

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCSE In Religious Studies (3RB0/2D) Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace & Conflict Option 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 – Short course 2018

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	 AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three marks. Nibbana means Buddhists can break free of the cycle of samsara (1) It means that there will be no more rebirths (1) It means the believer can reach a state of liberation, peace and happiness (1) The prospect of nibbana can encourage the believer to live a good life (1) It is the aim of every Buddhist (1). 	 Lists (maximum of one mark) 	
	Accept any other valid response.		3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(b)	 AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason up to a maximum of four marks. It calms the mind (1) leading to the development of insight (1) It focuses the mind (1) allowing the follower to think deeply about the Buddha's teachings (1) It can take away distracting thoughts (1) this can mean more compassion towards others (1). 	 Repeated reason/ development Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question. 	
	Accept any other valid response.		4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	 AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each reason. Award further marks for each development of the reason up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. The five precepts are principles that lead to good or skilful actions (1) and as such can act as a guide to life (1) 'to avoid all evil, to cultivate good and to cleanse one's mind' (Dhammapada 183) (1) Following the five precepts means Buddhists will have thought about whether they should do something selfish (1) as intention is important (1) 'for sensual pleasures give little satisfaction and much pain' (Dhammapada 186) (1) Following the five precepts can develop good kamma (1) 'to avoid all evil, to cultivate good and to cleanse one's mind' (Dhammapada 183) (1) this helps the follower progress towards enlightenment (1). 	 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. 	
	Accept any other valid response.		5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1(d)	AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks	
	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.	
	A02	
	 Arguments for the statement: The Wheel of Life shows the interdependence of all stages of life and all things in life. It therefore teaches followers about the causes of suffering and how these link to the repeating cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth The Wheel of Life teaches that the type of world a Buddhist will be reborn into is dependent upon the kamma they have built up in previous lives. It shows that suffering in life may be caused by bad kamma It shows that everything is dependent upon a set of constantly changing circumstances, and so it is important for the Buddhist to realise the relationship between all they do and suffering. 	
	 Arguments against the statement: The Wheel of Life comes from Tibetan Buddhism, so Buddhists of other traditions may not consider it to be of any value in explaining the causes of suffering They may feel that the teachings of the Buddha on dukkha and kamma are more important as they teach more directly how to avoid evil and how to reduce suffering The Wheel of Life is simply an illustration of how all things are interconnected – it does not actually teach how to avoid suffering. Teachings such as the five precepts, the Noble Eightfold Path and the six perfections are more straightforward and provide clear practical ideas on how to avoid suffering. 	
	Accept any other valid response.	
	Candidates who do not consider different viewpoints within the religious tradition (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	 Information/issues are identified and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 2	4-6	 Superficial connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question, underpinned by a limited understanding of religion and belief. Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 3	7–9	 Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	 Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by a sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief. Connections are made among the full range of elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.

SPaG

Marks		Descriptors	
0 marks	No marks awarded	 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	 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 	
2 marks	Intermediate performance	 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	 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)	 AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three marks. Punishment can support the teaching of the five precepts (1) It can help them know what is a skilful action (1) It can protect society (1) It can reform criminals (1) It can provide a sense of justice (1). 	 Lists (maximum of one mark) 	3
	Accept any other valid response.		3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(b)	 AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason up to a maximum of four marks. Forgiveness shows compassion (1) which is considered a skilful action in Buddhism (1) Not forgiving causes negative states of mind (1), giving forgiveness to someone frees the forgiver as much as the forgiven (1) It will affect the kamma of the individuals involved (1), so not forgiving would bring about a negative rebirth (1). 	 Repeated reason/ development Development that does not relate both to the reason and to the question. 	
	Accept any other valid response.		4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	 AO1 5 marks 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. People cause suffering because they are in the grip of the Three Poisons (1), they are not being mindful of what they are doing (1) as Dalai Lama XIV said 'I believe all suffering is caused by ignorance' (Nobel Prize acceptance speech) (1) Suffering can be caused by attachment (1) which is an unskilful action (1) 'All things are not-self – when one sees this one turns away from suffering' (Dhammapada 279) (1) Buddhists can ease suffering in others by showing metta (1) helping those who suffer builds up merit for the one who helps. (1) 'True happiness comes from a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood' (Dalai Lama Nobel Prize acceptance speech) (1). 	 Repeated teaching/ development Development that does not relate both to the teaching and to the question Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the teaching given. 	5
	Accept any other valid response.	1	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2(d)	AO2 12 marks	
	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.	
	A02	
	 Arguments for the statement: Buddhists place great emphasis on ahimsa and on compassion and loving kindness for all life. Therefore it would be wrong to actively seek the death of another human being. This is emphasised in the first precept which requires followers to abstain from injuring or killing any living creature The death penalty does not solve the criminal's misdeeds – it can be seen as an easy way out. A better thing would be to find a way to help them reform. By killing the criminal society are arguably as bad There should be severe punishment for serious crimes, but it should be given with compassion and calmness. This would support the teaching of metta. 	
	 Arguments against the statement: Some Buddhists believe killing one person will cause far less suffering than allowing that person to go on killing people Some non-religious people would see no problem with capital punishment as they would have no fear of any sort of divine punishment for what they have done and would feel that it makes society a safer place Japan still has the death penalty and justifies it by arguing that retribution is a basic teaching in Japanese Buddhism. This would mean that some Buddhists would feel the death penalty is an acceptable punishment. 	
	Accept any other valid response.	
	Candidates who do not consider different viewpoints within the religious tradition or non-religious viewpoints (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor	
	0	 Information/issues are identified and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief, including any relevant philosophical and/or ethical arguments. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified. 	
Level 1	1–3	 Superficial connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question, with a limited understanding of religion and belief, including relevant philosophical and/or ethical arguments. Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified. 	
Level 2	4–6	 Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief, including any relevant philosophical and/or ethical arguments. Connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion. 	
Level 3	7–9	 a partially justified conclusion. Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints. These are underpinned by a sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief, including any relevant philosophical and/or ethical arguments. Connections are made among the full range of elements in the question. Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion. 	
Level 4	10–12	 Information/issues are identified and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief, including any relevant philosophical and/or ethical arguments. Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified. 	