



General Certificate of Education

Religious Studies 1061

RSS10 World Religions 2
 Christianity
 Judaism
 Islam 1 *The Way of Submission*

Mark Scheme

2009 examination - June series

This mark scheme uses the [new numbering system](#) which is being introduced for examinations from June 2010

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS10 World Religions 2 Christianity OR Judaism OR Islam 1 The Way of Submission

Section A Christianity

01 Explain Christian ideas about salvation.

Candidates could choose any tradition.

- Candidates may unpack concepts of sin / death / judgement and salvation as release from these.
- Notions of rescue, freedom, release, promise for the future in this world and the next.
- Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions emphasise that the relationship between God and people can only really begin to change when they become part of the Christian community.
- They can experience God's grace through the sacraments and the mass.
- The Protestant emphasis is on faith.
- The new relationship between God and the people does not depend on the rituals of the Church, but rather depends on the person having faith in Jesus Christ.
- Plenty of controversy caused by these beliefs.
- Agreement might be found in: the relationship between God and the people has been changed through death and resurrection of Jesus and this will be finally and completely changed in the future.

(30 marks) AO1

02 Assess the view that salvation is still necessary today.

Agreement with the statement

- Might suggest that the Christian vision of life is a journey towards heaven and they are unfit to enter.
- Climb two steps, fall one back through sin.
- There is a negative view about humans as they are inherently selfish and materialistic so they will have to change their ways to be saved.

On the other hand

- God's love will help Christians.
- They can get into the Kingdom of Heaven if they want it more than anything else.
- They must be willing to break with worldly things and here is an optimistic view of man.
- All Christians are capable of repenting and this is all they must do according to Jesus to receive salvation and enter eternal life.

(15 marks) AO2

03 Examine two different types of material found in the Christian scriptures.

- Candidates can write about any two types of material found in the Christian scriptures.
- In the Old Testament, the writings try to show that the history of Israel was a preparation for the coming of Jesus (prophesying). Parts of Law still valid. Psalms still used in worship.
- In the New Testament there is narrative, miracles, the parables, the Passion narratives as well as recorded history.
- Fourteen Epistles written by Paul and letters written by early Christians describing the main concerns of the early Christians and interpreting Jesus' life.
- Poetic style of Revelation full of powerful symbolism.

Maximum Level 5 (23 marks) if one type of material is mentioned.

(30 marks) AO1

04 'It is nonsense to talk of scripture as the word of God.'

Assess this claim.

In agreement with the statement

- Candidates might argue that the Bible was written by a number of different people and for a number of different audiences / churches / societies so cannot be the word of God.
- The writers will have put their own interpretation on it.
- There are too many contradictions in the Bible for it all to be the exact word of God.

On the other hand

- There are many who are inspired by the Bible as if it is the word of God and live their lives in this way.
- Fundamentalists would argue this point.
- The writers were inspired to write down the exact word of God, perhaps influenced by the Holy Spirit.

(15 marks) AO2

05 Examine the practice of the eucharist in two denominations.

- Candidates might offer some of the words used in the service, e.g. 'take this and eat; this is my body', etc. 'shed for the forgiveness of sins. They may include the ministry of the word; this is the first part of the service containing prayers, Bible readings, hymns, acts of confession and a sermon the taking of the bread and the wine, here worshippers are reminded of the origins of the eucharist and the bread and wine are put on the table the great thanksgiving, the eucharist prayer will be said, e.g. 'It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy' the dismissal and the prayer.
- The breaking of the bread; after the bread and wine are blessed or consecrated by the minister or the Priest, in some churches the words of the Lord's Supper from the Gospels might be read out. The congregation might bow or genuflect and censing (putting incense) around the altar; lifting up the bread and wine and ringing the bells. In some churches the sign of the peace may be given.
- If the candidate is focusing on the Catholic mass, they might include the fellowship; Penitential Rite, Liturgy of the Word; Eucharistic prayer, Communion and dismissal.
- Protestant Churches may only have a Eucharist once a month.
- Catholics have it daily.
- Only confirmed take part in some churches.
- In some churches everybody partakes in the eucharist.
- In the Orthodox Church, Holy Communion is distributed to the congregation by dipping a piece of bread in the wine and giving it to them on a long spoon.
- In the Baptist, United Reformed and Methodist Churches, the wine is often distributed in separate glasses by church leaders. People do not drink from the same cup or chalice, but from their own little cups together.
- In the Church of England, the congregation receives the bread kneeling at the altar, however, in some Protestant churches the congregation stands round the altar or table in small groups, or received in pews.
- Candidates may give a definition of eucharist as 'thanksgiving' but not needed.
- It has many different names, e.g. Breaking of bread; eucharist; Lord's Supper; Mass; Holy or Sacred Liturgy and Holy Communion.
- Some Christians see the meal as a re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice.
- Many Protestant Christians feel that Christ is spiritually present in the eucharist, as in all acts of worship.
- The bread and the wine are symbols of his presence.
- Others like Roman Catholics believe that after the bread and wine have been blessed, they are changed. They are no longer just bread and wine, although outwardly their appearance does not change. What happens is they actually become the body and blood of Christ.

