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## **Level 1 Religious Studies RAS 2023**

**91919 Demonstrate understanding of a religious or spiritual community's perspective on an issue**

# **EXEMPLAR**

**Merit**

**TOTAL 06**

## 91919 Demonstrate understanding of a religious or spiritual community's perspective on an issue

### **Task:**

- 1) identify a religious or spiritual community's perspective for your chosen question
- 2) describe the principles behind the religious or spiritual community's perspective on the issue you have selected from the list above
- 3) give reasons for how these principles inform the religious or spiritual community's perspective on the issue
- 4) draw conclusions about the religious or spiritual community's perspective on the issue, with reference to the principles within a wider social context
  - acknowledge any sources that you use.

Chosen situation:

2. Josh mows the lawn for his elderly grandmother every week.

Why would Josh's religious or spiritual background encourage him to do this? Explain your answer.

Write your report here (approx 800 words):

In 1891 Pope Leo XIII and the Catholic Church created 11 Ethical Principles, the Pope based these Principles on the teachings of Jesus and other prophets from the Bible. The purpose of these Ethical Principles was and is to encourage Catholics to use these Principles so we can better ourselves and our community, just like Jesus said, "To love thy Neighbour as Thyself". In this example Josh is helping his grandmother with the lawnmowing, he is showing many Catholic Ethical Principles by doing this.

One great Catholic Ethical Principle that Josh shows is the 'Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.' Even though his Grandmother is not poor she is vulnerable, she is an old woman that needs help with many jobs like lawnmowing which is a job that requires a lot of time and energy. Josh shows this Ethical Principle by choosing to give up his time and help his grandmother instead of prioritising other wants, e.g. going on the XBOX instead. We can link this Catholic Ethical Principle to a quote in the Bible, in James 2:5 "Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and the heirs of the Kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?"

This quote reflects that Josh cares for the vulnerable which is also portrayed as the poor in this quote and it connects to God's love for all, no matter what. The quote is suggesting that the solid and young should help the old and vulnerable as we are all made in the image of God and are all a part of God's plan. This is connected to the next two Catholic Ethical Principles that Josh shows while he mows the lawn for his grandmother, one is the Principle of Solidarity and the other is the Principle of Human Dignity.

The Principle of Solidarity explains that we are all human and whether we are old or young, we should all help each other out of kindness. The grandmother finds it hard to mow the lawn because of her age and since Josh is younger, he finds it easier to do jobs like this and by helping out Josh is providing a solid connection with his Grandmother by saving her doing a job that she finds hard, this is showing the care, respect and moral values that both Josh and his Grandmother share. The Catholic Ethical Principle of Solidarity is shown by Josh standing up for his grandmother and saving her from doing a job that she cannot do fully as the lawnmower requires too much effort and energy for someone her age, while Josh is a young man that saves her health, prioritizing the health and what connection they have together. This Principle of Solidarity is shown in this example as Josh willingly steps into his grandmother's shoes to help her with her ageing disadvantages.

The second Catholic Ethical Principle is shown from that quote and the third Catholic Ethical Principle that is in this message/example is the Ethical Principle of Human Dignity. Human Dignity means that each human in the world deserves the Dignity of basic rights and what they need due to disadvantages like ageing. When Josh helps his grandmother he helps, not because she is lazy but because of her age restrictions that reduce her energy and strength for jobs like these. Because Josh helps his Grandmother he shows this Ethical Principle of Human Dignity by giving support to his Grandmother which she relies on, she needs that support and the same support saves her Dignity as a struggling old woman that sometimes needs help with simple jobs. A quote from the Bible in Genesis 1:26-27 relates to the Catholic Ethical Principle of Human Dignity; "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness".

This example of Josh and his Grandmother just shows us that the easy jobs for younger people can be harder jobs for older people and with each other's help, we can all have the same Dignity of being equal human being no matter what disadvantages we have. The Bible through quotes and parables explain these values of life and the Catholic church in 1891 made them into Ethical Principles upon which all Catholics should base their lives on. The Catholic Ethical Principles all connect to the Great Commandment Jesus taught us which is to; "To Love thy neighbour as thyself". The Catholic Church also tells us of the importance of Grandparents, Grandparents provide a stable and comforting role model, the Church says this is because Grandparents have much experience in life and they act if anything as second parents for the child/person. Grandparents as role models instil and show many values that the Church agrees with. Pope Francis mentions this many times in speeches and events. This can and does influence Catholics like Josh to help the Poor and Vulnerable, provide Solidarity and protect Human Dignity, but most of all this example shows that Josh cares for his Grandmother. Josh makes the responsible choice to foster love and harmony in his connection with his Grandmother. People should and do (like Josh) exercise Prudence in such matters, for others and themselves - just like what the Great Commandment says, "To Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself".

## Merit

**Subject:** Religious Studies

**Standard:** 91919

**Total score:** 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Two	M6	<p>This response gave details and showed a clear understanding of the principles.</p> <p>To achieve at Excellence, the candidate would need to further develop the context or the significance of the principles being acted on.</p>