Test the 12 mark question (d)

1 ‘Formal worship is central to the life of a Christian.’ Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:
   • refer to Catholic teachings
   • reach a justified conclusion.

(12 marks)

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- Explain why some people would agree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

For Catholics formal worship or liturgy is clearly central to their lives. The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life’ (CCC/Lumen Gentium), which means it is a special source of grace. By receiving the Eucharist weekly, or even daily, Catholics believe their relationship with God is strengthened as they are receiving the actual body and blood of Christ. It also enables Catholics to join with all other Catholics in being the Body of Christ, the Church. The Church’s teaching on formal worship is clear, and so is convincing to faithful Catholics. These arguments for supporting the statement are strong because most Catholics would want to adhere to the teachings of the Church and know they are part of the Catholic community.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

However, some Christians would argue that it is more important to participate in pilgrimage. They believe that God will judge based on actions rather than following rituals. They may feel popular piety is more important than attending Mass. They may also belong to a church that has a more informal worship that enables a closer relationship with God. There are diverse views within Christianity about what is most important, hence some Christians will not agree with Catholics. These arguments are also convincing as they allow Christians to be part of a diverse, modern faith where believers express themselves in different ways.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own reasoning.
- Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In conclusion, it may well depend on the teachings of the particular Christian Church you belong to. For Catholics, formal worship, in the Eucharist, is fundamental. This is made clear in the CCC. I find this argument more convincing as I do believe it is important to maintain the traditions and teachings of the Church.

This is a good answer as it includes evaluation throughout, not just in the conclusion.

This is a justified conclusion because it gives a reason for why the student finds arguments for the statement more convincing than those against.
‘The magisterium provides a vital function for today.’ Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- Explain why some people would agree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

Catholics would agree that the magisterium does provide a vital function for today as part of the three key parts of the Church: scripture, tradition, and magisterium.

As opposed to some Christians who believe the Bible on its own has the answers, Catholics believe that certain individuals are given the authority to teach, as Jesus appointed his apostles.

The ordinary magisterium is the everyday teachings of the bishops and Pope, which is logical as they are leaders in the Church. It is useful for Catholics as it often covers issues not found in the Bible, such as abortion and IVF.

On rare occasions the extraordinary magisterium is used by the Pope to make ‘ex cathedra’ teachings regarded as infallible (which means it cannot be wrong). This may be hard to accept, but it has only been used twice.

I feel the arguments to support the statement are convincing as they allow Catholics to be clear of the teachings and where they are sourced from. This promotes unity within the church.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

Many other Christians do not follow the Pope. They believe that the Bible contains all the answers, and they are free to interpret it more freely. This means, for example, that some Christians agree with issues such as abortion and euthanasia as they have come to their own decision and see them as an act of love. This allows greater freedom in what to believe, and some Christians feel this is more appropriate for modern living.

This approach can seem attractive as it allows a Christian to use their conscience in decision-making, but I feel it is problematic as it can lead to Christians having very divergent views on important issues.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own reasoning.
- Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In my opinion, the magisterium is useful in guiding Catholics through modern issues not covered in the Bible. Freedom to interpret is not always a good thing, because it can encourage disagreement and lack of unity.
Test the 12 mark question (d)

'A church is designed as the best way to worship God.' Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12 marks)

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- **Explain why some people would agree with the statement.**

- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.

- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.

- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

Many church buildings are built pointing east as a reminder of Jesus rising, as the sun rises from the east. Likewise, many are built in the shape of the cross.

Inside, the altar is the focal point of the Mass, the table of the Lord, therefore it is central to worship in the Church.

Most Catholic churches have Stations of the Cross, which give a visible form to the final hours of Jesus' life, a reminder of his suffering, which may aid prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1137 states church buildings signify and make visible the Church living in this place. As these features are consistent in the vast majority of churches, it could be argued that they provide the best environment for worshipping God. These reasons form a convincing argument for the statement.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- **Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.**

- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.

- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.

- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

Worship can take place anywhere. The Catechism calls people to be the ‘living stones’, gathered to be ‘built into a spiritual house’ (CCC 1139). Some Christians feel that worship should be led by the Holy Spirit and not dictated by the physical building.

Many church buildings have paintings and statues and some Christians believe these distract from worship. Some Christians meet in buildings that are not dedicated churches, such as halls.

These are also convincing arguments as they show that people can worship God in a range of places. Some would also argue that God would not mind where he was worshipped from.

CONCLUSION

- **Give a justified conclusion.**

- Include your own reasoning.

- Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.

- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In conclusion, I feel it is clear that churches are well designed to worship God, decorated and built in very specific ways. Therefore it is important that Catholics worship in church buildings whenever possible as they are clearly the best way to worship God.

TIP

This is a good answer as it explains the features rather than just listing them.

TIP

The answer incorporates references to the Catechism. It is not necessary to include sources of wisdom and authority in 12 mark questions, but it can help to show your understanding of religious teachings.
Test the 15 mark question (d)

‘Jewish laws can be broken in order to save a person’s life.’ Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to Jewish teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- Explain why some people would agree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsucessful within your reasoning.

Many Jews would agree with this statement because when the life of a specific person is in danger, almost any Mitzvah lo ta’aseh (command to not do an action) of the Torah can be broken. Pikuach Nefesh is a principle of Jewish law that says that the preservation of human life overrides almost all other laws.

In Jewish scripture it says that you should keep God’s rules; but not cause death by following them. For example, saving a life by organ donation can override the law against damaging a body (Talmud Yoma 83–84). There are several instances in Rabbinic teaching where the laws of the Sabbath are to be broken to save the life of another; these occasions include rescuing a child from the sea, breaking apart a wall that has collapsed on a child and extinguishing a fire.

These are strong arguments as they use teachings from within the religion to justify breaking Jewish law, so would not be seen as going against the religion.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsucessful within your reasoning.

There are still some Mitzvah that cannot be disregarded when life is in danger, for example idolatry, which includes worshipping any other god, saying God’s name in vain, or pretending God does not exist in order to avoid persecution.

People are not allowed to murder someone (deliberately killing someone) or to create a dangerous situation which may put more lives at risk (speeding to reach a hospital and killing an innocent motorist) or commit adultery; it is clear to see why this is the case.

While one is not permitted to automatically give up one’s life in order to save the life of another (an act of suicide, forbidden in Jewish law), one may risk one’s life to save the life of another. It is, however, forbidden to place one’s own life at more risk than the other person is already in. This is clearly reckless behaviour.

Again, this is a strong argument as it is very clear what the teachings are and why Jews would not want to break them. It is important that the teachings are clear for Jewish people in order to act as a guide for them.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own reasoning.
- Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsucessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In conclusion, I think that many Jews would say that it is clear that most Jewish laws can be broken, just not those most serious ones. This is all based on the fact that Jews believe life is sacred, and must be saved at all costs.

TIP

It is important that you know exactly what is allowed and what is not allowed under Jewish laws. This answer details them well.

TIP

In a 15 mark question 3 of the marks available are awarded for correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. You should check your answer thoroughly.
‘Visions prove the existence of God.’ Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT**

1. **Explain why some people would agree with the statement.**
2. Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
3. Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
4. **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

**ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW**

1. **Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.**
2. Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
3. Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
4. **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

**CONCLUSION**

1. **Give a justified conclusion.**
2. Include your own reasoning.
3. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
4. Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

Abraham had a vision from God about the future of his nation recorded in Genesis 15; this experience confirmed Abraham’s faith in God’s presence so that he was then able to continue his life of faith and obedience to God. St Paul encountered God on the road to Damascus; this experience was powerful enough to bring about his conversion to Christianity; would-be converts to Christianity were inspired by the faith this vision gave him to believe and seek baptism.

Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transfigured (Matthew 17) and heard a voice affirming Jesus as the Son of God. This gave the disciples assurance about the divinity of Christ and enabled them to witness to others.

These are all important accounts of religious experiences and are in the Bible. This shows they are important to Christians and would convince them that visions prove the existence of God.

Many non-believers argue that visions are similar to psychological illness; they say it is impossible to prove that the experience of God is real. They therefore conclude that no vision can count as proof of the existence of God.

Most visions are personal; some Christians argue that such an experience could cause a conversion or increase in faith for that person. However, the experience of others is not sufficient to convert those who only hear accounts of the vision.

Many religious and non-religious people believe that visions do not happen today and are purely hallucinations; as such they have no grounds in reality and so cannot prove the existence of God.

These arguments would convince many people as they can provide more scientific explanations for the visions, which many would view as stronger evidence than the religious accounts.

In conclusion, I believe that despite the powerful effect on an individual as a result of a vision, it is impossible to conclude God’s existence purely from the evidence of visions. This is because there is rarely any physical evidence to be tested.
Test the 12 mark question (d)

1. ‘The purpose of sex is to have children.’ Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:
   - refer to Catholic teachings
   - refer to different Christian points of view
   - refer to non-religious points of view
   - reach a justified conclusion.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- **Explain why some people would agree with the statement.**
  - Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
  - Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
  - **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- **Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.**
  - Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
  - Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
  - **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

CONCLUSION

- **Give a justified conclusion.**
  - Include your own reasoning.
  - Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
  - Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

The Catholic Church teaches that one of the natural functions of sex is to reproduce; this means that sexual activity not open to the possibility of reproduction is against natural law. Consequently the use of artificial contraceptives is forbidden to Catholics. To have sex simply for pleasure is viewed by some Christians as sinful; it demeans the sanctity of humanity. This means that sexual relations must always be both unitive and procreative.

During the Catholic marriage ceremony, the couple are asked about their commitment to having children. This suggests that children are the primary purpose of marriage and sex; by having children Catholics are fulfilling their marriage vows to accept children lovingly from God.

These arguments are convincing as they are consistent with other Catholic teachings, for example on marriage and contraception. They also fit with the vows taken at a wedding. They therefore have a big influence on many Catholics.

Some people, including non-religious people, could suggest that there is no reason why sex should not be for pleasure; it would provide an experience unique to the married couple. Also with this purpose in mind, sex can still be unitive in developing a loving bond between sexual partners.

Some Christians argue that not all acts of sex need to be open to life, for valid reasons. They may apply situation ethics in recognising that a couple may want to space out their children using a legitimate birth control method. This means they can control the size of their family and perhaps look after their children more effectively.

Married couples who are not able to conceive children are still allowed to have sexual relations. This is sex that is knowingly not procreative. Consequently the rules about having sex need to be adapted to the real life situations of couples.

While, these arguments may not convince some Catholics, they could still be seen as valid by many, as they do not encourage promiscuity and still allow for sex to be seen as part of a marriage.

In conclusion, sex has a dual purpose: it is unitive and procreative. In a loving relationship, it is sometimes not possible to have children, but sex can unite a couple and valid for that reason alone. The Catholic Church may allow natural family planning, so the purpose of sex is not just to have children.
‘Jesus was not the Messiah people were waiting for.’

Evaluate this statement, considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to St Mark’s Gospel
- reach a justified conclusion.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- Explain why some people would agree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- Explain why some people would disagree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase of a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument? Explain why you think this. Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful within your reasoning.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own reasoning.
- Use words such as convincing/strong/robust/weak/unpersuasive/unsuccessful to weigh up the different arguments for and against.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In conclusion, it was clear Jesus was a very different type of Messiah to the one people were waiting for. However, once people realised who he was, they often followed him. This is evident by the rapid growth of early Christianity.

TIP

This is a good answer as the student clearly knows about Jesus as Messiah, as well as the Old Testament prophecy and expectations. This is vital for success in this question.