



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies B
Paper 1 Religion & Ethics
1D 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 1: Religion and Ethics 1D – Buddhism 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"> • Tathagatagarbha is the potential for enlightenment present in all beings (1) • It refers to the pure aspect of mind (1) • It can be revealed through the practice of the Eightfold Path (1) • It is synonymous with the attainment of Buddhahood (1) • It is hidden by negative mental states (1) <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eightfold Path is a guide for purifying the mind (1), rather than a set of rules to follow (1) • It is meant to be practised consistently over time (1), in order to bring about lasting transformation (1) • It is considered the path to liberation in Buddhism (1). By following it, Buddhists believe they can achieve enlightenment (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 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 Four Sights are presented as a turning point in Prince Siddhartha's life (1). They mark the beginning of his journey towards enlightenment (1). 'After I had seen the four sights I departed... I engaged in striving' (Buddhavamsa) (1) • They contributed to the Prince's understanding of the nature of existence (1). They motivated him to seek a solution to the problem of suffering (1). 'I am causing many people to crossover, having established... Dhamma (and) the awakening of the people' (Buddhavamsa) (1) • They relate directly to the experiences and concerns of everyday life (1). They help Buddhists to reflect on the inevitability of suffering (1). 'All compound things are subject to decay, strive on with diligence' (Dhammapada) (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="370 264 768 296">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="370 327 1312 485">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="370 516 431 548">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="370 552 812 583">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="370 615 1287 940" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="370 615 1287 716">• Some Buddhists believe that change is why people suffer as they cannot let go of attachments. They believe the impermanence of everything leads to pain when things change <li data-bbox="370 720 1287 842">• Buddhists may feel that it is not possible to find happiness in a world that is constantly changing. Some may question the idea that accepting change and impermanence will necessarily help understand or accept suffering <li data-bbox="370 846 1287 940">• In the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, the Buddha teaches the First Noble Truth. Accepting the reality of impermanence and change is key to understanding the nature of suffering. <p data-bbox="370 972 878 1003">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="370 1035 1304 1329" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="370 1035 1304 1136">• Some Buddhists argue that by recognising that all things are impermanent and subject to change helps to develop a healthy and realistic perspective on life, it does not cause suffering <li data-bbox="370 1140 1304 1234">• By accepting change people can free themselves from craving and attachment, and thus reduce suffering. Buddhists may use meditation to achieve this <li data-bbox="370 1239 1304 1329">• There are other possible causes of suffering, such as the experience of physical pain. This is a natural part of life, which cannot easily be overcome. <p data-bbox="370 1360 805 1392">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.

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"> • The Buddha taught against gender prejudice, saying women and men have equal potential for enlightenment (1) • Loving kindness for all beings means that there should be no prejudice (1) • Some Buddhists teach that men are closer to enlightenment than women (1) • The Buddha was reticent about ordaining women, but not men (1) • Buddhism teaches an unbiased and non-discriminatory mindset (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the ordained sangha may see the importance of family life in continuing the human race (1) as Buddhist monks and nuns generally do not have children of their own (1) • By supporting families, the sangha helps to create a supportive community (1). This can be a source of comfort for families (1) • Supporting family life helps promote sila (1); which can create a more peaceful world (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 belief. Award further marks for each development of the belief 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 Buddha stressed the need to avoid sexual misconduct (1). For example, sexual activity with another's partner should be avoided (1). 'One should avoid sexual intercourse with women who are protected by their mother, father, mother and father, brother, sister, or religious teacher, or who have a husband' (Cunda Kammaraputta Sutta) (1) Sexual relationships in Buddhism should be based on mutual respect (1). Sexual activity based on the well-being of one's partner can lead to greater fulfillment in life (1). '... a wife would care for her husband as she would care for her own body, in the same way, a husband should love and respect his wife' (Sigalovada Sutta) (1) The Buddha teaches that sexual activity should be entered into with self-awareness (1). Relationships should be conducted in a way that does not cause harm (1). 'One who is... aware of the true nature of things, and who has understanding, does not do what is wrong with his senses, including his sexual organ' (Anguttara Nikaya) (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 and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2(d)	<p data-bbox="365 300 560 327">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="365 363 1274 520">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="365 556 430 583">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="365 590 812 617">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="365 653 1282 1035" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="365 653 1282 779">• The Buddha taught individuals to maintain their commitments and avoid causing harm, even if doing so is difficult or uncomfortable. For marriage this means upholding the commitment to stay together for life <li data-bbox="365 785 1282 873">• Many Buddhists believe marriage for life helps to promote stability and security in the family. This can have positive impacts on the well-being of individuals and society as a whole <li data-bbox="365 879 1282 1035">• By staying together through difficult times, partners can work together to overcome challenges. 'If a couple can share pain and pleasure in their day-to-day life, they can console each other and minimise their grievances' (A Happy Married Life: A Buddhist Perspective by Ven. K. Sri Dhammananda). <p data-bbox="365 1071 876 1098">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="365 1134 1282 1486" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="365 1134 1282 1222">• The Buddha taught that individuals should avoid causing harm to themselves or others, and in some cases, staying in a marriage may cause harm to one or both partners <li data-bbox="365 1228 1282 1354">• Situation ethics, in seeking the most loving outcome, may allow individuals to end their marriage, for example, in cases of neglect, or when the relationship is causing harm to one or both partners <li data-bbox="365 1360 1282 1486">• Buddhists may think that maintaining a commitment to marriage for life is not always the best option, for example if people grow apart. There may be cases where it is more ethical to end the relationship. <p data-bbox="365 1522 803 1549">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="365 1585 1274 1644">Candidates who do not consider ethical arguments (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	<p data-bbox="1308 1619 1356 1646">12</p>

