



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Religious Studies B
Paper 2: Religion, Peace & Conflict
2D 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 2: Religion, peace and conflict - 2D - Buddhism 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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consciousness is one of the Five Khandas (1) • The Five Khandas make up a person (1) • Feeling is one of the Five Khandas (1) • Perception is described by the Five Khandas (1) • Sankhara is one of the Five Khandas (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 belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Buddhism, anicca is the concept of impermanence (1), it refers to the constant change of all things (1) • Human life is temporary (1); ageing is inevitable (1) • All experiences are fleeting and changeable (1), including happiness and suffering (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. 	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"> The Three Poisons are considered the fundamental causes of suffering in Buddhism (1). By overcoming them, individuals can attain enlightenment (1). 'The mind trained in this way is peaceful, the mind trained in this way is not troubled... This is the path to the cessation of suffering' (1) (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) The Three Poisons can be represented as animals in the hub of the Wheel of Life (1). From these Three Poisons, the whole cycle of existence evolves (1). 'And this, monks, is the noble truth of the origin of suffering: it... leads to renewed existence' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) (1) One of the poisons is craving (1). This leads to the pursuit of temporary pleasures (1). 'Craving, which leads to rebirth and, bound up with pleasure and passion, finds fresh delight now here, now there. This is the origin of suffering' (Sermon at Benares, Anattalakkhana 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 given 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 data-bbox="354 264 755 296">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 327 1317 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="354 558 797 590">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 590 1328 905" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 590 1242 674">• Buddhists may argue that developing compassion should be a priority because it is central to Buddhist teachings and leads to personal and spiritual growth <li data-bbox="354 684 1292 768">• Compassion is seen as a means to understand and relieve the suffering of others, and by doing so, a Buddhist can cultivate inner peace and wisdom <li data-bbox="354 779 1328 905">• Through acts of compassion and altruism, a Buddhist can accumulate positive kamma and move closer to enlightenment. 'The obedient, the gentle, and the wise, will reach the peaceful and blissful state' (Dhammapada). <p data-bbox="354 936 862 968">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 968 1317 1262" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 968 1317 1052">• Some may argue that the primary focus of a Buddhist should be personal enlightenment and believe that different practices are more important for personal growth <li data-bbox="354 1062 1276 1157">• Some may argue that other aspects of Buddhism, such as mindfulness or ethics, are equally or more important and deserve equal attention <li data-bbox="354 1167 1308 1262">• Life experiences may impact an individual's perspective on the importance of developing compassion in Buddhism. Some may view compassion as a desirable goal, but not necessarily a priority. <p data-bbox="354 1293 789 1325">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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhism teaches the ultimate reward for good actions is enlightenment (1) • Every good action has a positive consequence (1) • The merit of good deeds can be transferred to others (1) • Good actions can lead to a better rebirth in future lives (1) • Good actions can lead to spiritual progress in the present life (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 way. Award a second mark for development of the way up to a maximum of four marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prison Dharma Network works with people in prison (1). They provide support to help avert reoffending (1) • Buddhists seek to cultivate compassion and loving-kindness for all (1). Buddhists aim to reduce criminal behaviour through non-judgmental acceptance (1) • The Buddhist Peace Fellowship works to address the root causes of violence and crime (1). They promote social justice (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 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 way 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"> • Buddhists believe that forgiveness is important because it helps to overcome hatred (1), which is a source of suffering (1). 'In the world, hatred is never quenched by hatred. By non-hatred alone is hatred quenched. This is an eternal truth.' (Dhammapada) (1) • Forgiveness allows Buddhists to break a cycle of negative kamma (1). This can lead to greater happiness (1). 'All beings are the owners of their actions... Whatever actions they do, good or evil, of those they will be the heirs.' (Dhammapada) (1) • Forgiveness is seen as a crucial step in following the teachings of the Buddha (1). Buddhists aim to promote compassion (1). 'Just as if he were to place upright what was overturned..., to show the way to one who was lost... the same way has the Blessed One... made the Dhamma clear.' (Cunda Kammaraputta 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
2(d)	<p data-bbox="354 264 544 296">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 327 1317 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="354 588 1328 873" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 588 1268 678">• Buddhists may argue that the use of capital punishment is wrong because it goes against the principles of non-violence and compassion, which are central to Buddhist teachings <li data-bbox="354 682 1260 772">• The practice of taking another person's life is considered to be a violation of the first of the Five Precepts, which is to refrain from harming living beings <li data-bbox="354 777 1328 873">• Capital punishment is criticised by non-religious people for the risk of executing innocent individuals, due to the possibility of errors in criminal justice systems. <p data-bbox="354 905 862 936">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 940 1321 1226" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 940 1300 1031">• Some Buddhists may argue that capital punishment is necessary in certain cases in order to protect society from dangerous individuals and to maintain social order <li data-bbox="354 1035 1268 1125">• Some Buddhists may have been influenced by the cultural norms and legal systems in which they live, and may accept the use of capital punishment as a means of punishment for serious crimes <li data-bbox="354 1129 1321 1226">• Some non-religious people may believe capital punishment serves as a deterrent to others who might commit similar crimes, which may benefit society. <p data-bbox="354 1257 789 1289">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="354 1320 1227 1381">Candidates who do not consider non-religious points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.</p>	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	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 1	1–3	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 2	4–6	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 3	7–9	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.
Level 4	10–12	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.

