7.10 Religious Upbringing and Its Influence on Belief in God: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 State two symbols commonly used in the rites of passage for children in religious upbringing, and briefly explain what each symbol represents.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain two ways participating in regular worship and festivals during childhood might affect a person's belief in God.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Explain the importance of parental modelling and community reinforcement in forming religious belief.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

4 Evaluate the view that a religious upbringing is the biggest influence on belief in God. In your answer you should: give reasoned arguments to support this view, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to religious arguments and reach a justified conclusion. Include up to 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

(Total for Question 4 is 15 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.10 Religious Upbringing and Its Influence on Belief in God: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

symbol 1: water in baptism or naming ceremonies, oe	**B1**
meaning 1: represents cleansing, new life or initiation, oe	**B1**
symbol 2: a candle or light, oe	**B1**
meaning 2: represents guidance, presence of God or enlightenment, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. water in baptism (cleansing, new life); candle or light (guidance, presence of God).

Question 2

point 1: regular worship can normalise belief and make religious practices a habit, oe	**B1**
development: this habit can strengthen conviction and identity, making belief more likely to continue into adulthood, oe	**B1**
point 2: festivals provide memorable communal experiences that attach positive emotions to faith, oe	**B1**
development: such emotional memories can be recalled later and support a lasting belief in God, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. worship normalises belief and makes practice habitual, strengthening identity; festivals create memorable emotional experiences that support continued belief.

Question 3

Level 3 A clear, well-structured explanation that explains both parental modelling and community reinforcement with developed reasons and links to how these support sustained belief.	**5-6**
Level 2 A reasonable explanation that addresses parental modelling and community reinforcement with some development, though explanations may be partial.	**3-4**
Level 1 A few simple relevant points about parental modelling or community reinforcement with little or no development.	**1-2**
Level 0 No relevant material.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Parental modelling shows children how to live out belief through actions such as prayer, charity and worship, making belief tangible.
- Parents name and explain beliefs and respond to questions, which provides cognitive reasons and narratives that support faith.
- Community reinforcement offers shared rituals, peer support and public affirmation, which normalise belief and reduce social pressure to abandon it.
- Role models in the community, such as religious leaders and older peers, demonstrate lived faith and offer mentoring.
- Absence of modelling or community can leave children without reinforcement, increasing the chance of secularisation.

Question 4

Level 4 A balanced and well argued evaluation that gives clear reasons for and against the view, uses religious and non-religious arguments appropriately, and reaches a justified conclusion. Arguments are well organised and supported by appropriate examples or sources.	**10-12**
Level 3 A good evaluation that gives reasons for and against the view with some reference to religious and non-religious arguments and a supported conclusion, though development may be uneven.	**7-9**
Level 2 A limited evaluation offering simple reasons for and/or against the view. Some attempt at a conclusion is made, but arguments lack depth or balance.	**4-6**
Level 1 One or two simple statements relevant to the question with little or no development, and no real conclusion.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant material.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the view: parental teaching and modelling are powerful social and psychological influences, often determining early belief patterns; ritual and community reinforcement make belief a lived habit and part of identity.
- Religious argument in support: scriptures such as Proverbs 22:6 are used to justify early religious formation and suggest upbringing shapes lifelong faith.
- Counter-arguments: belief is also influenced by education, personal reasoning, life events, and scientific worldview which can overturn an early upbringing.
- Non-religious argument: a secular education or critical thinking skills can encourage scepticism and lead to non-belief despite a religious home.
- Other factors: charismatic personal experience, intellectual arguments, social mobility, and mixed-faith households can all alter or replace upbringing influence.
- Conclusion guidance: a balanced conclusion might accept that upbringing is often the strongest early influence but not always the biggest lifelong determinant, because other powerful influences can change belief later in life.

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