



**Pearson
Edexcel**

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (9RS0/4A)
Paper 4: Study of Religion
Option 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
– 2018**

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodhisattvas will attain pure lands after they achieve Buddhahood. • The last five heavens are collectively known as the five pure abodes. • The three main Pure Land sutras are the Amitabha Sutra, the Infinite Life Sutra, and the Amitayurdhyana Sutra. • The belief in the grace of Amida is reflected in the importance of the Nembutsu. • Visualisation meditation will often focus on Amitabha Buddha, his attendant bodhisattvas, and the Pure Land. 	(8)

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>4 marks AO1, 8 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 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 Three Poisons are ignorance, attachment, and aversion. • The Three Poisons keep the wheel of samsara turning. • They can be seen to cause dukkha. <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"> • As the central part of the Buddhist Wheel of Life they can be seen to be the reason why beings keep being reborn; as such knowing about them will help a Buddhist know how to escape rebirth. • As negative qualities they will help Buddhists reflect on the opposite positive qualities of wisdom, generosity and kindness; therefore they will encourage people to live better lives and receive punna kamma. • The Three Poisons, while being accepted by the majority of Buddhists, may not be significant as they are things to be avoided rather than focused upon and lived. • Enlightenment is seen to overcome the Three Poisons, as shown in the Buddha’s experience with the daughters of Mara; as such they are significant because by overcoming them they are following the example of the Buddha. <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	1–4	<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). • Judgments are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	5–8	<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). • Judgments of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	9–12	<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 judgments of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
3(a)	<p>10 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding and specialist knowledge and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buddha discovered an eternal truth, 'a path of great antiquity, an ancient trail, travelled by human beings in a far-off, distant era.' • He followed in the footsteps of people who had come before rather than finding a new path: 'The other Buddhas, his predecessors, had taught this path an immeasurably long time ago.' • Enlightenment enables 'an earnest seeker to [attain] Nibbāna' and find the solution to the problem of suffering • The Buddha 'gained enlightenment at Bodh Gayā in a single night' as he was seated under the Bodhi tree • During a single night he overcame the daughters of Mara who sought to distract him from his meditation. • It showed the efficacy of the Middle Way as 'he acquired a sudden, absolute certainty that he really had discovered a method' that would work and could be followed by others.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–4	<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 of key religious ideas and beliefs is basic (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).
Level 2	5–8	<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 of key religious ideas and beliefs is superficial and/or underdeveloped (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 3	9–12	<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 of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed and fully developed (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).

Question number	Indicative content
3(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 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 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 search for Enlightenment is 'a method that would, if followed energetically, bring an earnest seeker to Nibbana'. • It follows the example set by the Buddha during the search and the night he overcame the daughters of Mara. • Enlightenment and the search for it is the main purpose of life. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluation 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 search for Enlightenment is significant in Buddhism because every other teaching is focused around it; everything is designed to lead people to Enlightenment and parinibbana. • While Enlightenment may be seen to be significant, the example of bodhisattvas might suggest that enabling others to receive Enlightenment is far more important than an individual's search. • It could be argued that the bodhisattva is the highest ideal and more significant than the search for Enlightenment; as a higher ideal it is therefore possible to see that the example of the bodhisattva should be followed. • The search for Enlightenment is embodied in practice in the Eightfold Path; as such it is the preeminent code of living for Buddhists and therefore central to every aspect of a Buddhist's life. • The search for Enlightenment is an ancient path: 'this ancient knowledge had faded over the years and had been entirely forgotten', as such it is significant as it has been taught throughout the ages and is timeless. • The search for Enlightenment may be seen to be significant in the background of a person's life, however some Buddhists may be caught up in the busyness of day to day living and may therefore concentrate on more immediate concerns such as the application of metta. <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	1–4	<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 selected (AO2). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements within the question (AO2). • Judgments are supported by generic arguments (AO2).
Level 2	5–8	<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 within the question (AO2). • Judgments of a limited range of elements in the question are made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	9–12	<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). • Judgments of a limited range of elements in the question are made which are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgments of many but not all of elements in the question which are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2).
Level 5	17–20	<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 judgments of the full range of elements in the question which are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
4	<p>5 marks AO1, 25 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 Tipitaka is the three baskets: the Vinaya, Sutta and Abhidhamma which all serve different purposes for Buddhists. • The Dhammapada which is often studied by itself is an extract from the Tipitaka. • The Vinaya contain the rules for monks and nuns that are still followed today. <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 Tipitaka contains the Buddha's teachings and therefore is the centre of Buddhist living reflected in its status as one of the three refuges. • Aspects of the Tipitaka such as the Vinaya are only important for ordained Buddhists and are therefore not the foundation of lay practice. • Mahayana Buddhists tend to place a higher value on the wisdom found within the Lotus Sutra which would therefore suggest that the Tipitaka is not foundational throughout Buddhism. • There is no systematic account of the life of the Buddha within the Tipitaka which therefore may reduce its significance as Buddhists strive to discover and follow the Buddha's authentic example. • While the Sutta Pitaka contains the source of the dhamma its significance as a source of wisdom may not be recognised in all Buddhist traditions, therefore lessening its importance. • The nature of existence is explored in some aspects of the Tipitaka, therefore making it foundational in understanding a Buddhist's place in the world, the nature of existence and the afterlife (this shows links with Philosophy of Religion). • It is only one part of the foundation with the other aspects of the three refuges such as the Buddha and the sangha being similarly foundational; as such this could be linked with approaches to ethics in religion which draw on different sources for their authority in moral decision making (this shows links with Religion and Ethics). • Their significance, validity and status are questioned within some Buddhist traditions and this could lead to a debate about the authority of texts; as such this can be seen to be replicated within other sacred texts such as the debate about the authenticity of the Gospels (this shows links with New Testament Studies). <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	1–6	<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). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements within the question (AO2). • Judgments are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgments made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2). • Conclusions are provided but are simplistic and/or generic (AO2).
Level 2	7–12	<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 within the question (AO2). • Judgments of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgments made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2). • Conclusions are provided, which loosely draw together ideas but with little or no attempt to justify (AO2).
Level 3	13–18	<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). • Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Judgments of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgments are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2). • Conclusions are provided, which logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgments of many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Reasoned judgments are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2) • Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).
Level 5	25–30	<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 judgments of the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Reasoned judgments are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2). • Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are fully justified (AO2).

