



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A
Paper 3: Philosophy & Ethics
3B Christianity

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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 3: Philosophy and Ethics 3B – Christianity 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"> • Being Baptised as a baby marks the beginning of their Christian life (1) • They would be taught how to pray in their homes (1) • They are taken to church services (1) • They will be sent to Sunday school (1) • They will be sent to a Church school (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"> • A person having a religious experience learns something or has something confirmed about God (1). For example, it leaves them knowing God is loving (1) • Religious experiences are not controllable (1), a person cannot choose when to have an experience of God (1) • They do not last forever (1). After the experience, the person who experienced it, returns to normal experience again (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 thing. Award further marks for each development of the thing 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 cosmological argument shows that God is unchanging and unmoving (1). Aquinas said that there must be something which changes other things which does not change itself this must be God (1). 'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.' (James 1:17) God is different from everything else because he does not have a cause (1). As he was there at the beginning to start the chain of events and will be at the end (1). 'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power' (Romans 1:20) God has authority and is all-powerful (1), this is shown as he caused everything there is to come into existence (1). 'Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.' (Jeremiah 32:17) <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated thing/development Development that does not relate both to the thing and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the thing 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="410 558 1308 978" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="410 558 1284 653">• Some non-religious people would agree as a vision is nothing more than a hallucination as they do not believe God exists and therefore cannot communicate with people <li data-bbox="410 653 1308 842">• Non-religious people might suggest that those who have had mental illness, are stressed or on medication can experience hallucinations; and there is a similarity between people's reports of seeing or hearing something today, that are thought to be hallucinations by medical science, and visions from the past <li data-bbox="410 842 1308 978">• Visions recreate the images from the person's mind who experiences them. For example, many people have had visions of a white-faced Mary, despite her being from the Middle East so therefore they are a false illusion. <p data-bbox="362 1010 878 1041">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="410 1041 1284 1398" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="410 1041 1284 1167">• Christians accept that people can have visions and they are a real religious experience, as with St Joan, as the Catholic Church investigated her claim the vision must have been genuine <li data-bbox="410 1167 1284 1262">• Visions are real religious experiences as some visions are given in detail and occur several times, such as with St Bernadette; this makes people believe that they must be real <li data-bbox="410 1262 1284 1398">• The messages in the visions from God in the Bible have become a reality, as when God spoke to Abraham and promised him an heir and later Isaac was born; the promise came true so was not an hallucination. <p data-bbox="362 1430 805 1461">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="362 1493 1243 1556">Candidates who do not consider non-religious points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</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.

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"> Many Christians are opposed to any form of sexual relationship outside of marriage (1) Christians are against adultery (1) Some Christians accept sex before marriage in a long-term relationship (1) Some Christians believe physical same-sex relationships are wrong (1) Many Christians believe casual sexual relationships go against biblical teaching (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number		Reject	
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"> The church needs to be child friendly (1) because raising children as a Christian means taking them to church regularly (1) Parents do not always have the knowledge or expertise to educate their children in the faith (1). The local parish provides schools and Sunday schools which play a role in this (1) It is important because a Christian is part of the larger family of the Church which can offer help if needed (1). This gives comfort and strength (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 response. Award further marks for each development of the response 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 official response of the Roman Catholic Church is to condemn the non-religious attitudes (1), they insist that Christians should refrain from having sex until they have had a Christian marriage (1). 'Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral' (Hebrews 13:4) (1) Liberal Protestants respond with acceptance of a couple cohabiting if they are in a long-term relationship (1) but expect couples to marry before having children (1). '...recognising that for many [cohabiting couples] this is a step along the way to the fuller commitment of marriage' ('Something to celebrate' Church of England's Board of Responsibility, 1997) (1) Some Christians accept sex before marriage and cohabitating couples (1), as this is the most loving thing to do (1). 'Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater...' (Mark 12:31) (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated response / development Development that does not relate both to the response and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the response given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content The Church should not discriminate because of gender.	Mark
2(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="362 531 812 562">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="410 567 1308 915" style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians believe that men and women do have equal rights in the family and the Church. This is because in Genesis 1 God created male and female at the same time and of equal status • In the letters from St Paul, he teaches that in Christ there is neither male or female and therefore men and women do have equal rights • It is illegal to discriminate because of gender today, and there is no reason for the Church to be above the law. There is evidence in the gospels that women were treated equally by Jesus, and that the early church had women priests. <p data-bbox="362 947 876 978">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="410 982 1308 1331" style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Evangelical Christians believe that men and women have separate and different roles and so cannot have equal rights in religion. Some would see this as discrimination • The Catholic Church teaches that only men can be ordained as priests, many would claim this is gender discrimination, this is because the priest represents Jesus at Mass which prevents women from becoming priests • Some Christian Churches teach that only men can be priests because the apostles were all male and priests and bishops are successors of the apostles. Therefore, women cannot be priests. <p data-bbox="362 1367 805 1398">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="362 1434 1255 1528">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

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