



Pearson
Edexcel

Mark Scheme (Results)

October 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level
In Religious Studies (9RS0)
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 - 2020

Question number	Answer
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"> • Feminist approaches to Buddhism seek to highlight women’s role in Buddhist history. • They seek to promote empowering images of Buddhist women, and to create more egalitarian cultural practices. • They strive to uncover and analyse the gendered discourses that underlie Buddhism making it more inclusive. • They have begun to explore how Buddhism and gender is explored in Asian countries and cultures. • Some have sought to identify an expression of Buddhism that is relevant to women from within practices influenced by the social and cultural realities of historical Buddhist communities.

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 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"> • There is a range of types of sangha across different traditions of Buddhism. • The sangha provides the strength of the community for Buddhists. • The three refuges are the sangha, the dhamma and the Buddha. <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 sangha as one of the three refuges is significant in the life of Buddhists as they strive for Enlightenment as they provide strength and community during this process. • The dhamma outlines the central teachings of Buddhism including the Four Noble Truths which therefore enables Buddhists to more fully understand the path to Enlightenment and the reality of existence. • The sangha is the community of the laity and the ordained Buddhists that enable rites of passage, worship and festivals to be celebrated. This therefore provides a link between the two communities that is essential to the life of a Buddhist. • The Buddha is the pre-eminent example of living the Middle Way, his life and example is more significant than the sangha as it provides a metaphor for the truths of Buddhism. <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). • Judgements 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). • Judgements 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 judgements 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, 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 forbid “such ‘unhelpful’ (akusala) activities as violence, lying, stealing, intoxication and sex.” • There are virtues that reflect the positive living of the Five Precepts. • In seeking to avoid harming any living thing a person must “behave gently and kindly to everything and everybody”. • Ahimsa is the outworking of the pansil not to harm any living thing. • Just avoiding evil actions is not sufficient in the living of the Five Precepts. • Right speech is not just avoiding lying but to “make sure that whatever you said was worth saying.”

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). • Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is superficial (AO1). • 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).
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). • Knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs is detailed, however it is not fully developed (AO1). • 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).
Level 3	7-10	<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 and are fully linked to references from the extract (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 using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>If candidates do not refer to both Theravada and Mahayana they cannot normally proceed beyond level 2.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Five Precepts are ideals which can be practised in all societies. • Most Buddhist schools accept the validity and practice of the Five Precepts. • Not to harm any living thing suggests that certain jobs would be unable to be fulfilled. <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"> • In terms of clothes and diet a Buddhist may have to adopt a strict vegetarian approach to life as they follow the First Precept, however this might be very easy in today's western society where vegetarian ideals are an accepted part of secular society. • The nature of day-to-day living means it is impossible to avoid causing harm, however in living this principle, the practice of the precepts has to be balanced with competing demands such as the need to provide for family. • Following the Eightfold Path imposes difficulties in choosing careers as it is almost impossible to practise the Five Precepts in certain careers, therefore Buddhists would avoid engaging in certain types of business, including business in weapons, business in human beings, business in meat, business in intoxicants and business in poison. • In Theravada Buddhism the application of the Five Precepts would be seen to be insufficient in the search for enlightenment; the living and application of the additional precepts are integral to the living of a Buddhist life. • In Mahayana Buddhism the positive application of the Five Precepts may include aspects of metta which, while difficult, would make a person more effective in making progress towards the bodhisattva ideal, however they only form part of the eleven bodhisattva precepts. • In contrast to the status of the Five Precepts in Theravada Buddhism there is a significantly different emphasis given to this topic in Pure Land Buddhism where the focus is on faith and the grace of Amida. <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 in the question (AO2). • Judgements 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 in the question (AO2). • Judgements 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). • Judgements 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 judgements 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 judgements 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"> • King Ashoka suggested “All religions should reside everywhere, for all of them desire self-control and purity of heart.” (Rock Edict Nb7). • The Dalai Lama has taught “People from different traditions should keep their own [religion], rather than change.” • The path of Buddhism seeks a human destiny that is at odds with other religious and non-religious views of the afterlife. <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 Dalai Lama suggests that “Several truths, several religions, is contradictory. I am Buddhist. Therefore, Buddhism is the only truth for me, the only religion. To my Christian friend, Christianity is the only truth, the only religion.” Therefore, Buddhists would respond in ways that help people to be true to their own religion rather than seek conversion. • The Dalai Lama has condemned a syncretism in religion as each are different and competing: “If by unifying you mean mixing, that is impossible, useless.” Therefore, many Buddhists would reject any attempt to fuse practice and beliefs from different religions. • Buddhism can be seen to be about the individual search for Enlightenment; as such any attempt to disrupt a person’s search could be seen to be diversionary and not advisable. • Buddhists would involve themselves in inter-faith dialogue for a number of different reasons, including the need to work together for the betterment of society and the greater understanding of Buddhism by others. • Some may say that Buddhism is objective truth as it is so distinct from other religions; therefore, any acceptance of other religions as ‘true’ may be seen to dilute and distract believers from their path and as such should be avoided. • In exploring religious experiences, Buddhists could be found to argue for and against the validity of all human religious experiences. For some, the common features of experiences would provide a basis on which to build, for others they would recognise them as counterfeit (this shows links to Philosophy of Religion). • In exploring an atheistic morality, it is possible to see links to non-religious worldviews that can be adopted to help Buddhists understand how to

articulate an ethical standpoint without reference to God (this shows links to Religion and Ethics).

- In using the teachings of the Buddha as the basis for any interaction with others, whether religious or non-religious, similarities can be seen with the use of the words of Jesus in the New Testament to justify isolation from, or involvement with, the pervading attitudes and beliefs of the day (this shows links to New Testament Studies).

Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

- 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.

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 in the question (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements 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 in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements 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). • Judgements of some of the elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements 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 judgements of many but not all of elements in the question (AO2). • Reasoned judgements 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 judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).• Reasoned judgements 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).
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