RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Year 7 Revision
Summer Term
Year 7 Religious Studies – summer term revision

This booklet contains the relevant bible passages, supporting revision questions, glossary definitions and sample responses as well general exam tips.

END OF YEAR EXAM

Duration: 50 minutes

The end of year exam will consist of two sections:

Section 1: Interpreting the Old Testament
Cain and Abel
10 Commandments

(Choose ONE story from this section for revision)

Section 2: Interpreting the New Testament
The Temptations
The Call of the Disciples

(Choose ONE story from this section for revision)

You will be required to answer two questions in total. Spend no more than 20 minutes on each question.
Exam structure:

Each question has four parts to it.

**Part a** asks for a definition of a word.

**Part b** tests factual knowledge of a biblical story.

**Part c** tests your ability to interpret the religious meaning of the story.

**Part d** tests your ability to discuss and evaluate the story (often raising a contemporary issue).

Exam advice:

Generally, it is good practice to do the following:

- Write short sentences by using full stops frequently.
- Start a new paragraph for each idea.

**Part a questions – worth 2 marks each.**

Keep your answers to part a questions very short – no more than one sentence.

For example: ‘What does a disciple mean?’

*Disciple means being a follower or student of Jesus.*

This achieves 2 marks.

**Part b questions – worth 6 marks each.**

Part b questions ask you to tell the story in some way. Just retell the story clearly – don’t be imaginative.

E.g. ‘Describe what happened in the parable after the younger son had spent all his money on wild living.’

*After the younger son spent all his money there was then a severe famine in the land. He was desperate for work so he found employment looking after pigs. He was so hungry that he could have even eaten the pig food. Then he came to his senses and realised that even his father’s servants had more to eat than he did. So, he said to himself he would return home and ask forgiveness from God and his father and ask to be hired as one of his servants.*

This achieves 6 marks.

**Part c questions – worth 6 marks each.**

Part c questions ask you to explain the background and religious meaning behind the story. This means showing that you understand what was going on at the time the story took place and what lessons can be learned from it. You need to make two or three points and support them with evidence from the story.

E.g. explain what this parable teaches about forgiveness.

*Forgiveness is illustrated in two ways. The father forgives his younger son because he is generous and loving. In fact, before the son says sorry the father is already waiting to forgive him. So, there is a parallel between the father and God; the father’s forgiveness illustrates how God’s redemption is for all sinners. Forgiveness is contrasted with the elder son’s inability to be generous and happy that his brother has repented. He represents the Pharisees who did not like the idea of Jesus mixing with sinners.*

This achieves full marks.
Part d questions – 7 marks

Part d questions require three short paragraphs. You should argue from more than one point of view and then state clearly which argument is the stronger or which you agree with. Include at least one relevant example in your essay. You can raise a contemporary issue or make reference to the bible. There is no strict ‘right or wrong’ answer – but you need to show that you are thinking of both sides of the argument.

Paragraph 1 – discuss one perspective

[Provide at least one example]

Paragraph 2 – discuss a DIFFERENT perspective

Paragraph 3 – reach a conclusion that answers the question.

E.g. ‘We should forgive more and criticise less.’ Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.

From the point of view of the golden rule which says that we should treat others as we would have them treat us, then we would probably want people to forgive more and criticise less. This is because we all make mistakes and we don’t need to be reminded of them, rather we would prefer others to forgive us and allow us to put our mistakes right. A tolerant society is a much better place in which to live than a very judgmental one.

On the other hand, this view assumes that people realise their mistakes. If we didn’t criticise, then people wouldn’t change their ways. They might not think that what they were doing was wrong. Jesus criticised the Pharisees and many bravely criticised Hitler and the Nazis.

It is probably true that it is much easier to criticise than to forgive. So, I agree that we should forgive more because that makes society a much fairer and happier place.

This response achieves full marks.
Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering,

but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear.

Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

But the LORD said to him, “Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no-one who found him would kill him.

So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
REVISION QUESTIONS – CAIN AND ABEL

a) What is sin?
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b) Outline the events that led to Cain’s murder of Abel.
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C) Explain what the story of Cain and Abel teaches about the nature of God.
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D) ‘Capital punishment should be given for murder.’ Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer,
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Exodus 20:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

NOTE: you only need to learn the sections in bold
REVISION QUESTIONS – 10 COMMANDMENTS

a) What is justice?

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b) Outline the first four commandments.

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Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.
a) What is temptation?
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b) Describe how the devil tempted Jesus when he was hungry.
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(c) Explain why it was important that Jesus resisted temptation.
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(d) ‘Violence is sometimes necessary to defend one’s beliefs.’ Do you agree? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.
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Jesus Calls His First Disciples

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

7 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
REVISION QUESTIONS – THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES

a) What is a disciple?
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b) Describe what happened when Jesus asked Simon Peter to let down his fishing nets.
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c) Explain what this story teaches us about Jesus.
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d) ‘It is wise to give up everything for faith.’ Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.
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MORE SAMPLE RESPONSES FOR PART C QUESTIONS

Example 1:

The story teaches us that Jesus has power over nature. The disciples have caught very few fish and then on Jesus’ command they find so many that their nets are breaking. It might also teach that Jesus has very special knowledge – perhaps this is to indicate that as God’s son he is omniscient (all-knowing). The story teaches that Jesus has compassion and cares for his disciples because he helps them and stops them going hungry.

Example 2:

Having been baptised, Jesus may have felt that his calling to carry out God’s will was easy. The temptations are powerful reminders of how easy it would be to misuse his gifts for his own glory and power and not for God’s. If he had fed all the poor he would have become a great political leader. He could have rules a mighty kingdom. He could have been seen as a superhero with magical powers. All these temptations test his vocation.

MORE SAMPLE RESPONSES FOR PART D QUESTIONS

Example 1:

Many people say capital punishment is the only way to be sure someone won’t kill again. It also acts as a deterrent to others. Executing a murderer shows the world that justice has been done. If you take someone’s life, then yours should be taken. The Bible calls this law ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’.

On the other hand, Jesus taught that we should love our enemies and do good to those who mistreat us. To execute someone makes us as bad as the murderer. Crime figures also show that capital punishment does not work as a deterrent. Lastly, innocent people can be executed and the result is irreversible.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. Society is better off without capital punishment; in prison there is always hope that a person might change.

Example 2:

Jesus taught that you should love your enemies and do good to those who hurt you without resorting to violence in any situation. Martin Luther King believed that black Americans should have the same rights as white people. His campaign was conducted without resort to violence. Oscar Romero believed that working together was what changed people, not violence. He died for this belief.

On the other hand, many would say that there comes a point when only violence is effective. Nelson Mandela fought for racial equality and an end to apartheid in South Africa. His supporters would argue that it was only the threat and use of violence that brought it about. Similarly, Dietrich Bonhoeffer planned to help assassinate Hitler because he believed that it was for the greater good.

My conclusion is that it is sometimes necessary to use violence to defend one’s beliefs when these affect how people are treated – fighting for racial equality, for example. But we should be prepared to suffer for our personal faith without retaliating.
GLOSSARY

Disciple – a follower or student.

Discrimination – acting negatively against someone or some people.

Faith – having active trust in someone or God.

Justice – treating others fairly.

Outcast – a person rejected by society.

Prejudice – holding an irrational view against someone or some people.

Sabbath – the Jewish day of rest.

Sacrifice – giving up something for something of greater value.

Sin – disobeying God and separating oneself from him.

Temptation – the desire to do something wrong.