



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A (1RA0)
Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second
Religion
Option 2D – Buddhism

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Paper 2: Study of Second Religion 2D – Buddhism Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	<p>AO1 3 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dukkha can be the result of craving (1) • It is caused by not realising the impermanence of all things (1) • It can be caused by greed (1) • It can be caused by ignorance (1) • It can be the result of anger (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paticca-samuppada is the important concept that everything is interconnected (1) therefore it helps Buddhists recognise that all things affect everyone (1) • It may affect the way a Buddhist behaves (1) because it makes them aware that their actions may have consequences (1) • It reminds Buddhists that everything is in a constant process of change (1), the acceptance of which may reduce suffering (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason/ development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each teaching. Award further marks for each development of the teaching up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhism teaches that craving can be overcome (1) which can lead to an end of suffering (1). 'Suffering is this...craving for sense pleasure, craving for existence and craving for non-existence (self-annihilation)' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) • It teaches that anyone is capable of achieving nirodha (1) by living according to the Eightfold Path (1). 'The Path Leading to the Cessation of Suffering is this: It is the Noble Eightfold Path, and nothing else' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) • Nirodha is part of the Buddhist understanding of life (1), knowing that the cessation of craving is possible is an important part of the search for enlightenment (1). 'This Path leading to the cessation of suffering, as a noble truth, should be developed' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated teaching/ development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the teaching given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1(d)	<p data-bbox="354 258 748 289">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 338 1357 489">Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors.</p> <p data-bbox="354 537 418 569">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="354 575 792 606">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 613 1377 1003" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 613 1377 764">• Having good morals and leading an ethical life (sila) is the most important aspect of the Threefold Way because it helps believers to attain good kamma. This is important for a Buddhist as it can help them in the pursuit of enlightenment <li data-bbox="354 770 1377 879">• By ensuring that a person does not cause harm to others by following right action a Buddhist can prevent suffering, which is an aim of Buddhism <li data-bbox="354 886 1377 1003">• The Eightfold Path talks about right speech, right action and right livelihood. Sila can produce these, so is most important for understanding and practising Buddhism. <p data-bbox="354 1052 854 1083">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 1089 1377 1598" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 1089 1377 1241">• Showing good behaviour, but without right intention or right understanding, will not gain kamma. Without wisdom, the most important aspect of the Threefold Way, a person will not overcome ignorance <li data-bbox="354 1247 1377 1398">• Others would say that, although sila is part of many teachings, it is only when all the teachings are followed and understood that believers can truly understand Buddhism, therefore no one aspect can be the most important <li data-bbox="354 1404 1377 1598">• Mahayana Buddhists' emphasis on sunyata results in a focus on meditation, allowing believers to connect with the essence of the Buddha inside them and develop a calm and concentrated mind. This is most important for Buddhists as it can stop suffering, which is an aim of Buddhism. <p data-bbox="354 1688 797 1719">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="354 1768 1365 1875">Candidates who do not consider different viewpoints within the religious tradition or non-religious viewpoints (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information/issues are identified and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superficial connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question, underpinned by a limited understanding of religion and belief. Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by a sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among the full range of elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.

SPaG

Marks		Descriptors
0 marks	No marks awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The candidate writes nothing• The candidate's response does not relate to the question.• The candidate's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, for example errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning.
1 mark	Threshold performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy.• Candidates use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall.• Candidates use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate.
2 marks	Intermediate performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy.• Candidates use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.• Candidates use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate.
3 marks	High performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy.• Candidates use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.• Candidates use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(a)	<p>AO1 3 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditation can help those who practise it to live in the present moment (1) • It can lead to enlightenment (1) • It can help develop calmness (1) • It can help develop a better understanding of the Buddha's teachings (1) • It can develop awareness of the unity of all living things (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mala beads provide a focus during chanting (1); they help Buddhists count repetitions of mantras (1) • They enable puja to happen in a variety of places (1) because they can be easily carried (1) • The feeling of having the beads in the hand is a reminder of the purpose of puja (1); they are an aid to mindfulness (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason/ development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each way. Award further marks for each development of the way up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death and mourning rituals are significant as they can help believers realise the unpredictability of life and death (1) and so can help them not to cling to things (1). 'At... the funeral rites... the spirit of the deceased [is] given a final farewell.' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) (1) • It is believed that the chanting of monks at the death of the believer releases good energies (1) and guides them to Amitabha (1). 'This consists of a mystic chant containing directions for the spirit of the deceased' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) (1) • Buddhist death and mourning rituals can help people re-evaluate their lives (1), they make them consider their rebirth (1). 'According to one's good or bad karma, the vital force floweth down into either the right or left nerve' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated way/ development • Development that does not relate both to the way and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the way given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2(d)	<p>AO2 12 marks</p> <p>Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors.</p> <p>AO2</p> <p>Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parinibbana Day is the most significant of all Buddhist festivals as it remembers the Buddha's passing into parinibbana, which is a matter of rejoicing and also the ultimate aim of all Buddhists. It therefore provides an important focus for Buddhist worship • It is significant in that it gives followers of Buddhism an opportunity to reflect on their own mortality, how they have lived their lives so far and how they might change • During Parinibbana Day, by thinking about death and the different rebirths a Buddhist has to go through to reach nibbana, it is an important reminder of the central Buddhist teaching that all things are impermanent. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some may argue that Wesak is a more significant festival as it not only celebrates the Buddha's passing into parinibbana but also his birth and his enlightenment. Therefore, as it celebrates all three, it is of greater significance than Parinibbana Day • Parinibbana Day is a Mahayana festival rather than one which applies to all Buddhists traditions and, as such, Buddhists from other traditions are likely to argue that it cannot be considered to be the most significant festival • Other Buddhists might say that none of the Buddhist festivals are significant; they are artificial events. People would be far better off concentrating on the practical side of life and doing good for other people rather than wasting energy and money on festivals. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p> <p>Candidates who do not consider different viewpoints within the religious tradition or non-religious viewpoints (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information/issues are identified and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superficial connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question, underpinned by a limited understanding of religion and belief. Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by a sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among the full range of elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.