and Celebrations: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting Christian views on the importance of pilgrimage today. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 This question is about Christian celebrations. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question: parts (a) to (d) are worth 12 marks; part (e) is the 12-mark evaluation.

(a) State what Christians celebrate at Christmas. **(1)**

(b) Give two ways Christians celebrate Christmas. **(2)**

(c) Explain two reasons why Christmas is important for Christians today. Refer to scripture in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting Christian views about how Christmas should be celebrated in Britain today. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Pilgrimage is the most important way for Christians to show their faith.' In your answer you should: refer to Christian teaching, refer to different points of view, reach a justified conclusion. **(12)**

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(Total for Question 2 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.7 Pilgrimage and Celebrations: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

belief 1: some Christians, especially in Catholic and Anglo-Catholic traditions, believe pilgrimage remains an important spiritual practice, following a long history of visiting holy places, oe **B1**

development: shrines such as Walsingham, a site of Marian devotion since the medieval period, continue to attract many pilgrims seeking spiritual renewal, oe **B1**

belief 2: other Christians believe pilgrimage is not essential, since God can be worshipped anywhere, oe **B1**

development: based on John 4:21-24, in which Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that true worship is 'in the Spirit and in truth' rather than tied to one place, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: pilgrimage valued as an important tradition (e.g. Walsingham) vs pilgrimage seen as unnecessary since worship is 'in Spirit and truth' (John 4:21-24).

Question 2

(a) the birth of Jesus Christ, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: The birth of Jesus Christ.

(b) attending a Christmas Eve/midnight or Christmas Day church service, oe **B1**

(b) giving and receiving gifts (or a nativity play, or carol singing), oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. attending a Christmas Day church service, and giving/receiving gifts.

(c) point 1: it celebrates the incarnation, the belief that God became human in the person of Jesus, oe **B1**

(c) development: based on John 1:14, 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us', central to Christian belief about who Jesus is, oe **B1**

(c) point 2: it is an opportunity for Christians to give thanks and show generosity to others, reflecting the gift of Jesus to the world, oe **B1**

(c) development: many churches run Christmas outreach events, e.g. collecting gifts or food for those in need, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. celebrating the incarnation (John 1:14); an opportunity for thanksgiving and generosity.

(d) belief 1: some Christians believe Christmas should focus mainly on its religious meaning, centred on church services and reflection on the incarnation, oe **B1**

(d) development: based on Luke 2:10-11, the angel's announcement 'today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you', which some feel is at risk of being lost amid commercial celebrations, oe **B1**

(d) belief 2: other Christians believe it is acceptable to combine religious worship with wider family and cultural traditions, since these can still express Christian generosity and joy, oe **B1**

(d) development: they may point to the Magi bringing gifts to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:11) as an early precedent for gift-giving at Christmas, oe **B1**

(d) reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: Contrast: Christmas kept mainly religious (Luke 2:10-11) vs combined with wider family/cultural tradition, e.g. gift-giving (Matthew 2:11).

(e) **L4** A well-argued, balanced answer that considers more than one point of view in a developed way, using accurate and detailed references to Christian teaching and/or scripture to support each point, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. **10-12**

(e) **L3** A clear and reasoned answer that considers more than one point of view, supported by relevant references to Christian teaching and/or scripture, though the justification of the conclusion may be less developed. **7-9**

(e) **L2** A reasoned answer that considers at least one point of view, with some relevant supporting evidence, but with limited or no consideration of an alternative view. **4-6**

(e) **L1** One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion. **1-3**

(e) **L0** No relevant content. **0**

(e) Indicative content:

- Agree: pilgrimage involves real sacrifice of time, money and effort, which can be seen as a strong outward demonstration of faith and devotion.
- Agree: pilgrimage sites such as Iona and Walsingham have a long history in British Christianity, and visiting them connects believers to this tradition.
- Agree: for some Christians, the physical journey of pilgrimage mirrors and strengthens their spiritual journey towards God.
- Disagree: Jesus taught that true worship is 'in the Spirit and in truth' rather than tied to a place (John 4:24), suggesting no single practice like pilgrimage is essential.
- Disagree: daily practices such as prayer, reading the Bible, attending church and acts of service are followed by far more Christians and arguably show faith just as strongly, sustained over a lifetime rather than a single journey.
- Disagree: many Christians never go on pilgrimage, for example due to cost or ability, and this does not make their faith any less genuine.
- A balanced answer might conclude that pilgrimage can be a powerful and meaningful expression of faith for those who undertake it, but it is one option among many rather than the single most important way of showing faith.

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