



**Pearson  
Edexcel**

# **Mark Scheme (Results)**

**Summer 2018**

**Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (9RS0/4B)  
Paper 4: Study of Religion  
Option 4B: Christianity**

## **Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications**

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com) or [www.btec.co.uk](http://www.btec.co.uk). Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at [www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus).

## **Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere**

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: [www.pearson.com/uk](http://www.pearson.com/uk)

Summer 2018

Publications Code Publications Code 9RS0\_4B\_1806\_MS

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2018

## 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 4B: Christianity – Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious pluralism is the view that all religions are equally valid as ways to God.</li> <li>• Pluralism is the acceptance that no one religious belief system has an exclusive claim on the truth.</li> <li>• Hick viewed all religions as being different responses to the divine reality, and therefore all religious paths lead to the same reality.</li> <li>• Religious pluralism posits that all religions are equal in the sense that all religions accomplish the same end: creating good moral people.</li> <li>• Religious pluralism allows for inclusivism and thus accepts multiple paths to God or gods as a possibility and is usually contrasted with exclusivism.</li> </ul>

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

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existence of humanity and the workings of the universe can now be explained by scientific theories.</li> <li>• Contemporary theories in physics are turning out to be capable of explaining why the Big Bang happened, without the need for a supernatural element.</li> <li>• According to the accepted scientific worldview, human beings evolved into existence through an endless series of random mutations and natural selections.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many cosmologists contend that there is good reason to think science will ultimately arrive at a complete understanding of the universe and therefore leave no grounds for God whatsoever.</li> <li>• A complete scientific theory accounts for everything in the universe; therefore it does not need an external explanation in the same way that specific things within the universe need external explanations.</li> <li>• Darwin’s theory of evolution has raised challenges to the biblical creation account of the universe and therefore undermines and/or replaces the validity of religious belief in God as creator.</li> <li>• The advance of science over recent decades has revealed powerful new evidence that life and the universe are the product of intelligent design, and therefore this supports the view that science affirms a religious interpretation of the universe.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

<b>Level</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
3(a)	<p>10 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dawkins sees faith as an excuse to evade the need to think and to evaluate evidence.</li> <li>• Religious faith is assumed by Dawkins 'to be belief' without empirical evidence.</li> <li>• Dawkins claims that 'religious faith...does not depend on rational justification' - which view can be used for evil.</li> <li>• Dawkins asserts that religions demand 'unquestioned faith' as opposed to the use of reason.</li> <li>• Dawkins represents faith as simply reflecting the 'will to believe' as he considers it irrational.</li> <li>• Dawkins considers faith in itself to be evil.</li> </ul>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is superficial (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies that are not directly linked to the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed, however it is not fully developed (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs and are linked in most cases to reference from the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed and fully developed (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs and are fully linked to references from the extract (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
3(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to McGrath, Dawkins seems unable to distinguish between belief in God and religion.</li> <li>• McGrath highlights Dawkins’s assertion that Darwinism has made God redundant or an intellectual impossibility.</li> <li>• Dawkins’s view that religious faith ‘means blind trust, in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence,’ McGrath argues, is totally inconsistent with the scientific method.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong argument from McGrath is that while Dawkins is a scientist writing about religion, he fails to study religion scientifically and McGrath consequently claims Dawkins does not even offer a rigorous definition of religion.</li> <li>• McGrath claims that Dawkins’s atheism may rest on a series of errors and misunderstandings; because of this McGrath argues Dawkins’ claims are superficial and an inaccurate portrayal of Christianity which will simply lead Christians to conclude that Dawkins does not know what he is talking about.</li> <li>• Dawkins’s mistaken understanding of faith is focused on by McGrath and this leads McGrath to strongly argue that biblical faith is informed faith, faith based on reason and an honest examination of the evidence.</li> <li>• McGrath effectively argues that few scientists believe in such a simplistic and unnecessary dichotomy as Dawkins seeks to create when he asserts you either believe in facts, reason, and science, or you are superstitious, faith-based, and deluded.</li> <li>• A further strength is that McGrath points out the limits of science, and consequently recognises that other areas such as philosophy and theology can have a vital role to play in the big questions of life.</li> <li>• McGrath undermines his own argument because he makes rash, unsupported assertions by comparing a religious belief, for example, the divinity of Christ, to a scientific theory such as evolution with a wealth of data to support it, and thus weakens the argument.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are selected (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made, which are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	13-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected, most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all elements in the question, which are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 5	17-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question, which are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
4	<p>5 marks AO1, 25 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The three great ecumenical creeds are all structured around the claim that God is three Persons yet in one substance or essence.</li> <li>• The doctrine of the Trinity was developed by the Early Church as it was the only way in which the New Testament witness to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit could be adequately accounted for.</li> <li>• Barth posits the Trinity as an explanatory framework for God’s self-revelation.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barth’s use of the doctrine of the Trinity as the starting-point of Christian understanding is primarily significant because he argued that the Trinity undergirded and guaranteed divine revelation to sinful humanity.</li> <li>• Rahner’s exploration of the relation between the ‘economic’ and ‘immanent’ Trinity is significant for Christianity because it is an explanation of the way God is revealed and experienced in history and thus paralleling the way in which God actually is.</li> <li>• A significant development for Christianity is what some scholars have called the ‘social doctrine of the Trinity’ because it is argued that an understanding of the Trinity must begin with the fellowship of a plurality of persons, and only then progress to the question of their unity.</li> <li>• Feminist theology and its approach to the Trinity has become significant for Christianity because it has drawn attention to the problematic nature of the masculine language of Father and Son which has led to some rejecting the Trinity outright as irredeemably sexist and misogynist.</li> <li>• For some modern theologians, the doctrine of the Trinity is a human creation intended to protect some aspects of the Trinity therefore this undermines its significance for Christianity today.</li> <li>• For many Christians the Trinity is significant because it is an essential doctrine that forms the basis for understanding the oneness of God.</li> <li>• The question of identity within the Trinitarian doctrine is significant as it could result in accusations that the language used in the doctrine’s formulation is religious and therefore questions of verification arise. (this shows links to Philosophy of Religion).</li> <li>• The term <i>perechoresis</i> was appropriated to express the Trinitarian concept of unity-in-diversity and it implies a shared existence, showing that this is significant for Christianity because the Trinity is not a simple, static substance but an event of relationships which involve ethical considerations. (this shows links to Religion and Ethics).</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p> <p>Candidates who do not show links with another area of their course of study will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 4.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided but are simplistic and/or generic (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided, which loosely draw together ideas but with little or no attempt to justify (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Conclusions are provided, which logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected, most of which are used appropriately and accurately throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a wide range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many but not all of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Reasoned judgments are supported by the appraisal of some evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are partially justified (AO2).</li> </ul>

Level	Mark	• Descriptor
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> <li>• Convincing conclusions are provided which fully and logically draw together ideas and are fully justified (AO2).</li> </ul>

