

Religious Studies

Advanced GCE **2780**

Religious Ethics 1

Mark Scheme for June 2010

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of pupils of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, OCR Nationals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by Examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this mark scheme.

© OCR 2010

Any enquiries about publications should be addressed to:

OCR Publications
PO Box 5050
Annesley
NOTTINGHAM
NG15 0DL

Telephone: 0870 770 6622
Facsimile: 01223 552610
E-mail: publications@ocr.org.uk

1 'Only religious ethics can provide the correct solution to euthanasia.' Discuss.

AO1 Candidates might outline the main tenets of religious ethics that could apply to euthanasia: the Sanctity of Life, personhood and the approach of Natural Law that life is to be preserved.

They could apply this to the different forms of euthanasia: involuntary, non-voluntary, active and passive.

They may wish to consider quality of life or alternatives to euthanasia such as the hospice movement which provide alternative solutions to suffering.

AO2 Candidates might look at the arguments for and against relying on religious ethics. They could consider the Sanctity of Life and the universal value given to human life, and contrast this with the teaching on autonomy and free will that suggest that the patient has the right to make his own decisions.

They might evaluate the deontological nature of much religious ethics, and its universal approach, and contrast this with the approach of agape in Situation Ethics.

On the other hand they may ask whether there can ever be a correct solution. And for whom is the solution to be deemed correct: the patient, the relatives or the hospital staff.

2 Assess the view that everyone has the right to a child.

AO1 Candidates may explain what is meant by 'right' in this context, and whether children may be viewed as commodities.

They may discuss IVF and surrogacy.

Candidates may discuss this issue with reference to Natural Law, Kantian ethics, or a consequentialist theory such as Utilitarianism or Situation Ethics.

AO2 Candidates may argue that not everyone has the right to a child, citing single people, those in homosexual relationships etc. They may argue that it should be made a relative right, depending on the cost of IVF, the suitability of the parents, and the issue of spare embryos.

Others may reject it as a right, arguing that life is a sacred gift and that IVF interferes with nature and the marital relationship.

Others may consider that infertility is a condition that can be treated and that couples have the right to treatment so that they can have a child that belongs to them biologically.

3 'Most religious believers would agree with Utilitarianism.' Discuss.

AO1 Candidates may explain religious ethics as having a teleological element in Situation Ethics.

Utilitarianism could be explained perhaps using Bentham, Mill and contemporary thinkers such as Hare or Singer.

Common elements in the two approaches could be made. They may use examples to illustrate this.

They may contrast this by explaining a more deontological approach within religious ethics such as Divine Command Theory or Natural Law.

AO2 Some may advocate Proportionalism as an attempt to connect religious ethics to a consequential theory such as Utilitarianism.

They may say that a follower of Situation Ethics may have no problem in accepting the Utilitarian principle of the 'greatest good for the greatest number'.

Others may argue that religious ethics cannot include Utilitarian elements.

4 Assess the view that only Kantian ethics would allow embryo research.

AO1 Candidates may outline the key tenets of Kantian ethics – it is absolute, based on reason, duty, universalisability, treating others as ends etc.

They could apply this to embryo research – stating clearly the purpose of the research.

Candidates may also discuss the approaches of any other ethical theory.

AO2 Candidates may question the statement, saying that there would be difficulty in universalisation, and, if the embryos were considered as persons, Kantian ethics would be against it.

They may discuss Kant's stress on acting out of duty, with no account taken of compassion or love, or even of the consequences.

Candidates may compare Kant's approach with another ethical theory, such as Utilitarianism, which they consider will allow embryo research.

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

OCR Customer Contact Centre

14 – 19 Qualifications (General)

Telephone: 01223 553998

Facsimile: 01223 552627

Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England
Registered Office; 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU
Registered Company Number: 3484466
OCR is an exempt Charity



OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
Head office
Telephone: 01223 552552
Facsimile: 01223 552553