



GCE A LEVEL

A120UD0-1



TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025 – AFTERNOON

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – A level component 1
A Study of Religion

Option D: BUDDHISM

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **two** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer, for example

0	1
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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 50 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

You are reminded of the need to:

- reflect on, select and apply specified knowledge
- understand, interpret and evaluate critically religious concepts, texts and other sources
- account for the influence of social, religious and historical factors on the developments in the study of religions and belief
- identify, investigate and critically analyse questions, arguments, ideas and issues arising from within this component, including the views of scholars and academics
- identify and analyse the nature of connections between the components you have studied
- construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence
- present responses to questions which are clear and coherent
- engage in debate in a way that recognises the right of others to hold a different view
- use specialist language and terminology appropriately.

Component 1 – A Study of Religion

Option D – A Study of Buddhism

Part **a)** of each question tests your knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

Part **b)** of each question tests your skills of analysis and evaluation, with regards to aspects of and approaches to religion and belief.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|--|------|
| 0 | 1 | a) Examine the main themes and concepts in the Heart Sutra. | [20] |
|----------|----------|--|------|
- b)** ‘The Heart Sutra accurately represents reality.’
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|---|------|
| 0 | 2 | a) Examine the seriousness of the Four Parajikas ‘defeats’ in the Theravada monastic sangha. | [20] |
|----------|----------|---|------|
- b)** ‘The Parajikas still have relevance in the modern world.’
Evaluate this view with reference to Buddhism. [30]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|
- a) Explain the importance of meditation in Buddhism. [20]
- b) 'Metta bhavana (loving kindness) is the most important type of meditation in Buddhism.'
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|
- a) Explain the characteristics of bodhisattvas in Buddhism. [20]
- b) 'The concept of bodhisattva is an essential feature of Buddhism'.
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|
- a) Examine the view that Buddhism avoids 'blind faith', with reference to the Kalama Sutta v.9 and 10. [20]
- b) 'There is a very close relationship between Buddhism and science.'
Evaluate this view. [30]

END OF PAPER

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