



Pearson

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies 8RS0
Paper 4A – 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 4: Study of Religion, Option 4A: Buddhism
Mark scheme

Question number	Indicative content
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Five Precepts were outlined by the Buddha. • Following the Five Precepts and their positive expressions brings punna kamma. • The precept of not to harm any living thing underpins ahimsa. • They can be seen to underpin all moral action as an integral part of the Eightfold Path. • Their application strives to remove the possibility of suffering from people's lives.

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

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founding of the sangha took place with the Buddha's return to those he previously associated with as an ascetic. • His sermon at the Deer Park underpinned the founding of the sangha • The founding of the sangha enabled the spread of Buddhism. <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founding of the sangha is important for the continuation of Buddhism because this was the first time that the Buddha was able to pass on his teachings. This means that the Buddha was concerned about more than his own search for Enlightenment but in helping all beings. • Without the founding of the sangha, he would not have been able to teach the principles of the Middle Way, as such it was imperative to enable the Buddha's teachings to flourish and not disappear. • The founding of the sangha was not an end in itself but the first step in a long journey. This suggests that the founding may not have the significance of events such as the meditation under the Bodhi tree upon which it was based. • The founding of the sangha is an important part of a Buddhist's journey to enlightenment because the journey would never have begun without the teachings passed on in the sangha, therefore the world may never have received the teachings that the Buddha left. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues are identified (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
3	<p>4 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The khandas represent the belief that there is no permanent self (anatta), rather it is made up of five constituent parts. • The self is just a name attached to the combined form (rupa) of these five parts. • The Five khandas are feeling (vedana), perception (sanjna), mental formation (samskara) and consciousness (vijñana). <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These Five khandas make up the self. As such they work together to produce personal experience; therefore they are integral to the life and experience of the individual. • The Five khandas are in a state of constant change enabling Buddhists to realise that they should construct a worldview that is not dependent on the self. Through achieving this people can rid ourselves of suffering. • The reduction of suffering realised by recognising the khandas might be understandable when speaking of perceptions and feelings but it could be argued that the experience of physical pain in a person's touch sensation cannot be reduced just by recognising that it is impermanent suggesting their application is limited. • The Five khandas are indicative of the impermanence of existence (anicca) as well as the self, which is therefore central to the cycle of rebirth. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues are identified (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vinaya Pitaka contains 227 rules that are used by monks and nuns in their daily life. • Buddhists may follow the example of the Buddha in the Sutta Pitaka which show how he lived out the ten qualities or perfections which lead to enlightenment. • The Abhidhamma Pitaka contains discussions on how to interpret and understand the Buddha's teachings and as such may be used as a source of guidance • Sometimes excerpts of the Tipitaka may be used in devotional activities and as mantras, these could focus the mind and help during meditation. • The Tipitaka forms the doctrinal foundation of Theravada Buddhism ensuring that the teachings of the Buddha are the basis of thought and practice.

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

Question number	Indicative content
4 (b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis. 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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tipitaka is the main source of the teachings and wisdom of the Buddha such as the Eightfold Path. • Its significance as a source of wisdom is mainly within the Theravada tradition. • Some Buddhists would question its importance as a source of wisdom in today's society for lay Buddhists as it seems focussed on the ordained sangha. <p>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.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teachings of Theravada Buddhism are focused on the Tipitaka, this gives great importance to the Tipitaka as a source of wisdom for Buddhists of this school. • The smooth running of the sangha and the way of life of the bhikkus/bhikkhunis would not be possible without having the Tipitaka to follow. This means it is a vital guideline in their search for enlightenment. • Some Buddhist traditions such as Mahayana question the significance of the Tipitaka, however, its significance within Theravada Buddhism is highlighted by the fact that it is foundational. • All other teachings of the Buddhist belief and practice spring from the Tipitaka and this clearly shows how far the Tipitaka has been adopted across various forms of Buddhism. • In the Abhidhamma the principles presented in the Sutta Pitaka are reworked and reorganized into a systematic framework that can be applied to an understanding of the nature of mind and matter; and these are therefore timeless principles. • Some of the stories in the Jataka Tales are of the Buddha's past lives; while the message may be important, the story itself may be seen as more parabolic than factual. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues may be selected (AO2). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question. • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements are made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 2	6–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2). • Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. • Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	11–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. • Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	16–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. • Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).

