



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies (1RB0)
Paper 3D Buddhism

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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"> • One of the pancha sila is to refrain from taking life (1) • Not stealing from anyone is a sila (1) • Avoiding sexual misconduct is a precept (1) • To speak kindly of others is one of the five precepts (1) • It is a precept that people should avoid actions that are harmful (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 feature. Award a second mark for development of the feature. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feature about the Second Noble truth is that it identifies the cause of suffering (1). The cause of suffering is craving (1) • It highlights the universal nature of suffering (1). It applies to all beings rather than a particular group (1) • It emphasises the importance of understanding the cause of suffering (1), as a crucial step towards the attainment of enlightenment (1). <p>Accept any other valid response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated feature/ development • Development that does not relate both to the feature given and to the question. 	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(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"> Samsara refers to the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (1). All living beings are believed to go through this cycle (1). 'All living beings are subject to rebirth, are not free from old age, illness, death, and rebirth.' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) The ultimate goal of Buddhism is to break free from samsara (1). This is what it means to attain enlightenment (1). 'When the disciple has seen the nobleness of what is to be attained... he becomes dispassionate towards the state of existence, and he ceases to be reborn again' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) Samsara is closely linked with the experience of suffering (1), which is an inherent part of human experience (1). 'This is the truth of suffering: birth is suffering, aging is suffering, illness is suffering, death is suffering' (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
1(d)	<p data-bbox="354 264 751 296">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 327 1295 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="354 516 415 548">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="354 552 797 583">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 615 1279 968" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 615 1279 741">• The Buddha taught that all phenomena, including thoughts, emotions, and experiences, are contained within the Three Marks of Existence. Fully understanding and appreciating them is essential to achieving enlightenment <li data-bbox="354 745 1279 835">• The Three Marks of Existence are said to be universal truths that apply to all beings. This universality makes them relevant and applicable to anyone, regardless of their background or beliefs <li data-bbox="354 840 1279 968">• The Three Marks of Existence are interconnected. Impermanence is said to give rise to suffering, and the realisation of non-self is said to be the way to end suffering. This interconnection makes them a framework for understanding the nature of existence. <p data-bbox="354 999 862 1031">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 1062 1292 1415" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 1062 1292 1188">• The Three Marks of Existence may not address all aspects of human experience. They do not offer explicit guidance on ethical behaviour or relationships. Some teachings, such as the practice of loving-kindness maybe more relevant to people’s lives <li data-bbox="354 1192 1292 1283">• The concepts of impermanence, suffering, and non-self are deeply philosophical and may be challenging for some to understand. Some may find them difficult to apply to their lives <li data-bbox="354 1287 1292 1415">• Some may consider other fundamental teachings of the Buddha, such as the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, or the concept of dependent origination, to have a greater impact on the way they lead their lives. <p data-bbox="354 1451 789 1482">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 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"> • A Buddhist upbringing may enable a child to understand the interdependence of all living beings (1) • A Buddhist upbringing may cultivate compassion for others (1) • A Buddhist upbringing may encourage the value of non-attachment (1) • It may teach a child to have a greater sense of awareness and focus (1) • It may instil a sense of responsibility for actions (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"> • In Buddhism the existence of God is not considered necessary for achieving enlightenment (1); the individual is responsible for their own liberation from suffering (1) • The idea of a personal and unchanging God is not compatible with anicca (1). Buddhism teaches that everything is impermanent (1) • Buddhism's emphasis on personal experience means there is no need for a deity to provide answers or guidance (1); each individual can discover the truth for themselves (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 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"> • Prayer is important because it enables a Buddhist to invoke the blessings of a bodhisattva (1). 'Om Mani Padme Hum' is associated with the bodhisattva Avalokitesvara (1). Each syllable of this mantra has specific meaning for the practitioner to focus on (1) • Prayer in Buddhism can express gratitude and appreciation for the good things in life (1). Expressing thanks through prayer can develop a greater sense of satisfaction (1). 'Developing mindfulness of breathing, bhikkhus, if pursued, developed, and regularly practised, leads to the destruction of the taints' (Anapanasati Sutta) (1) • Prayer reminds Buddhists that they must follow the teachings of the Buddha (1). It is through his teachings that they can reach enlightenment (1). 'The Buddha is my excellent refuge, unsurpassed is the protection of the Dharma, the Sangha is my supreme support' (Ratana Sutta) (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
2(d)	<p data-bbox="305 296 505 323">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="305 359 1273 516">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="305 552 753 615">AO2 Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="305 646 1273 999" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="305 646 1273 772">• Buddhists may argue that a religious experience enables one to understand impermanence or non-self. In this way, religious experiences serve as a complement to Buddhist scripture and teachings <li data-bbox="305 772 1273 898">• In Buddhism the ultimate goal is to attain enlightenment. This involves understanding the true nature of reality. This is not achieved by intellectual understanding alone, but also from spiritual practices that may engender a religious experience <li data-bbox="305 898 1273 999">• Religious experiences can give Buddhists a clear grasp of reality. Individuals claim an intuitive knowledge of existence, and serve as a source of inspiration and guidance in their spiritual journey. <p data-bbox="305 1035 821 1062">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="305 1098 1273 1388" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="305 1098 1273 1192">• Some Buddhists might argue that relying on religious experiences can be a form of external validation; that true spiritual growth is a personal responsibility which must come from within <li data-bbox="305 1192 1273 1287">• Some Buddhists do not believe religious experiences support their faith. They argue, there are natural explanations for all religious experiences, e.g. hallucinations, exaggerations or misdirection <li data-bbox="305 1287 1273 1388">• Some Buddhists may argue that religious experiences are subjective unverified events. A lack of empirical evidence means they cannot reliably relay religious knowledge. <p data-bbox="305 1455 745 1482">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="305 1518 1260 1608">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>	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.
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:

