



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A
Paper 2: Study of Second Religion
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 – 2024

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"> • Buddhism teaches that following the Threefold Way involves living a virtuous life (1) • Following it can lead to enlightenment (1) • It is followed through meditation (1) • It involves gaining insight into the nature of reality (1) • It can be seen as a condensed version of the Eightfold Path (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhists believe that the cessation of tanha is to end attachment (1), achieved by practising the Noble Eightfold Path (1) • To be free of tanha is the realisation of true peace (1); suffering is linked to craving (1) • The cessation of tanha can allow a human to achieve nibbana (1); it is tanha that keeps a person linked to existence (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated belief/ development • Development that does not relate both to the belief 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"> The Five Khandas describe the components that make up a human being (1). They help to understand one's personality (1). 'And what are the Five Khandas? The aggregate of form, the aggregate of feeling, the aggregate of perception, the aggregate of mental formations, the aggregate of consciousness.' (Khandha Sutta) (1) The Buddha taught the Five Aggregates to show the impermanence of all things (1); they refer to the constantly changing aspects of human existence (1). 'The Blessed One said, "Monks, I will teach you the five aggregates and the five clinging-aggregates"' (Khandha Sutta) (1) Some Buddhists would teach that each of the khandas needs to be given attention (1) to be focussed on one of the khandas can lead to a limited understanding of reality (1). The Buddha explained 'If one stays obsessed with form, lord, that's what one is measured by. Whatever one is measured by, that's how one is classified' (Bhikkhu 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>AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 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"> • Dependent origination may be the most important teaching in Buddhism as it provides a deep understanding of the nature of reality, the causes of suffering and the path to liberation from it • It provides a comprehensive explanation of the cause and effect relationship of all phenomena, highlighting the interconnectedness of all things • The story of Nagasena and the Chariot in the Milinda Panha shows that kamma is linked with dependent origination, therefore it provides a Buddhist with a correct understanding of reality. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may not be considered the most important teaching as the emphasis and importance of different Buddhist teachings can vary based on one's personal beliefs, interpretations, and spiritual journey • For some, the Four Noble Truths, which provide a comprehensive overview of the nature of suffering and the path to its elimination, may be considered the most important teaching • Some Buddhists place a strong emphasis on the development of insight and wisdom, whereas others place more emphasis on the use of visualisation and ritual practices. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	15

'Point(s) of view' **always** means arguments for and against the statement. **Where specified in the bullet points under the question**, it may also include one of the following:

- different views within the religion
- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	<p>A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.</p>
Level 2	4–6	<p>A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.</p>
Level 3	7–9	<p>A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.</p>
Level 4	10–12	<p>A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.</p>

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 marks	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"> • During Vassa Buddhist monks may observe intensive meditation practice (1) • Many Buddhists will spend time in monasteries (1) • Buddhists may show generosity to the poor (1) • By spending time reciting and studying scriptures (1) • By participating in communal chanting (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
2(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a feature. Award a second mark for development of the feature. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetition is a feature of chanting (1), saying specific phrases or mantras repeatedly to help focus the mind (1) • There is a devotional aspect to chanting (1), an expression of reverence towards revered individuals (1) • Extracts of sacred texts form some chants (1). For example, Buddhists may chant the Three Refuges (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated feature /development • Development that does not relate both to the feature given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each reason. Award further marks for each development of the reason 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"> The Bodhi tree is important to Buddhists as it is a symbol of enlightenment (1). The Buddha achieved enlightenment sat beneath a fig tree (1). The monk, Vakkali attained enlightenment by gazing at the Buddha's aura under the Bodhi tree. (Vakkali Sutta) (1) Visiting the Bodhi Tree can connect a Buddhist with the Buddha's journey (1). It may inspire Buddhists to pursue their journey to enlightenment (1). 'I reached Bodh Gaya. I was deeply moved to be at the very place where the Lord Buddha had attained Enlightenment.' (Tenzin Gyatso, XIV Dalai Lama, 1959) (1) The Bodhi tree can be a transformative source of inspiration for Buddhists (1); it can be a reminder of the potential for liberation within themselves (1). 'The sight of the Bodhi Tree awakens the mind to its own potential for enlightenment' (Jataka Tales) (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 and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the reason 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"> • Theravada Buddhists place a strong emphasis on the concept of impermanence, that things constantly change and pass away. Funerals serve as a stark reminder of the inevitability of death • Funerals serve as a reminder of the cycle of rebirth. Life and death are only part of a wider cycle of birth and rebirth. 'Be aware of the ultimate truth of impermanence, and abandon attachment to this life' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) • Funerals often inspire individuals to focus on their own spiritual practice as they are reminded that life is short and there is no guarantee of the future. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist funerals provide a space for individuals to come together and acknowledge the passing of a loved one. The ceremony allows individuals to work through their emotions and find closure • Mahayana Buddhists may place emphasis on compassion and the transfer of merit to benefit the deceased. They may view funerals as an opportunity to perform acts of kindness and generosity on their behalf • Some Buddhists may view funerals as a reminder of the Lotus Sutra, which teaches the interdependence of all things and the ultimate reality of the Buddha-nature in all beings. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p> <p>Candidates who do not consider different points of view within the religious tradition (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	15

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