



Pearson
Edexcel

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (8RS0)
Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk . Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus .

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2024

Question Paper Log Number P72975A

Publications Code 8RS0/02 2406_MS

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2024

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.

8RS0 02: Religion and Ethics – 2406

Mark scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilitarianism is a secular response to cultural and social changes popularised in the 18th century, which provided an opportunity to address the needs of whole populations without relying on religious approaches to ethics. • The principle of utility is a hallmark of the theory focusing moral decision-making on what acts are projected to bring about the greatest good for the greatest number. • The guiding principles of Act Utilitarianism is the Hedonic Calculus, which determines the quantity of happiness produced by an action. • Quantity of happiness takes precedence over quality, whereas Rule Utilitarianism advocates following rules that have been tested to promote happiness for the majority. • Preference, Negative and Ideal Utilitarianism offer 20th century developments to the theory showing its perennial appeal. 	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Answer	Mark
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting the AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates who assess only arguments for OR against cannot proceed beyond level 2.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace is the most desirable outcome and should be the goal of any negotiation, arbitration or conflict. • Religious ideals of peace are typically based on love for neighbour and compassion for the innocent. • Jesus is presented as the model of pacifism particularly with reference to the Sermon on the Mount and his attitudes to his arrest, trial and death. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many religious leaders advocate a peaceful stance in the face of persecution and therefore believe it is preferable to leave vengeance in God’s hands, thus preventing unnecessary bloodshed. • Secular ideas of pacifism may be grounded in humanitarian, economic, sociological or environmental justifications, showing that pacifism is an ideal which is universal and diverse. • However, pacifism may be seen as a dangerous lack of action which allows tyrants and aggressors to justify their actions thus discouraging moral challenges to oppression. • Pacifism may be seen to be impossible in the modern age in which weaponry is less containable to the battlefield and the whole community is directly affected by the effects of warfare. • Nevertheless, pacifism may be seen to be an ideal to which society should aim since it promotes protection of the vulnerable and social cohesion which are intrinsically desirable principles. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues are identified (AO2).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2)

Question number	Indicative content
3	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious approaches establish conservation of the environment as a God given duty established at creation and this is of perennial value because it encourages an ongoing commitment to the natural world. Alternatively, some religious ethical perspectives identify environmental disasters as an indication of the coming apocalypse which should be welcomed. Some religious approaches to environmental issues may appear to be archaic and therefore fail to take into account paradigm shifts in an understanding of the environment. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious approaches to environmental issues are often anthropocentric and therefore understand the environment to be for human benefit rather than working in partnership. Environmental ethics alone fails to give sufficient protection to non-human animals because they do not acknowledge their equality with humans. Speciesism still stands in the way of a fully coherent environmental ethic. The principle of stewardship is at the heart of religious ethical approaches to conservation; humans have responsibility for taking care of what God has provided for their benefit (instrumentally good) and which is good in itself (intrinsically good) and thus it must be cared for.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secular approaches to environmental ethics may be seen to offer a more convincing alternative to religious approaches and may include James Lovelock’s Gaia Hypothesis or Arne Naess’ Deep Ecology which challenges the idea that humans are the most important species and sees humans and the natural world as a part of a living whole. • Secular approaches may be idealistic because they require a global commitment to their ideologies which is impractical and unrealistic in the face of consumerism and international economics, whilst religious approaches maintain a perennial focus on the God given nature of the environment. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>
--	---

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues are identified (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).
Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Moral Law is a classical ethical theory based on observation of nature and the application of human reason. • It is a theory developed by Aquinas based on biblical principles and an understanding of human nature. • Natural Moral Law identifies five purposes of human existence and the precepts which enable humans to live by those purpose. • Humans have a telos or end goal to achieve and the moral law evident in nature will help them to realise it. • It is based on universalisable principles which apply to all humans and which provide the basis for a just society.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Indicative content
4(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Moral law draws on biblical principles but can also be grasped from a secular perspective. • Natural Moral Law can apply to everyone since it is an eternal, unchanging law. • Natural Moral Law can appear rigid and even callous in its application, placing principles before varying human situations. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Moral Law offers help to Christians in making moral decisions because it is based on biblical principles which do not change. • Acts are judged by how far they fulfil the five human purposes; however, this may not be universally desirable because the purposes may not be relevant to how everyone lives in the modern world. • Natural Moral Law may lead to anachronistic and callous decision making because it assumes that what is true for one is true for all. • However, Natural Moral Law has stood the test of time, because humans will always need to govern themselves and society in an orderly manner. • Natural Moral Law does allow for flexibility because modern applications such as proportionalism demonstrate that it need not be rigid or disregarding of individual needs. • Nevertheless, Natural Moral Law may be associated with moral extremism because it may be used to justify fixed stances towards same-sex relationships and abortion which have been superseded. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues may be selected (AO2). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 2	6–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2). • Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	11–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	16–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).