Maximum Level 5 (23 marks) if one denomination is discussed.

(30 marks)

AO1

06 'For the Christian, the most important act of worship is the remembrance of Jesus through the eucharist.'

Assess this claim.

In agreement with the statement

- Candidates might look at the regularity of the service in the life of a Christian, how nothing is thrown away that has not been used in the service.
- At the centre of the belief is that Jesus died on the cross for all human beings.
- There cannot be anything more significant for a Christian.
- They are obeying Jesus' own command by taking part in the meal.

On the other hand

- There are many rituals important to a Christian.
- E.g. baptism, confirmation, marriage.
- Prayer is the central practice of a Christian.
- Charity is very important in the Christian faith.
- Giving selflessly (agape) is always professed to be the essence of what it is to be Christian.
- Going on a pilgrimage might equally be seen as just as important by some.

(15 marks)

AO2

07 Examine Christian beliefs and practices associated with marriage.

Beliefs

- High value placed on marriage. The joining of husband and wife in holy matrimony is thought to reflect the union of Christ with his church.
- In the gospels, Jesus taught that God's purpose was that marriage should be a lifelong and intimate union.
- Christians understand marriage to be a form of companionship based on mutual relationship rather than a legal contract for the production of children.
- The Christian Church seeks to promote marriage as the ideal environment for happiness and the raising of children.
- It allows the proper ordering of sexual life.
- Aquinas controversially believed that marriage completes woman because 'the male is both more perfect in reasoning and stronger in his powers.'
- It provides the moral basis for the development of children by providing fellowship, love and grace.
- Roman Catholics highlight the fact that sex within marriage fulfils both a unitive and procreative function.
- The act itself is a sacrament, whereby the couple undergo an ontological change (i.e. in their state of being) to become one flesh
- Some churches today have distanced themselves from the early church idea of marriage as a way of containing sexual sin. Rather is seen as promoting a deeper loving union.
- Other traditions do not regard marriage as a sacrament.

Practices

- Candidates could choose to cover any tradition in marriage as customs vary though there are some common elements such as a public declaration, a marking of the forming of a new family unit and the vows.
- Candidates might mention the preparation the couple undertake, a course of instruction, etc.
- Most order of services tend to incorporate a hymn, an opening statement, a declaration, promises or vows, an exchange of rings, a proclamation, prayers for the couple, a register signed by the couple and witnesses and the closing worship.

Maximum Level 5 (23 marks) if only beliefs or practices are discussed.

(30 marks)

AO1

08 'Divorced Christians should not be allowed to remarry in church.'

Assess this view.

In agreement with the statement

- If the couple are Roman Catholic, then the marriage is a sacrament and cannot be dissolved.
- The original couple were joined together by God and only death can part them.
- Remarriage in a church might constitute adultery in the eyes of some churches, particularly the Roman Catholic tradition.
- It will appear as though some churches are very liberal, perhaps even allowing a remarriage for financial reasons and this goes against the spirit of what marriage is all about.

On the other hand

- Some Christians agree that remarriage is seen as a sign of God's forgiveness.
- It is seen as a sign of a willingness to give people a new start.
- The Church of England and most non-conformist churches allows divorcees to remarry if the minister is convinced of the sincere commitment to the new relationship.
- Some Christians find it hard to adopt an absolutist approach to the issue of remarriage for divorced people. The way society is there are a large number of divorced Christians and some of these wish to remarry in church. Those who have experienced marital breakdown and have now found a new happiness are those that need the blessing and support of the church and often a remarriage in it.
- Sometimes the church will offer an annulment of the original marriage to allow 'remarriage' in a church.

