



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies A
Paper 2: Study of Second Religion
2E Hinduism

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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 2E – Hinduism Mark Scheme – 2406

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"> • Hindus believe that the four aims give meaning to their lives (1) • The four aims correspond to the stages of a person's life (1) • Sensual pleasures are not forbidden (1) • It is acceptable to acquire wealth (1) • Moksha is the ultimate aim for Hindus (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 teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakshmi is one of the main goddesses in Hinduism (1) and is particularly associated with good fortune (1) • Lakshmi is the consort of Vishnu (1) and is believed by many to be his shakti (1) • Lakshmi has appeared as many avatars (1) for example, Sita (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 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"> For Hindus, knowledge is seen as part of the path towards moksha (1) whilst ignorance is seen as the path away from it (1). 'Even those who are considered the most immoral of all sinners can cross over this ocean of material existence by seating themselves in the boat of divine knowledge' (Bhagavad Gita 4.36) (1) The pursuit of divine knowledge (jnana yoga) is often considered the highest form of yoga (1) and the most difficult to practise (1). 'Better than mechanical practice is knowledge' (Bhagavad Gita 12:12) (1) A person's gunas can make it harder to reach true knowledge of the Divine (1), for example if they have too much tamas (1). 'Those who die with predominance of <i>sattva</i> reach the pure abodes (which are free from <i>rajas</i> and <i>tamas</i>) of the learned. Those who die with prevalence of the mode of passion are born among people driven by work, while those dying in the mode of ignorance take birth in the animal kingdom.' (Bhagavad Gita 14:14-15) (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"> • Hindus know that Saguna Brahman is the Divine, the personal nature of Saguna Brahman just makes it easier to engage with a particular aspect of Brahman at that time • Some of the aspects of Saguna Brahman, manifest in Shiva or Ganesh for example, are already a long way from anything mundane or 'human' and so it is easy to understand that Saguna Brahman is the Divine • Being able to visualise a deity and its attributes makes it easy to understand the deeper characteristics of that deity, such as its omnipotence. People do similar things in everyday life on a regular basis. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to perceive Saguna Brahman as the Divine, because murtis automatically limit that deity in terms of size and shape • Nirguna Brahman is the best way to understand the Divine because it is within all living beings and allows believers to focus on Brahman's eternal qualities • Because each god has specific characteristics, it can be difficult to understand that Brahman also has the characteristics of every other deity. <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 mark	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"> • Pilgrimage brings Hindus closer to the Divine, spiritually (1) • It brings Hindus closer to the Divine, physically (1) • Some pilgrimages can wash away bad karma (1) • Pilgrimage can allow Hindus to connect more closely with stories from their faith (1) • Pilgrimages can help Hindus to feel part of the wider faith community (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 reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing arti allows a Hindu to show devotion to a deity (1) through the offering of light (1) • Arti enables a believer to make a closer connection with a deity (1) when they look into the eyes of the murti (1) • Arti reminds Hindus to keep the Divine at the centre of their activities (1) as they make the circular motions with the arti lamp (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 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"> Sometimes different representations reflect different underlying beliefs (1), for example the use of the Aum symbol for Nirguna Brahman (1). 'That (imperishable) syllable [Om] means Brahman' (Katha Upanishad 1.2.16) (1) Different representations allow Hindus to focus on different aspects of the Divine (1) for example, when Vishnu is represented with a lotus, it is a reminder of the Divine as creator (1). Vishnu Purana tells of Brahma being born from a lotus in Vishnu's navel (1) Different representations allow Hindus to form a closer relationship with the Divine (1) because it is difficult to focus on the formless Divine (1). 'For those whose minds are attached to the unmanifest, the path of realisation is full of tribulations. Worship of the unmanifest is exceedingly difficult for embodied beings.' (Bhagavad Gita 12.5) (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"> • Dana is an ancient Hindu practice and charitable giving is praised in many Hindu texts such as the Laws of Manu (4.226) which says 'Let him, without tiring, always offer sacrifices and perform works of charity with faith' • Supporting the work of charities allows Hindus to do good in the world and gain good karma, for example, supporting the less fortunate and people in need. Without good karma, a person cannot attain moksha • Supporting charities is a good way for Hindus to work collectively to make positive changes in the world, such as the way that the Friends of Vrindavan work together to protect the environment. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting charities cannot be an essential part of Hinduism, because not all people have the means to give time or money to them • Karma yoga is only one path to moksha. Some Hindus prefer to devote themselves to meditation or other forms of worship • The Western understanding of charity is too limiting as there are several ancient Hindu texts that rank the sharing of knowledge alongside the giving of time or money, and some praise it more highly. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	12

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