



Pearson
Edexcel

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Religious Studies (4RS1) Paper 2A

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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.

Buddhism

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	<p>Award one mark for providing a way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Buddhists turn to the sangha in times of uncertainty (1). For example, they may ask for advice when they are unsure about how to act in a situation (1) • Some believe that the sangha can help them on their journey to enlightenment (1), because monks and nuns can provide wisdom based on the Buddha's teaching (1) • Members of the sangha maintain the viharas (1) which means that Buddhists can visit them to seek refuge (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated way/ development. • Development that does not relate to both the way given and the question. 	(4)

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(b)	<p>Students will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist monks and nuns use the Tripitaka as a guide to how to practise their religious lives, because it contains rules of conduct, such as the correct form of clothing to be worn • Many Buddhists will use the Tripitaka to help them to understand the practice of meditation and its benefits, and believe this can help them on the path to enlightenment • The teachings, stories and poetry in the Tripitaka provide Buddhists with insight into the more complex aspects of Buddhist thought, and help them to understand better difficult ideas in Buddhist doctrine. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	(6)

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited use of religious terms. Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory. Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding. Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive. Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.

Question number	Indicative content
1(c)	<p>The student must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. The student will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and its beliefs when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four sights summarise many of the key ideas within Buddhism, and taken together can be thought to form the foundation of all Buddhist teaching. So, understanding them could provide the insight needed to achieve Enlightenment The sights of ageing, sickness and death all helped to make the Buddha aware of the key idea of impermanence, and teaches all Buddhists that material things are passing, and earthly life is transitory The fourth sight offered hope, by indicating a way out of the karmic wheel, which is by achieving Nirvana, or the perfect state of being. Buddhists understand that this is achieved by finding the cause of human suffering by extinguishing craving There are a number of important sacred texts in Buddhism that have been passed down orally from the foundations of the religion, and later written down, which help a Buddhist reach enlightenment The Sutras are discourses attributed to the Buddha himself, and his disciples, and they help Buddhists to understand both the teaching and the example of the Buddha's life The Dhammapada, a collection of the Buddha's sayings, is one of the most widely read of Buddhist scriptures. It has made the

	<p>teachings of the Buddha more widely available to those who seek to follow the Noble Eightfold Path.</p> <p>Accept any other valid response. (10 marks)</p>
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Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. • Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question. • Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief. • Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question. • 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.
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief. • Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question. • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief. • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between 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.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(a)	<p>Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirvana Day celebrates the death of the Buddha when he reached nirvana (1) and this reminds Buddhists that this is also the ultimate goal of their journey (1) • Nirvana Day is a time to focus on the Buddha's teachings (1), such as the Four Noble Truths (1) • It is a day that reminds Buddhists that life is just transitory (1) and that it is important not to become attached to material things (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason / development. • Development that does not relate to both the reason given and the question. 	(4)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(b)	<p>Students will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kapilavastu is important as a place of inspiration for Buddhists. It is believed to be the childhood home of Siddhartha Gautama and this means it is a place in which they can honour his memory • Visiting Kapilavastu reminds Buddhists of their origins and common beliefs. This helps to strengthen the sangha and their commitment in the search for enlightenment • Kapilavastu is believed to be where the Buddha met the sick person, which reminded him that all beings are subject to pain. This reinforces Buddhists in their belief in dukkha. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	(6)

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited use of religious terms. • Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory. • Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding. • Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive. • Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.

Question number	Indicative content
2(c)	<p>The student must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. The student 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 described below.</p> <p>The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Buddhists will say that pilgrimage was not highlighted by the Buddha as a helpful part of the Buddhist life, and that there is no essential merit in tracing the physical steps of the Buddha's life, which can suggest undue attachment • Not everyone has the means or the ability to travel on pilgrimage, but this does not affect their ability to follow the teachings of the Buddha, which can be gleaned from a focus on sacred texts and the wisdom gained from other Buddhists • Buddhism involves a personal journey to Enlightenment, and each individual will work out for themselves what aspects of Buddhist life are most helpful to them, which may not include any form of pilgrimage • Pilgrimage was established as an important component of Buddhist life after the Buddha's death, to honour places associated with the life of the Buddha, and some Buddhists believe this act of honouring him brings merit • Pilgrimage can be considered a form of meditation, and some Buddhists believe that this focus achieved on a pilgrimage helps them to seek their own enlightenment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often, by going on pilgrimage, Buddhists will focus especially on the teachings of the Buddha, which will renew their understanding of his wisdom. <p>Accept any other valid response. (10 marks)</p>
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Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief. Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many but not all of the elements in the question. 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.
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief. Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many but not all of the elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial leading to a partially justified conclusion.
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief. Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between 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.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(a)	<p>Award one mark for providing a feature. Award a second mark for development of the feature. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist death rituals often include a wake (1) in which mourners pay their respects to the deceased (1) • Sometimes the body of the dead person is held in an open casket (1) and mourners gather near it to hold a memorial service (1) • Often the body is cremated (1), which symbolises Buddhist belief in the impermanence of material things (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated feature/ development. • Development that does not relate to both the feature given and the question. 	(4)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(b)	<p>Students will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some countries, with ancient Buddhist traditions, will have viharas that reflect the time when they were built, often with elaborate decoration, and reflecting the architecture of the region • Countries with a large Buddhist population may have large viharas to house the community of monks and nuns, and to provide places for visiting Buddhists to stay, and to undertake meditation retreats • In countries without a strong Buddhist tradition, viharas may be adapted buildings, which focus on the prayer room rather than on the creation of accommodation for a monastic community. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	(6)

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited use of religious terms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of relevant religion, beliefs and values is mostly satisfactory. • Gives a partial explanation of the significance and influence of beliefs and values.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of religious terms is appropriate and shows understanding. • Explanation of relevant religion, beliefs and values is comprehensive. • Explanation of significance and influence of beliefs and values is assured and comprehensive.

Question number	Indicative content
3(c)	<p>The student must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. The student 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 described below.</p> <p>The student will develop responses using ideas/reasoning/arguments such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rituals are significant in the practice of Buddhism, and some will say that rites of passage are practical expressions that show the relationship of Buddhists with their physical and spiritual environment • For some Buddhist parents, when they present a child after birth, they are introducing the new child to the Buddha, and showing that they want their child to grow up understanding the Buddhist tradition • In some Zen traditions, such occasions as coming of age ceremonies emphasise the idea of people finding their place, and remind them that this stage is a door to what is boundless and unpredictable • Coming of age ceremonies are not always part of a Buddhist upbringing, and whether the moment involves special ceremonies, or prayers in the vihara, can depend on local traditions and culture • For some Buddhists, the most important transitions are not necessarily marked by particular ages, but by the moment when they make the decision to follow the Buddha's teachings, and to begin their spiritual journeys • In Buddhism there are no set rules about marriage, and it is generally not held as a religious requirement; it is considered more of a personal than a spiritual issue, and can depend on an individual's life journey.

	Accept any other valid response. (10 marks)	(10 marks)
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