(15 marks)

AO2

Section B *Judaism*

09 Explain what is meant by the covenant and by 'the chosen people' in Judaism.

- Traditionally, Jews trace their beliefs to Abraham and God promised certain things to Abraham, the first Jew, which is called a covenant.
- A promise that demands a commitment on both sides.
- God spelled out the conditions of the covenant with the Jewish people to Moses too later on Mount Sinai.
- The Jewish people have understood their existence as being governed by the covenant relationship between God and themselves.
- God promised Abraham land and descendants.
- The Jewish people's side of the covenant was to keep God's commandments, given in the Torah and they were to become God's servants, and help fulfil his plan.
- God will never abandon the Jewish people entirely
- Deuteronomy 14:2 states '...and the Lord has chosen you, out of all peoples that are on the face of the earth.'
- Jews regard this as a responsibility not as God's favourites.

Maximum Level 5 (23 marks) if only covenant or chosen people are discussed.

(30 marks) AO1

10 'God has not kept covenant with the Jewish people.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Candidates might give examples through history when Jews have suffered, e.g. the Holocaust and God did nothing about this.
- History is littered with problems the Jews have had to face, notably persecution in the Middle Ages.

On the other hand

- All of life could be seen as a test of Jewish faith.
- God has said with the covenant that he would never abandon the Jews entirely and now they have the state of Israel.
- They are still God's chosen people and important messengers of God in history.

(15 marks) AO2

11 Explain the nature and use of the Talmud in Judaism.

The nature of the Talmud

- The Talmud was written between the years 200 and 1040 C.E., and put in ordered archives by Rabbi Ina and Rabbi Ashi.
- They wrote down each paragraph of the mishnah with the discussions that had taken place around it.
- It became known as the Babylonian Talmud.
- There is also the Jerusalem Talmud a century or so earlier.
- Both are some of the most important works of Judaism.

The use of the Talmud

- Main subject studied in the yeshivot (Jewish academies)
- It is used in Jewish schools.
- Rabbis use it to help them make decisions.
- In religious courts (and particularly use in marriage, divorce and custody of children).

Maximum Level 5 (23 marks) if only nature or use discussed.

(30 marks)

AO1

12 Assess the claim that Jewish scripture cannot be understood without the Talmud.

In support of the statement

- Candidates might argue that Judaism is full of rules and regulations and these are the most important things for the faith so the Talmud is essential for verification of these.
- In the Talmud there are so many records of rabbinic discussions pertaining to a vast number of relevant topics for Jews, it is difficult to see scripture being fully understood without these discussions, i.e. topics such as agriculture, prayer, the courts, marriage and divorce, festivals, oaths, ritual purity and the Sabbath.
- Ethics, customs and history of the Jews as expressed in the Talmud put the Jewish Bible into action for Jews.
- Talmud is derived from the Hebrew word 'to teach' expressed in the verb 'to learn' so is the source of Jewish halachah and this is its essence without which, the Jewish Bible could not be fully understood.
- It is a means of bringing Jews together in their understanding of the Jewish Bible.
- Some aspects of the Talmud are regarded as a primary source in their own right.
- Modern Jews are products of the Talmud.
- 'Be more careful in the observance of the words of the scribes than in the words of the Torah.

On the other hand

- The importance of successive generations following the Talmud can only serve to strengthen Judaism.
- There is nothing more important for Jews than the words of God in the Jewish Bible and they can be easily understood without commentary and discussions.
- The Jewish Bible is the inerrant word of God and no amount of commentary can be consistent for Jews which might help them understand their most significant scripture.
- Jews do not need the Talmud to understand ethics, customs and rituals because it is all laid out in the Jewish Bible anyway.
- Judaism might be 'watered down' for the believers by commentary rather than enhanced.
- The Bible is a means of bringing Jews together in worship and prayer; they need nothing else.
- Discussions of the rabbis can never be as significant and meaningful as the Jewish Bible itself.

(15 marks) AO2

13 Explain the beliefs and practices associated with Yom Kippur.

Practices

- Candidates could mention Yom Kippur at home or in the synagogue.
- In the home, the 10 days of penitence, use of mikveh and food sent to the poor.
- Money is collected for charity and there are festive meals before the fast with prayers.
- In the synagogue, Jews will almost all certainly be there on the day.
- Fasting for 25 hours will take place.
- Use of the kittel and five services will be held in the synagogue.
- The ark is covered in white and there is an account read of the ritual of the temple in Jerusalem.
- The service will usually end with the first line of the Shema and the shout of Elijah.
- In the services themselves including Kol Nidre and N'eilah, the emphasis will be upon atonement and forgiveness but with the clear idea that forgiveness is a gift from God, not a right.
- Shofar is blown at the end.

