What does the **RGS standard** look like in RE?

Year group: 9

Task: ***Is religion good for society?***

A clear opinion is stated from the outset of this answer, with well-chosen reasons in support

I think that religion is a force for good in society, because it gives people a sense of purpose, which brings the community together to help people in need. There are many charities which are based from religious groups that strive to help the less fortunate because of their beliefs, such as; the Trussell Trust (who serve people food who can't afford it), and Borderlands charity (who give out food, but also offer legal support for refugees). Durkheim's point of how religion can 'establish social cohesion' is supported by these charities, because it shows how religion contributes to a functioning society that is always being improved by acts of kindness.

Good use of supporting evidence from local religious organisations, as well as scholarly views

Durkheim believed that religion can be used as a form of social control, he believed that religion gives people a sense of purpose and therefore more likely to follow society's rules, but also if they believe that the rules came straight from God himself (like the 10 commandments in the Quran) they are again more likely to follow these rules as a way of following God. This is good for society as it keeps everyone abiding by the laws, keeping order, and making sure people live their lives to the fullest.

Nice reference to specific religious teachings and as evidence to support a line of argument

Alternatively, Marx saw this new form of social control a different way, he saw religion as a way to keep the rich, rich and the poor, poor, basically a way for people in power oppress the public. Marx compares religion to opium, an addictive drug, ultimately saying that people in power use religion as some kind of 'drug' to force the people into handing over their money and power to the church. This is depicted in the infamous 'pyramid of capitalist system' where the words 'we fool you' are written next to the church leaders, meaning that the lower class are unknowingly being controlled by these few people. And because they have been in this system for so long, they can't decide to change their mind, because they are scared of what might happen to them afterwards.

Great consideration of an alternative viewpoint, with supporting scholarly comments