'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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An example of a Buddhist place of worship is a vihara (1) • Gompas are centres of Buddhist worship (1) • Buddhists may use a meditation hall (1) • Buddhists may visit a stupa as a place of worship (1) • Many Buddhists will use shrines for worship (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"> • Samatha meditation is significant to Buddhists as it helps to calm the mind (1), promoting mental clarity (1) • Practitioners can avoid unwholesome actions (1) that may cause harm to others (1) • It is a means of developing an insight into the nature of reality (1). This is seen as an essential step in the Buddhist path towards enlightenment (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 feature. Award further marks for each development of the feature 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"> At most Buddhist funerals, the body of the deceased is treated with great respect (1). 'When the body, speech, and mind of someone who has passed away disintegrate, it is important to provide support and guidance, and to avoid becoming disturbed' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) (1). A shrine including an image of the deceased is often placed near the coffin (1) A feature is the recitation of Buddhist scriptures about impermanence (1). This is a way of reminding attendees of the Buddhist teachings on death and rebirth (1). 'All conditioned things are impermanent — when one sees this with wisdom, one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification.' (Dhammapada) (1) As part of a funeral, Buddhists will offer charity to monks (1). This is a way of accumulating merit for the deceased (1). 'It is important to remember that the intermediate state is a time of great opportunity... as negative actions can lead to rebirth in lower realms' (Tibetan Book of the Dead) (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 and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the feature given. 	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
3(d)	<p data-bbox="354 268 755 296">AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 331 1318 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="354 525 418 552">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="354 556 797 583">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 588 1328 909" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 588 1222 682">• Buddhists may argue that the intention and devotion behind performing puja is more important than the physical location, especially as puja can be performed anywhere <li data-bbox="354 686 1312 810">• Puja is a way for Buddhists to cultivate positive qualities within themselves. The focus is on inner devotion and spiritual connection; a process which is ongoing and requiring time, patience and regular observance rather than a specific place <li data-bbox="354 814 1328 909">• Puja is a personal practice. One might prefer to perform puja wherever they can be alone and undisturbed. It doesn't matter if this is at home or a private space, or in a public setting. <p data-bbox="354 945 862 972">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 976 1318 1297" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 976 1318 1066">• Some may argue that performing puja in a designated sacred space, such as a temple or shrine, can create a powerful atmosphere of reverence and devotion that can deepen one's spiritual connection <li data-bbox="354 1071 1304 1165">• Some may believe that performing puja in a community setting can create a sense of shared spiritual experience which cannot be replicated when performing puja alone <li data-bbox="354 1169 1295 1297">• Performing puja in historic sites holds cultural and historical significance. Visiting these may be considered an important part of one's spiritual journey. These locations are believed to be charged with spiritual energy and power that can enhance the practice. <p data-bbox="354 1333 789 1360">Accept any other valid response.</p>	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
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- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

SPaG

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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 marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buddhist practice of ahimsa means that weapons of mass destruction cannot be accepted (1) • The use of weapons of mass destruction is contradictory to karuna (1) • They should be disarmed (1) • Their indiscriminate nature means that they cannot be defended (1) • The weapons are not the concern, but those that control them (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"> • Buddhism teaches that the path to peacemaking must start with a commitment to non-violence (1). Violence only leads to more violence (1) • Buddhism teaches individuals to see peacemaking as a shared responsibility (1). All beings and events are interdependent (1) • Buddhism teaches that peacemaking starts by avoiding harmful thoughts (1). It is then possible to reduce the causes of conflict (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. 	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 wisdom or authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Buddhist beliefs conflict is frequently caused by greed (1). This can be desire for material wealth, power, or status (1). 'Greed [is] a root of what is unskillful' (Itivuttaka 50) (1) • A root cause of conflict is ignorance (1). Ignorance can lead to self-centredness (1). 'Any bad destinations in this world, in the next, are rooted in ignorance' (Itivuttaka 40) (1) • Buddhism teaches that conflict can arise from hatred (1). This negativity can create disharmony in relationships (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). <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="354 264 545 289">AO2 12 marks</p> <p data-bbox="354 327 1292 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="354 522 415 548">AO2</p> <p data-bbox="354 554 797 579">Arguments for the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 585 1292 873" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 585 1260 680">• Buddhists may reject the Just War theory and instead promote non-violent conflict resolution as the best way to achieve lasting peace and justice <li data-bbox="354 686 1243 781">• The Just War theory, which argues for the use of violence in limited circumstances to pursue justice, conflicts with Buddhist principles of non-violence and compassion for all beings <li data-bbox="354 787 1292 873">• Buddhists believe in the law of kamma, meaning every action has consequences. Even if a war is fought for a just cause, the violence and killing will create negative kamma for those involved. <p data-bbox="354 911 862 936">Arguments against the statement:</p> <ul data-bbox="354 942 1276 1325" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="354 942 1276 1068">• Buddhists may argue that the Just War theory is compatible with their principles of compassion and non-violence; it limits the use of violence to situations where it is the last resort and where it serves a greater good <li data-bbox="354 1075 1260 1190">• It provides a way to balance the Buddhist ideals of non-violence with the reality of living in a world where violence and conflict sometimes occur. It can be seen as a way to apply Buddhist principles in practical, real-world situations <li data-bbox="354 1197 1276 1325">• Situation ethics would evaluate the use of violence in a particular conflict based on factors such as the intention of those involved, the impact on innocent civilians, and the potential consequences, so as to promote the most loving outcome. <p data-bbox="354 1362 789 1388">Accept any other valid response.</p> <p data-bbox="354 1425 1260 1480">Candidates who do not consider ethical arguments (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.
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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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