

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES B

(8063)

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## Marked responses

Paper 1 8063/1: 01.5 and 02.5

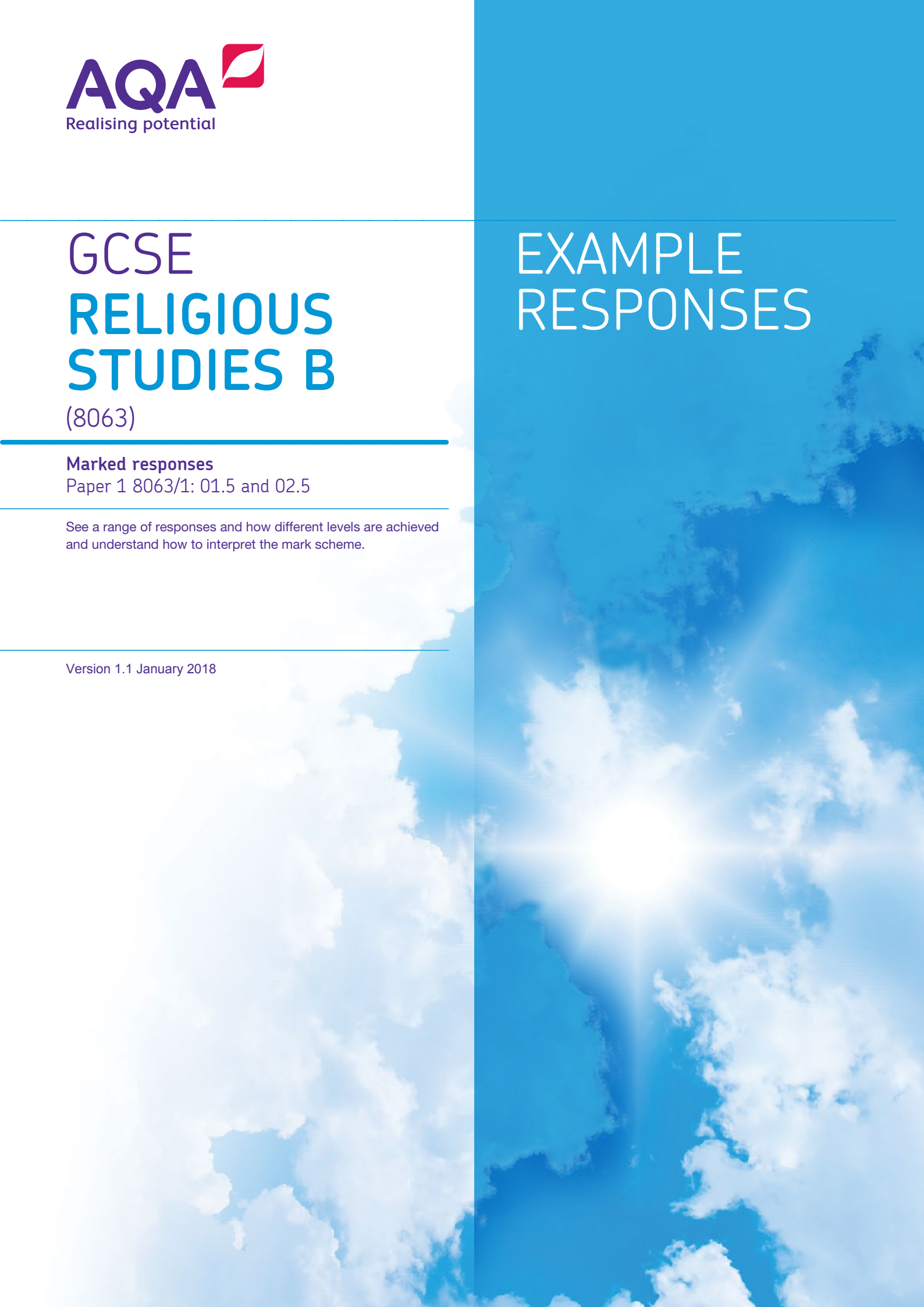
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See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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# EXAMPLE RESPONSES



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Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written and have not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

## Question 01.5

### Question

'Michelangelo's painting of *The Creation of Adam* perfectly expresses a Catholic understanding of humanity.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- refer to this work of art and Catholic teaching
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

### Mark scheme

Target: AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence.

