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# Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (9RS0)  
Paper 4C: 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 4C: Hinduism - 2023**  
**Mark scheme**

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dharma is Hindu duty.</li> <li>• It is one of the four goals or aims of human life.</li> <li>• A Hindu should adjust their behaviour in line with their dharma.</li> <li>• Dharma includes the completion of Hindu ritual.</li> <li>• Dharma is a cosmic principle.</li> </ul>	(8)

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

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu diaspora has led to Hindus forming communities in multicultural societies.</li> <li>• Hindu practice has been adopted by non-Hindus.</li> <li>• Hindu religious practice does not, usually, cause conflict in society.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although Hinduism is not a missionary religion, because of the intellectual appeal of Hindu groups like the Vedanta society, Hinduism and its religious practice has been welcomed in the West.</li> <li>• The secular movement toward self-knowledge and liberation has led to interest in Hinduism and religious practice, as a result of which yoga and meditation have increased.</li> <li>• Some Hindus have felt that the religious practices from India and the traditions they held have been westernised and therefore have joined organisations to preserve their religious practices.</li> <li>• Hinduism and Hindu practice is multi-faceted and for this reason, within a multicultural society Hinduism can exist.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	<b>(12)</b>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> </ul>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="384 235 1436 302">• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li><li data-bbox="384 302 1436 365">• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li></ul>

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
3(a)	<p>10 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu concept of karma is that every action has an effect.</li> <li>• There are differences between conscious and unconscious actions.</li> <li>• Karma may cause pain or pleasure.</li> <li>• There are links between karma and dharma.</li> <li>• There are connections between the acquisition of karma to the concept of reincarnation (rebirth in the passage).</li> <li>• There are complexities in the determination of karma.</li> </ul>	(10)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is superficial (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies that are not directly linked to the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed, however it is not fully developed (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs and are linked in most cases to reference from the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed and fully developed (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs and are fully linked to references from the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
3(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karma includes action and the result of the action.</li> <li>• Reincarnation is the movement of the soul from one living being into another after death.</li> <li>• The link between karma and reincarnation is an essential part of the cycle of samsara.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between karma and reincarnation is a cosmic law. Therefore, most Hindus will recognise that much of what occurs will be dependant on factors which are out of their control.</li> <li>• Karma means that all actions will have an eternal effect. As a result, Hindu soteriology highlights that the individual is responsible for the karma they gain in a lifetime but is also subject to the karma gained in previous lifetimes.</li> <li>• The action of karma may be felt at any time and may be positive or negative. Therefore, an individual can accept the effects of karma without feeling individual responsibility for the reincarnation.</li> <li>• Some Hindus believe that karma is not only accumulated by the individual but also collectively. Therefore, an individual is not responsible for the karma they inherit, however they are able to create karma for the future for themselves, and for others. This may encourage them to live well for future incarnations.</li> <li>• Hindus do not believe that incarnations are predetermined. For this reason, all actions may be karmically sensitive, so Hindus must be self-aware and in line with personal dharma to seek a positive reincarnation or attain moksha.</li> <li>• Vedic Hinduism promotes religious ritual to produce positive karma. For this reason, such Hindus may participate in ritual action, in order to have a more fortunate reincarnation.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(20)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are selected (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made, which are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected, most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of elements in the question, which are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 5	17–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question, which are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4	<p>5 marks AO1, 25 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agni is the Vedic God of fire.</li> <li>• Fire sacrifices are at the centre of Vedic worship.</li> <li>• Agni and fire sacrifices focus mainly on the creative and nourishing aspect of heat. However, they can also draw attention to destructive qualities.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vedic fire rituals involved many elaborate aspects of ritual and took a long time. Therefore, over time these became simplified to involve fewer priests and take less time and developed into less complicated rituals such as those performed at weddings where the fire is considered a witness to the marriage.</li> <li>• Sacrifice was central to Vedic worship and Agni was regarded as a messenger between humans and the Gods. For this reason, as Hinduism developed worship has continued to involve sacrifice, the type of sacrifice was usually linked to the purpose of the sacrifice e.g. Fire sacrifice (home) of Ghee is a sacrifice to the Gods.</li> <li>• Agni represents creation and destruction and in the later Vedic period was linked to cosmic balance and continuation. For this reason, many of the elements of fire ritual and sacrifice can still be found in Hindu traditions.</li> <li>• Agni is described and referred to in the Rigveda many times, including being described as 'Ruler of sacrifices, guard of Law eternal, radiant One, Increasing in thine own abode' (Rig-Veda 1.1.8). However, as Hinduism developed the personification of Agni reduced and later practices look at the symbolism of fire rather than Agni.</li> <li>• Whilst the importance of sacrifice continues, the importance of Agni within Hinduism diminishes. For this reason, in the Puranas e.g. in the Agni Purana, whilst Agni is mentioned, it is Vishnu who is given the title Lord of the Universe and thus more modern movements in Hinduism do not worship Agni as a deity.</li> <li>• Fire is a symbol used within many religions as part of religious language, it can show power, destruction and creation (This shows links to Philosophy of Religion).</li> <li>• Agni and fire sacrifice include the recognition that fire can be creative and destructive, positive and negative and good and bad. (This shows links to Religion and</li> </ul>	

	<p>Ethics).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sacrifice can be seen as fundamental within scripture and the element of salvation is integral to it (This shows links to New Testament Studies).</li></ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p> <p>Candidates who do not show links with another area of their course of study will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 4.</p>	<p><b>(30)</b></p>
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided but are simplistic and/or generic (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided, which loosely draw together ideas but with little or no attempt to justify (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of some of the elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided, which logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected, most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Reasoned judgements are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are fully justified (AO2).</li> </ul>