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- non-religious views
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- 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"> • In Japan, Buddhists mark death with a funeral ceremony (1) • They may make offerings to the deceased (1) • They may decorate the graves of loved ones (1) • They remember loved ones during the festival of Obon (1) • They may place a Jizo statue at the site of a person's death (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 way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhists may use sacred syllables in meditation (1). They may repeat Om Mani Padme Hum (1) • Some syllables are used for their purifying qualities (1); repeating them offers protection from negative energy (1) • Buddhists may incorporate sacred syllables into their chanting (1). This may help a person gain mental awareness (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
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"> • By celebrating festivals Buddhists can deepen their spiritual practice (1). Festivals can be a time for Buddhists to develop mindfulness (1). The Anapanasati Sutta teaches that the practice of mindfulness can be applied at all times including celebrations (1) • Festivals provide opportunities for Buddhists to strengthen ties within the Sangha (1). The laity give offerings to those who are ordained during festivals (1). 'You should maintain this recollection of generosity both in your own mind and in the minds of others. By doing so... you will establish yourself in the ultimate good' (Dighajanu Sutta) (1) • Many Buddhist festivals mark important events in the life of the Buddha (1). They allow Buddhists to reflect on the significance of his life (1). 'Gatherings should be observed by one who desires long life, beauty, happiness, and strength.' (Sigalovada 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>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 Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visualising the Buddha can help one focus their attention and calm the mind. Imagining the Buddha in detail, brings one's mind back to the present, away from distracting thoughts and emotions • Visualising the Buddha is a way to connect with the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Buddhism. It can form a link with tradition and help Buddhists feel part of a larger community • Mahayana Buddhism places a great emphasis on this approach as a means of developing compassion, wisdom, and other positive qualities. <p>Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Buddhists may argue that focusing too much on an image of the Buddha is a form of attachment. This hinders practitioners from gaining deep insights and realisations that meditation can bring • Visualisation, as with all meditation, is a highly personal practice. Not everyone responds in the same way and what works best for one person may not work for another • Theravada Buddhism places emphasis on meditation practices which focus on breathing or bodily sensations. Practitioners may focus on cultivating mindfulness and concentration. <p>Accept any other valid response.</p> <p>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

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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"> Religious discrimination goes against the Buddhist belief that all living beings are worthy of respect (1) It ignores the belief that all things are interconnected (1) Religious discrimination is a cause of suffering (1) Buddhism promotes the cultivation of universal love and kindness (1) Religious discrimination is incompatible with the cultivation of compassion (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
4(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 Buddha's experience showed that wealth does not result in fulfilment (1). He left his wealth behind to search for enlightenment (1) Buddhism encourages people to use their wealth for charitable purposes (1). Wealth should be used to alleviate suffering (1) Buddhists are taught not to become attached to wealth (1); like all things it is impermanent (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
4(c)	<p>AO1 5 marks</p> <p>Award one mark for each reasons. 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"> • Buddhism teaches that racial discrimination creates division and disharmony in society (1). Because everything is interconnected this ultimately affects all members of the community (1). 'He who seeks his own happiness by hurting or killing beings, never finds happiness and will not escape from his sufferings.' (Dhammapada 131) (1) • Discrimination based on race generates negative kamma (1). This leads to future suffering for both the perpetrators and the victims (1). 'If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him, as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the carriage.' (Dhammapada 1) (1) • Discrimination based on race breaks the Five Precepts (1). It violates the precept of not harming others (1). 'In five ways, should a clansman minister to his friends and familiars, by treating them as he treats himself.' (Sigalovada 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
4(d)	<p data-bbox="354 264 545 289">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 327 1260 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="354 522 789 579">AO2 Arguments for the statement</p> <ul data-bbox="354 617 1252 961" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 617 1252 751">• Buddhists believe they should be motivated by compassion and understanding for all beings. Working to find a solution to the problems caused by inequality may be considered a skilful action, leading to positive kamma for the believer <li data-bbox="354 758 1252 856">• By finding solutions to these problems, Buddhists can promote greater interconnectedness and a sense of shared responsibility for the well-being of all <li data-bbox="354 863 1252 961">• It would reduce suffering as it may ensure that fewer lives are affected by inequality. This is an expression of the loving kindness that should be shown towards all beings. <p data-bbox="354 999 854 1026">Arguments against the statement</p> <ul data-bbox="354 1064 1247 1409" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 1064 1247 1163">• Some Buddhists may believe that the problems caused by inequality are the result of kamma and that trying to solve the problems is futile <li data-bbox="354 1169 1247 1268">• Some may emphasise the principle of non-action, arguing that to actively change the external world often leads to unintended consequences and further suffering <li data-bbox="354 1274 1247 1409">• A Buddhist's priority should be their own practice of dhamma and personal enlightenment. They do not need to solve the problems caused by inequality, only to ensure that they themselves are not contributing to the problem. <p data-bbox="354 1446 789 1474">Accept any other valid response.</p>	12

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