Level	Marks	Description
4	10-12	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b>
3	7-9	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>
2	4-6	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>
1	1-3	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.
0	0	Nothing written worthy of credit.

Answers may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

**Arguments in support**

- It shows that humans are in Imago dei (Gen 1:27) / it shows that man is receiving life from God and is totally dependent on God
- The female figure in human form is thought to be Eve so reinforcing the idea that Adam was created first (Gen 2). Others think that the image is the Virgin Mary and the child next to her who is being touched by God is the baby Jesus. This would show that the promise of Christ was there from the beginning, as was the fall that required the coming of Christ.
- The human situation as imago dei, dependent, fallen and redeemed are all seen in the image.

**Arguments in support of other views**

- The image of both God and Adam is white which some find misleading as it does not reflect Catholic teaching about the equality of all people
- It does not correspond closely to the biblical account which it is supposed to represent as the figure of Adam is already alive so it does not depict creation from dust, nor breathing in the breath of life
- The Catholic Church does not teach that the creation of humans as shown in Genesis is factual. This picture does not reflect Catholic teaching about the role of evolution in God's creation.

## Student responses

### Student response 1

Michelangelo's painting of 'the creation of Adam' perfectly expresses catholic understanding of humanity as it shows that God is omniscient and omnipotent. We can see this because God appears to in a large brain in the painting, showing he is omniscient. And we can see he is omnipotent because he is floating above Adam and he is reaching down towards him. Some may think that the painting doesn't perfectly express a catholicic understanding of humanity as it doesn't fully show and explain how the world and humans were created. It doesn't explain/show about God giving Adam stewardship or power over other living creatures and animals on planet. It also doesn't express that God is transcendent and that he was there before anything else.

In conclusion I believe that this painting doesn't show enough to fully express a catholic understanding of humanity. It doesn't show God as omnibenevoient or transcendant which are crucial elements of the creation stories because they help us to understand how God made the world perfect for humans.

This is a level 3 response.

The answer is lacking any reference to Biblical or church teachings and could have included more specific judgements and evaluation of points made.

## Student response 2

Michelangelo was asked by the Pope at that time to paint the creation of Adam in the Sistine chapel. You could say that it perfectly expresses a Catholic understanding of humanity. A reason for this is that it shows God created mankind in his image of knowledge, love and rationality. This is shown as God with angels presented in front of a brain. In this image, God is shown as an ancient, powerful man (he is muscular). Him being ancient represents Him being eternal and His power is shown by his muscles. Some people say that this is wrong as God is a metaphysical being and should not be shown as a man.

God is also seen as being more powerful than Adam, but also giving Adam some of his power. He is seen 'floating' above where Adam is lying. They are both reaching out to each other but not quite reaching.\*

On the other hand, the Creation of Adam does not perfectly express the Catholic understanding of humanity. God is not physical so how can we look like Him? Also, it doesn't show Eve or Eve's creation and half of mankind is feminine.

Overall I feel that it is pretty accurate, but not perfect. We do not know perfectly how Adam/humanity was created. It is good visually for us, as we are trying to understand ourselves.

\*They are reaching, but not touching as it is before God passed His power into Adam, making him omnipotent, but humans aren't.

This is a level 3 response.

Second viewpoint is not as well developed as the first. This limited the mark to level 3. Points made are evaluated and a judgement made effectively.

### Student response 3

Michelangelo's painting of The Creation of Adam perfectly expresses a Catholic understanding of humanity. Some people may agree with this point because in this picture Adam is below God and is looking up to him and this is what Catholics do is look up to God in a time of need. Also Catholics believe that God is the brain of the world and this is shown because God has been drawn in a brain shaped object.

Others may disagree with this point because they may not believe that God is that close to man because he is transendant so he is beyond time and space. They may also believe that God is not presented in a physical form or that he is presented an object but Michelangelo has made God as a muscular human.

In conclusion to this, I believe that Michelangelo has presented the Catholic understanding of humanity clearly because Catholics believe that we should always look up to God and he is a higher rank so he is above us like presented in the picture.

This is a level 2 response.

Answer is a little short at 177 words. Some lack of clarity in paragraph 2. Lacks developed evaluation. Lack of specialist terms would limit SPaG mark.

### Student response 4

Michelangelo's painting of the creation of Adam shows God and man (Adam) being close to each other. This picture was painted in Rome by the artist Michelangelo on a ceiling in a church. Some people state the 'The painting of the creation of Adam perfectly expresses a catholic understanding of humanity'.