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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'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.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(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"> • Buddharupas are used in Buddhist viharas (1) • Mandalas are often used as a focus for devotional practice (1) • Dome shaped structures called stupas can inspire devotees (1) • Prayer flags are often hung in Buddhist places of worship (1) • Offerings such as flowers are made to the Buddha (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist funerals mark the kammic energy leaving one body (1) to be reborn (1) • Mourning rituals serve as a reminder of impermanence (1). Death is the ultimate example of this fundamental truth (1) • Mourning rituals offer comfort to the bereaved (1), by providing a structured way to express grief (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
3(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"> • Puja takes place in the vihara because people can pray with the monks and nuns (1). Believers who practise puja in a vihara have others to ensure they perform it correctly (1). 'Patience, being easy to advise, sight of the Samanas (holy men), and timely discussion of the Dhamma; this is Blessing Supreme'. (Mangala Sutta) (1) • The vihara is a space designed to have the correct environment for worship (1). There a believer is able to perform puja away from the troubles of everyday life (1). 'He whose mind does not waver, by contact with worldly contingencies, sorrowless, stainless and secure; this is Blessing Supreme.' (Mangala Sutta) (1) • The believer is likely to meet others in the vihara (1), making them feel a part of the sangha (1). 'This, too, is an exquisite treasure in the Sangha. By this truth may there be well-being.' (Ratana Sutta) (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
3(d)	<p data-bbox="370 264 768 296">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="370 327 1276 489">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="370 520 813 583">AO2 Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="370 615 1276 909" style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Buddhists argue that chanting is the best way to worship because it helps to cultivate mindfulness and focus, which are important elements of Buddhist practice • Chanting is often seen as a way to develop a deeper understanding of Buddhist teachings and principles, which can lead to spiritual growth and development • In Mahayana Buddhism, chanting is often seen as a way to cultivate compassion and wisdom. Chanting is a way of invoking the presence of the bodhisattvas. <p data-bbox="370 940 878 972">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="370 1003 1252 1360" style="list-style-type: none"> • Theravada Buddhism places less emphasis on chanting as a means of worship. Instead, Theravada emphasises the development of mindfulness and wisdom through meditation and ethical conduct • Some Buddhists may argue that chanting is not the most effective way to develop mindfulness and wisdom because it relies on rote repetition and external ritual, rather than direct personal experience • Some Buddhists may argue that chanting may not be the best way to worship, as different people may have different needs and preferences in terms of spiritual practice. <p data-bbox="370 1392 805 1423">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="370 1455 1255 1537">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.
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- 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
4(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"> • The universe arises due to dependant origination, everything depends on everything else (1) • The universe exists in a cycle of birth, death and rebirth (1) • Buddhism teaches that the universe is without beginning or end (1) • Buddhism does not have a creator god to explain the origin of the universe (1) • Buddhists can accept the Big Bang theory (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark) • Answers which refer to the origins of human life 	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(b)	<p>AO1 4 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for providing a response. Award a second mark for development of the response. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhists may reject non-religious explanations of the origin of human life, such as evolution (1), believing it does not provide a complete explanation for the existence of consciousness (1) • Some Buddhists challenge non-religious explanations of the origin of human life by suggesting that human life has a timeless, cyclical nature (1); the physical body is just one aspect of the continued existence of consciousness (1) • Buddhists may reject explanations which reduce the complexity of human experience to physical processes (1). They see consciousness as having its own existence (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 given and to the question • Answers which refer to the origins of the universe. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each belief. Award further marks for each development of the belief 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 Buddhist belief in samsara, supports the existence of the afterlife (1). This holds that consciousness continues after physical death (1). 'Firmly concentrate upon the Buddha's teaching... and leave behind samsara's wheel of birth and death' (Sahasodgata Avadana, Divyavadana 21) • Buddhists believe in the idea of enlightenment (1), suggesting that even after death, consciousness continues (1). 'Death does not end the journey of a person, for their consciousness continues on' (Dhammapada) (1) • The Buddhist belief of kamma supports the existence of life after death (1). The effects of one's actions continue after death (1). 'Beings are... the heirs of their actions; they come into being from their actions, are bound to their actions' (Samyutta Nikaya) (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 and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(d)	<p data-bbox="370 264 560 289">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="370 327 1274 485">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="370 522 803 579">AO2 Arguments for the statement</p> <ul data-bbox="370 617 1274 936" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="370 617 1274 709">• The First Precept to refrain from taking life, emphasises the value and sanctity of life, meaning that the preservation of life should be of prime importance to a Buddhist <li data-bbox="370 716 1274 842">• There may be an implied hierarchy of the precepts and the sanctity of life comes first. In this precept, the Buddha stated that the taking of either human or animal life would lead to negative kamma <li data-bbox="370 848 1274 936">• Buddhism focuses on the elimination of suffering. Protecting life is an effective way of minimising suffering for individuals, but also for those who would grieve for a person. <p data-bbox="370 974 868 999">Arguments against the statement</p> <ul data-bbox="370 1037 1274 1356" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="370 1037 1274 1129">• Many Buddhists would argue that The First Precept is not the most important teaching as all Buddhist teachings are interdependent and as such equally important <li data-bbox="370 1136 1274 1262">• Some may argue that the Four Noble Truths or the Eightfold Path, which provide a comprehensive understanding of the cause of suffering and the path to its cessation, are the most important teachings <li data-bbox="370 1268 1274 1356">• Some may place more emphasis on the development of mindfulness, compassion, or the cultivation of other mental qualities over the observance of the precepts. <p data-bbox="370 1394 803 1419">Accept any other valid response.</p>	12

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.
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