**0 2 . 5 ‘Infant baptism is not as important as believers’ baptism.’ Evaluate this statement. [12 marks] In your answer you should:**

**• refer to Christian teaching**

**• give reasoned arguments to support this statement**

**• give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**

**• reach a justified conclusion.**

**Answer A** *Infant baptism is done just because your guardians want you to follow that religion as you are two young to understand the religious background and meaning it is a pressured Baptism. Believers baptism is more important as you are being baptised because you believe that religion is right and you also benefit and can benefit others by following that religion.*

**Answer A: A very brief response (60 words) but it does include two relevant points which address the content of the question. Both include some development and explanation, therefore the response goes slightly beyond Level 1. Level 2,4 marks**

**Answer B:** *A christian might go against this statement as christians believe that evryone is born with original sin, so a child should be baptised young because if the child dies young they still have original sin so the child may go to Hell. on the other hand a christian might agree with this as when youre a child its not really your choice but when you are older you are choosing to go to God and Jesus and become a child of God. Furthermore a christian will go against this statement because when Jesus was baptised it is believed that he heard from God “you are now my son” so it is better to be baptised as a child as you become a child of God at a young age. From this I can conclude that it is better to be baptised as a child as you will be free from original sin and you will also become a child of God as a young child.*

**Answer B: The response gives two points of view in the first two paragraphs, with reasons and evidence. The third paragraph makes use of scripture although contradicts itself in terms of the line of argument supported, the conclusion also contains a repeat of points made previously. As such the response does not demonstrate the logical chains of reasoning or development required to reach Level 3. Level 2, 5 marks**

**Answer C:** *In some religious families they baptise their child as soon as they are born, however in other families they do this as a teenager or adult, so that they make their own choice regarding what they believe religiously. Someone who may agree with the statement may say that as a child you can’t state you own opinion therefore can’t express your own choice regarding what you believe. They may also say that as an older person you know right from wrong aswell as being able to understand the religion it self, so you are able to fully commit to Christianity. A Christian who may agree may say that as a child you are unaware of teachings in the Bible therefore can’t have a opinion on them. For example teachings such as ‘thou shall not kill’ won’t be relevant to a child who is younger than a year old as they aren’t aware of what that action is. They may also say that God permits free will so everyone can make their own choices, so by baptising a child who doesn’t have an opinion goes against Gods wishes. Someone who may disagree may say that during baptism the person is cleared of any sin from their past lives therefore if this is not completed, they start their lives carrying this sin with them. They may also say that if you are baptised from birth you are completely devoted to God from the start of your life to the end, therefore know you will reach heaven. A Christian who may disagree might say that in the Bible it teaches ‘God sees everyone as equal’ therefore if someone was baptised as a infant or as a teenager/adult God views us all as equal, and neither makes any difference to how you are viewed in God’s eyes. They may also disagree because if you were baptised as an infant it is still counted as being baptised, therefore there is no dismissal of a baptism as long as it was completed. To conclude my judgement is that I disagree with the statement, and any type of baptism counts towards committing to God, no matter if it was as a infant or adult, as it is all viewed equally in God’s eyes*

**Answer C: This response includes chains of reasoning which lead to a conclusion, although at times the expression could be more succinct and clear. Some of the reasons given are a little weak. The answer is on the cusp of Level 3/4 but edges into Level 4 because the reasoning does lead to a judgement based on applying relevant evidence and information. Level 4, 10 marks**

**Answer D:** *Being baptised shows your commitment to the Christian faith and showing you want to be part of the religion. Many people may agree with this statement as when you are young you are not able to make your own decision therefore aren’t agreeing with the faith and are being forced into becoming baptised. However, many people may disagree as it proves you are the same faith from birth which shows your devotion to God and the christian faith or you have been a Christian your whole life. Although many Christians may agree as Jesus was an adult when he was baptised and a believer of the faith and many of his followers were adults showing they were able to make their own decision about the faith and understood about the faith before having a believers baptism. Contrastingly, catholics may disagree as they believe you have sin from birth ‘original sin’ therefore when you are baptised as a child you are ‘purifying from original sin’ meaning that the baby is now purified throughout his life. Moreover, it is more important as they are cleansing the baby from birth ready for its life. To conclude, although many Catholics argue that you are cleansing the baby, the baby can’t make their own decision whereas in a believers baptism it is where the person has made the decision to join the faith and wants to be a part of Christianity making it more significant as it was what the person wanted and many children might grow up and not want to be religious.*

**Answer D: This response is well argued, and includes consideration of two points of view and clear chains of reasoning. Although some of the points made lack accuracy at times, (for example the implication that ‘Jesus was a believer of the faith’), at this level in exam conditions these can be accepted as valid assertions. The somewhat repetitive writing style does not affect the flow of the argument, and overall the answer is a solid Level 4 response. Level 4, 11 marks**

**Answer E:** *Many people have differing opinions on whether infant or believer’s baptism is more important. However, surely it is different for everyone and are both equally important? Some people would agree that infant baptism is not as important as believers baptism. This is because when you are an adult you can make your own choice whether you want to enter a religion or not as you have more of an understanding of what you are signing up for than when you are a baby. Furthermore, having a believers’ baptism demonstrates your devotion to God a lot more as you are willingly making that decision, not having it forced upon you. However, there are many people who would disagree with the statement. This is because infant baptism means that you are devoted to God all of your life whereas believers’ baptism doesn’t have that level of devotion. Moreover, it is taught that infant baptism is to rid the baby of original sin as everyone is born with it. This means if the baby dies young they won’t go to hell as their souls have been rid of original sin. Christians would disagree with the statement. This is because they believe it doesn’t matter how long you have been a Christian, as long as you are devoted to God nonetheless. In addition, Jesus taught his followers: “Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.” This means Jesus just cares about you being baptised, not about when. In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. This is because I think that as long as you are baptised, it doesn’t matter when. Also, in the Bible it says that if you are baptised you will go to heaven, meaning that no matter when you are baptised you will go to heaven to be with God. This means neither type of baptism is more important than the other.*

**Answer E: This response is well argued, with well explained points on both sides of the argument. The student demonstrates logical chains of reasoning and applies religious beliefs to the issue at hand. There are some generalisations made such as in the conclusion that the Bible says all who are baptised with go to heaven, however at this level the nuances of such claims can be overlooked. Overall the response fully meets the criteria for Level 4 and deserves full marks. Level 4, 12 marks**

**Twelve Mark Questions Mark Scheme**

**Level 4**: 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. References to religion applied to the issue. (**10-12 marks)**

**Level 3:** Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion. **(7-9 marks)**

**Level 2:** 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. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided. **(4-6 marks)**

**Level 1:** Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. **(1-3 marks)**

**Level 0:** Nothing worthy of credit. **(0 marks)**