People who agree with this statement would say yes it does as it shows Man is lower than God so is shown to be less powerful. Adam is reaching out to God and they are very close but not touching and this shows God is always with us but never a living thing that we can touch, smell, see or hear. Another point is that Adam is naked so it shows he is not cautious about his body and in fact there is nothing wrong with it.

On the other hand people who disagree with this statement will say people do not like their body and features so we are not like Adam God is to much like man.

This is a level 1 response.

Paragraph 1 is A01 and repeating the question. Paragraph 2 includes credit-worthy material in the first two sentences. The final paragraph lacked clarity and could not be credited.

### Student response 5

The painting portrays how humanity depends on God. God is shown as a human in the painting this shows we are made in the likeness of God. In this picture you can see the strong relationship between God and Adam. Their finger tips meet showing a strong connection. It shows that without God humanity would be nothing.

On the other hand it doesn't give a clear indication what is happening in the painting it does not give Catholic a clear teaching as they might understand the purpose or teaching of the painting.

In conclusion, I believe this perfectly expresses Christians beliefs because it teaches Christians that they made in likeness of God. It also shows is we depend on him because in painting it shows us god is higher up and more powerful

This is a level 2 response.

A short answer at 133 words. Some useful points on the first side of the argument, but the second view is unclear. Length of answer, lack of key terms and errors would limit SPaG.

### Student response 6

The creation of Adam does perfectly express a Catholic understanding of humanity as it shows how we are made in the likeness of God as God and Adam look similar. It also shows God is slightly better as he is higher up than Adam. also the angels express God is as they made him look superior. Finally, it shows man is in the rational image of God as logic and wisdom is portrayed the brain surrounding God.

On the other hand, we could disagree as many Catholics believe God couldn't have the power to create us if he was almost identical to us. he has arms, legs and everything Adam has according to how they are portrayed so how is God so much better? It also shows how Adam is set to rule over things such as animals as he's the only man but why God and Adam got the exact same figures when God is able to do anything and know everything.

Finally I believe that the statement is correct as it shows things we are told in the Genesis, we see God's omnipotence how man and God are extremely close as their fingers are almost touching and also it shows how we are made in the rational image of God.

This is a level 4 response.

223 words. Top SPaG would be awarded despite some errors as technical terms are well used, and generally spelling and grammar are accurate. Good evaluation of points made and use of technical terms. Clear evaluations on both sides of the argument. More judgements on the arguments could have moved this answer up within the band.



## Question 02.5

### Question

‘Christians should use only traditional prayers, not spontaneous prayers.’

Evaluate this statement. 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 teaching
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

### Mark scheme

**Target: AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief: significance**

Level	Marks	Description
4	10-12	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b>
3	7–9	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>
2	4–6	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>
1	1–3	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.
0	0	Nothing written worthy of credit.

Answers may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

Answers may, but need not, refer to different views in different Christian traditions

#### Arguments in support

- Jesus taught the disciples to pray using the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9) so Christians should follow this example
- If they do not use traditional prayers, such as prayers of the saints, they may not pray correctly and could neglect prayer for others or for the whole of humanity.
- Using traditional prayers means that all Christians can worship together so their use strengthens the Christian community, the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12).

### Arguments in support of other views

- Set prayers can lose their meaning because people do not have to think about the meaning of the words as they use them. Spontaneous prayers can allow the Holy Spirit to pray in them (Romans 8)
- Spontaneous prayers can reflect the immediate needs of the individual or community so they are relevant and personal. They strengthen the individual's relationship with God.
- Jesus offered such prayers (eg John 11:41)

## Student responses

### Student response 1

The above statement is one of great controversy, however this view could easily be supported.

Firstly, the prayers that are traditional such as the Our Father offer is with a prayer that is set in stone, they're not rough and roll of the tongue making them easy to remember. this makes the prayer more considerate and greatens the involvement with God. Secondly, traditional prayers can often offer great support during a certain period of time. For example when in a time of mourning believers can say the eternal rest. this means a person won't have to think of what to say making the prayer easier and less rough. yet still they can pay their respects.

