

## Exemplification of Levels: Level 7

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### EXAMPLE 1

#### LEVELS EXEMPLIFIED BELOW: 7

**UNIT OF WORK:** Stewardship GCSE Coursework

**KEY QUESTION:** Do we need to understand ourselves better before we can really help the world and its environmental problems?

#### CONTEXT OF THE SET TASKS:

Students were introduced to the meaning of the term 'stewardship' in the context of some biblical teaching about the creation stories in Genesis. They also engaged with the term 'duty' and considered what duties were given human beings in the creation stories.

Students were given some instruction and practice in doing research and making notes. As part of a series of coursework tasks, they then recorded their understanding of the term stewardship and of a series of biblical teachings that were provided as examples that some Christians use when thinking about responsibilities for the environment.

In the work exemplified here (Level 7), first (Question 1), *students wrote an explanation of how different Christians might respond to an environmental issue needing urgent attention. They indicated their own view, with reasons, on the relevance of biblical teachings for solving modern environmental problems.*

They then (Question 2) undertook an evaluation task (Level 8) based on a previous GCSE examination question but reworded here to clarify the task:

*'People need to understand their own motivations and become peaceful inside before they can really help the world and its environmental problems.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view.*

**FOCUS FOR LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT:** Overall, this unit focused on the following areas of enquiry in the non-statutory national framework for RE (p. 36):

ATTAINMENT TARGET 1: practices and ways of life;

ATTAINMENT TARGET 2: values and commitments.

The work exemplified here relates mainly to AT2: values and commitments.

Pupils working at:

**Framework Level 7 in**

**Attainment target 1:**

show how religious activity in today's world has been affected by the past and by traditions, and how belonging to a religion may mean different things to different people, even within the same religion.

**ACTIVITY:**

In their response to Q1 on environmental issues, students explain how the modern Christian concern for the environment can be seen to be consistent with the ancient biblical teachings about the creation. They go on to show that not all Christians agree about the best response to these issues and give some reasons for the disagreements.

Pupils working at:

**Framework Level 7 in**

**Attainment target 2:**

give their personal view with reasons and examples on what value religious and other views might have for understanding what is important to themselves and to other people.

**ACTIVITY:**

In their response to Q1 on environmental issues, students give their own view about the relevance of biblical teaching for solving modern environmental problems. They offer evidence and examples to support their views.

**Points to note:**

Question 1 above is exactly as set by the teacher and as responded to by the student.

## **EXAMPLE 1: PUPILS' RESPONSES**

**LEVELS EXEMPLIFIED BELOW: 7**

**UNIT OF WORK:** Stewardship GCSE Coursework

**KEY QUESTION:** Do we need to understand ourselves better before we can really help the world and its environmental problems?

**ASSESSMENT AREA(S):**

**AT 1:** practices and ways of life;

**AT 2:** values and commitments.

**Q1. Explain how different Christians might respond to ONE environmental issue that needs urgent attention. Give your view, with reasons, on the relevance of biblical teachings for responding effectively to this issue.**

**Student Answer:**

One environmental issue is that there is not enough clean water left in the planet to fulfil everyone's needs, especially with the growing population. At the moment, a third of the world's population lives in water stressed countries. By 2025 this is expected to rise to about two thirds of the population.

There is enough water available but not enough of it is clean. Every year more than 5 million people die from water-related diseases. As pollution is hitting more and more areas the amount of usable water is going down. The poor are the ones that suffer the most. Water shortages mean long walks to get to it, high prices and disease from drinking any water. So we have enough water but it is too dirty to drink.

And it is not just us that needs water. Every species on this planet needs it in some shape or form. Without water we will all die off.

The solutions to this problem are not simple. New technology has been found to make the water cleaner and safer. There is even a machine that can treat waste water so that we can drink it. All these machines are great but they can be very expensive. And the poor countries that need it the most are the ones that can't afford them.

The only way we can really help is by using as little water as possible. Having a shower instead of a bath. Not having too many showers a day. Not throwing clean, warm washing up water away. Not flushing the toilet at unnecessary times. Not making a drink of water then pouring it away. There are loads more little things that would help keep more water if we all did it.

Christians would probably do the above and more to a certain extent. They can get some ideas from the TV and the newspaper. But in the Bible it will also tell them vaguely what to do.

Like: Genesis 2:15, 'The Lord put man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.' This directs Christians into making sure that they keep the world the same as it was for God. We are here to help it and care for it not to wreck it and use up all of its resources, like water. We, as stewards, care for the world for future generations and we need to keep it in a nice condition with water so they can have a nice life. That is one of our duties for God.

Another teaching that helps them is: Psalm 24:1, 'The earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him.' This is relevant today because it tells Christians that the world is not ours to wreck and destroy. That we should do as God says and as he wishes as he is the owner of our land. We should keep it clean keep everything the way he wants it to be and we should look after the planet. Do our duty to the world and keep all its resources there and care for the environment.

Another story with meaning for Christians today is: 1 Kings 21:1-21. In the story, Naboth refused to give, sell or exchange his vineyard with King Ahab because of God's law against giving away inheritance. King Ahab sulked but his wife Jezebel was determined to get the vineyard - she plotted against Naboth and had him stoned to death as a sinner. Jezebel told Ahab to take possession of the vineyard which he did. God punished Ahab and Jezebel - they and their family would suffer - punished for their greed, cruelty and selfishness.

As the world is not ours but God's we shouldn't be really taking anything from it as that is classed as stealing. But the Lord lets us take what we need to survive. We shouldn't take any more than that or waste any resources as that is being greedy and stealing. It isn't ours to take and God could punish us but we are allowed to take what we need to survive. So we should regard his wishes and not steal and not be greedy with how much resources we take. If we don't we will suffer as it is us that needs that water to survive.

### **Commentary**

This student demonstrates ability at L7 in attainment target 2 but not attainment target 1. In terms of AT2, the student gives her own view about the relevance of biblical teaching for responding to the problem of lack of clean water in the world. She offers evidence and examples to support her view.

In terms of AT1, the answer goes some way towards showing how the modern Christian concern for the environment can be seen to be consistent with the ancient biblical teachings about the creation, but does not go on to discuss an alternative view, for example, the view that some Christians are justifying a relatively new interest in the environment after centuries of exploiting the earth's resources and creatures, by picking and choosing from the biblical stories.