



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A
Paper 4: Textual Studies
4A Mark's Gospel

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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 4: Textual Studies 4A – Mark’s Gospel 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"> • Jesus said, ‘Abba, Father’ (Mark 14:36) when he prayed (1) • Jesus showed fear in the Garden of Gethsemane (1) • Jesus prayed, ‘take this cup from me’ (Mark 14:36) (1) • Jesus found the disciples sleeping (1) • Jesus went away on his own to pray (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 reason/belief. Award a second mark for development of the reason/belief. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The raising of Jairus’ daughter shows that Jesus has the power to overcome death (1). Jesus told the girl, who was believed to be dead, to get up and she did (1) • It shows the importance of the faith of the individual (1); Jesus said to Jairus ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe’ (Mark 5:36) (1) • In Mark this healing miracle points to Jesus’ own resurrection (1); after Jesus’ death, it is proclaimed that, ‘He has risen!’ (16:6) (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 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"> • Jesus came into conflict with others as they disagreed about keeping the Sabbath (1). For example, the disciples picked grain on the Sabbath and the Pharisees said this was unlawful (Mark 2:23-24) (1) and Jesus' reply, that human need is more important than keeping the law, would have annoyed the Pharisees (1) • The Jewish authorities considered Jesus to be blasphemous (1). For example, when healing the paralysed man Jesus said, 'Son, your sins are forgiven' (Mark 2:5) (1), the teachers of the law considered Jesus was claiming to be God, the worst religious offence (1) • The Jewish authorities feared for their loss of power (1). In Mark Jesus overturns the tables of the moneychangers in the temple and calls it a den of robbers (11:15-17) (1) and after this the Jewish authorities 'began to look for a way to kill him, for they feared him ...' (Mark 11:18) (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
1(d)	<p data-bbox="362 243 768 275">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="362 306 1308 464">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="362 495 431 527">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="362 527 812 558">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="410 590 1299 978" style="list-style-type: none"> • From the very start Mark establishes Jesus' divine nature as his baptism it is at the very beginning of the Gospel; Jesus is the Son of God, 'You are my Son' (Mark 1:11) and the rest of Jesus' life is testimony to this • At the baptism God revealed himself as the Trinity; the voice of God is the Father; Jesus is the beloved Son and the Holy Spirit descends like a dove (Mark 1:10-11) and as such forms the foundation of the Church's doctrine of the Trinity • It helps Christians to understand why Jesus' death was necessary. Jesus was sinless and in no need of baptism hence showing his willingness to take on the sins of humanity, as he did through his death. <p data-bbox="362 1041 876 1073">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="410 1104 1308 1524" style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' death and resurrection are more important events, it is through them that people truly come to understand who Jesus is. As when Jesus died the centurion believed him to be the Son of God (Mark 15:39) • The Gospel needs to be taken as a whole no one event is more important than another in showing that Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God (Mark 1:1); for example, the presence of Moses and Elias at the Transfiguration shows Jesus is the fulfilment of the Jewish hope for the Messiah • The miracles performed by Jesus are more important as they are proof that he was the Son of God; for example, in the healing of the paralysed man (Mark 2:1-12), he is healed as his sins are forgiven, which only God could do. <p data-bbox="459 1566 885 1598">Accept any other valid response.</p>	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
Level 2	4–6	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. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
Level 3	7–9	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. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	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. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

'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.

'Understanding of religion and belief' includes Mark's Gospel.

place
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"> • Some people do not listen to the message (1) • Some people have no persistence (1) • Some people are distracted by worldly matters (1) • Some people fully respond to the Gospel (1) • Some people receive it with joy (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 way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story helps a Christian as it shows money and wealth can be a barrier to entry to the Kingdom of God (1). Jesus said, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for some who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' (Mark 10:25) (1) • It teaches Christians that they need to be prepared to make sacrifices in their life (1), just as Jesus asked the rich man to sell what he had and give to the poor (1) • It may give hope to people that things may be different in the future (1), 'But many who are first will be last, and the last first.' (Mark 10:31) (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 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 story of the spirit cast out of the boy shows the importance of having faith (1). Mark implies the disciples were unable to cure the boy because of their lack of faith (1), as Jesus said they were an unbelieving generation (Mark 9:19) (1) • It emphasises the important place of prayer in the life of a Christian (1). One of the reasons the disciples were unable to cure the boy was lack of prayer (1) Jesus said, 'this kind can come out only by prayer' (Mark 9:29) (1) • It shows the importance of been willing to grow in faith (1), just like the boy's father who asked Jesus to help his belief (1), 'I do believe: help me overcome my unbelief!' (Mark 9:24) (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 data-bbox="363 239 764 270">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="363 302 1308 464">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="363 495 428 527">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="363 527 812 558">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="412 590 1308 978" style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a Christian means accepting the challenge Jesus gave to the disciples, 'to go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation...' (Mark 16:15); therefore, Christians should spread the gospel, as disciples of Jesus today • The experience of discipleship enables a person to grow in faith; for example, when Peter denied knowing Jesus, he came to realise what he had done, 'he broke down and wept' (Mark 14:72), but he still went on to lead the Church • There is still a need for Christians to serve the poor and oppressed; as seen in the life and work of such people as Oscar Romero. Therefore, Christians need to answer the call to 'take up their cross' and follow Jesus (Mark 8:34). <p data-bbox="461 1010 974 1041">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="412 1073 1308 1430" style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-religious people do not think religious observances such as discipleship are necessary, as people can use their own conscience to guide them instead of following a religion • Being a disciple does not necessarily mean it helps a person to overcome human failings and do the right thing; for example, In Mark 14, Peter denied knowing Jesus through his human failings of fear (14:29) and pride (14:38) • Non-religious people believe life is given meaning through seeking happiness in this life and helping others to do the same without the need to believe in an afterlife; therefore, discipleship is not necessary in the 21st century. <p data-bbox="363 1461 805 1493">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="363 1524 1243 1587">Candidates who do not consider non-religious points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	15

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