On the other hand, many would argue that Christians should be able to pray using spontaneous prayers aswell. These can allow people to get their exact message across to God rather than saying the Hail Mary when they might not be stating what they want to be. Also, many would argue that the involvement with God could be more personal if you speak from the mind rather than speaking from the Bible.

To conclude – I believe that the statement should be supported as it would then mean every prayer is thoughtful, in great connection with God and would be far less rough and awkward. However it would help much more in certain situations like the Eternal Rest during mourning.

This is a level 4 response.

Good use of key examples of prayers and clear evaluation of both sides of the argument. 234 words, good length for the time available.

### Student response 2

Some Christians believe that sticking to the traditional prayers is more holy because they have been around for a long time and are used in many different situations eg. funerals, weddings and in some cases remembrance. Also it can be quite hard to make a prayer up on the spot, even just having the words to a traditional prayer can help a lot. Moreover for generations traditional prayers have helped bring communities together. An example of a traditional prayer is the Lord's Prayer and the Eternal Rest these prayers have been praised in mass for those who are mourning and need to be comforted.

Others disagree they think that spontaneous prayers are the best type because it can be a very emotional experience hearing what someone else's thoughts are.

To conclude I believe traditional prayers should be used because you can't go wrong with them they have been around for many years.

This is a level 3 response.

A short answer (152 words). Good points made, but lack of development of second argument. Judgement could have been made on the concluding statement, eg why is the fact they have 'been around for a long time' a good thing? Why is this conclusive evidence?

### Student response 3

Christians should only use traditional prayers, not spontaneous prayers.

Some people may say that Christians should only use traditional prayers because these are something that everyone can share and join in saying. They are popular because they have been passed down through the generations and are easy to remember, for example the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and the Eternal Rest. The Lord's Prayer is said every day in school and at every mass – everybody knows it off-by-heart and it's a way to unite in prayer.

However people may say that spontaneous prayers are better because they are unique, come from the heart and are just how someone feels in certain occasions. People are guided by the Holy Spirit when they say these prayers and sometimes speak in languages and somebody to translate.

In conclusion, I think that Christians should only use traditional prayers as this is a way people can truly unite in prayer without confusion.

This is a level 3 response.

Clear evaluation on two sides of the argument. Concepts such as being united in prayer, and speaking in tongues alluded to. Traditional prayers accurately identified. To gain level 4, more judgements needed on the arguments put forward. This could be developed throughout the answer, or added to the conclusion.

#### Student response 4

Some Christians may agree with the point that Christians should on prayer through traditional prayers. They may believe this because they might think that the traditional prayers have been taught and passed down through generations for a reason. Some of these traditional prayers involve prayers like, God's prayer, Eternal Rest and the Hail Mary, every Christian will know these prayers. These prayers are good because they teach others and tell us how to live.

On the other hand others may argue that spontaneous prayers are better than traditional prayers. These people may argue this because in traditional they cannot express how that person is feeling. But in spontaneous prayers you can add how you feel about a subject and you can directly speak to God. A way of doing spontaneous prayer is sitting in a circle and each person adds a thing or subject in. Another way is through music.

In conclusion to this, I believe that the best way to pray in is spontaneous because you can pray about more modern subjects like the people in Africa etc.

This is a level 3 response.

179 words. The second paragraph evaluates more strongly than the first. The conclusion adds a good point about 'modern issues', but this could have been extended (ie, judgement made, such as why is praying for those things more important/relevant today?). Point about 'music' could also be developed further.

#### Student response 5

Some Christians may support this statement as they think it's better and more respectful to use the traditional prayers that have been past down for many generations. They may disagree with the use of traditional prayers because they may think that they weren't as respectful and they may go off the topic of religion of people get carried away with what they are praying about. Traditional prayers, such as the hail Mary, the Our Father and the eternal may be seen as the best prayers to use because they're short and get a clear message accross.

However other Christians may disagree as they think spontaneous prayers are better to use. They may think spontaneous prayers are better because they allow you to pray for something very specific that isn't included in a traditional prayer. Spontaneous prayers can be better if there is something you need to ask for or anything you need or want to confess.

In conclusion I disagree with this statement, that Christians should only use traditional prayers. I think that they should be able to use spontaneous prayers as well because they are a lot more personal.

This is a level 3 response.

Some slight confusion in paragraph 1 (line 3) where wrong type of prayer stated. Good link to confession in paragraph 2. This could perhaps have been developed further, perhaps in the conclusion.

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