Beliefs

- Sound of the Shofar was heard in Biblical times on important occasions.
- It warned people of the need to reflect on their deeds of the past year.
- It asked people to ask forgiveness from God.
- It is remembered from the day God closes and seals the book of life.
- The High Priest would have helped the atonement processes by completing a series of rituals and sacrifices.
- It is a reminder that judgement day will happen for all Jews.
- God forgives all sins committed against him, providing the sinner repents sincerely and this is a fundamental belief of Judaism.
- A special day is set aside – this is Yom Kippur.
- A Jew can also forgive sins against himself personally on this day.
- The beliefs surrounding Yom Kippur come primarily from Leviticus chapter 23 verses 26-32.

Maximum Level 5 if only beliefs or practices discussed.

(30 marks)

AO1

14 'In Judaism, the confessing of sins has little meaning or purpose.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Candidates might argue that Jews need to live for today and try and follow the rules as best as they can.
- Confessing their wrong doings will not alter anything.
- Confession meaningless unless accompanied by reparation / compensation.

On the other hand

- It is good to confess.
- It can take away some guilt if you genuinely believe that you were in the wrong.
- It keeps the spirit of Judaism together if people are honest with themselves and each other.
- Make good what you have done wrong to your fellow man in the 10 days.

(15 marks) AO2

15 Explain the importance of the land of Israel for Orthodox Jews.

Jews have believed in the land of Israel throughout history.

- They mean two things. God promises it to Abraham and repeats this promise to Isaac and Jacob and the modern state of Israel.
- It is their Holy Land and Jerusalem is the holy city.
- Many of the 613 Mitzvot can only be kept in Israel and Jerusalem is the only place in the world where a temple could be built.
- Israel is God's special land for the Jews.
- In the future the temple will be rebuilt and all nations shall go there to worship.
- Even if they sinned, their exile from Israel would only be temporary.
- Throughout history, Orthodox Jews are said to have prayed each day for the restoration of their homeland.
- Candidates may mention the Zionist movements – raising money for Israel, providing information about it, encouraging Jews to settle there and lobbying politicians to give it their support.
- Israeli Defence Forces set up to protect the land, conscription in force.

(30 marks) AO1

16 'For Reform Jews, the land of Israel is an irrelevance.'

To what extent is this true?

In support of the statement

- Candidates might argue that a united Judaism is always stronger than a divided one.
- It has to be linked to the survival of Judaism.
- Dispersion of Jews throughout the world is not a punishment for sin.
- It is God's way of bringing Jews together with other people.
- Working towards a better world that Reform Jews want might be best served by Jews remaining in a variety of countries.
- Reform leaders have never really seen the Jewish destiny as being tied up with a homeland in Israel.
- In 1845, they decided to discontinue all prayers for the restoration of a Jewish state.

On the other hand

- The state of Israel has more to fear from neighbouring nations rather than its own people and needs to concentrate on establishing a secure land.
- Equally, Israel should be focusing on marriage, identity, assimilation and religious rites and practices allowing for divergence of beliefs. This will not weaken Israel.
- Reform Jews ancestors, like others fought for the right to settle in the land of Israel.
- The establishment of a state of Israel is a gift from God and all Jews should embrace this.

(15 marks)

AO2

Section C *Islam 1 The Way of Submission*

17 Explain how the Qur'an is used as a source of law.

- Muslims believe that by following Qur'an, they are living life the way Allah wants them to.
- The law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah and is used by Muslims to make moral decisions.
- Shari'ah explains how to put the principles of the Qur'an into practice.
- The Qur'an is more than just law.
- It is a complete code of Muslim conduct.
- Only about 10% of the Qur'an applies specifically to law and conduct (mostly in the late Madinan surahs).
- There are some 500 or so verses in the Qur'an which possess definitive legal elements used in Islamic courts of law.
- The Qur'an is the final arbitrator for Muslims, e.g. dispute on the role of women would be settled by the Qur'an not by the Hadiths as the Qur'an would claim to lift the status of Muslim women.
- The Qur'an is used as a source of law on encouraging people to record details of loans or contracts.
- Disagreements domestically on conceptual or practical materials is settled by reference to the Qur'an.
- It is the final authority on social, political and economic matters between different group of Muslims, primarily seen through a Shari'ah court.
- In family law it is used as guidance in marriage and divorce and promotes development of disciplines in the field of law.

(30 marks) AO1

18 'The world has changed since the Qur'an was written, so the laws in the Qur'an also need to change.'

Assess this claim.

In agreement with the statement

- Candidates might suggest the Qur'an is over 1500 years old and the world has clearly changed.
- What was applicable to Muhammad's society may not be now.
- Adaptations of scriptures have always happened.
- The Qur'an does not have that much law in and there has been a cancellation or abrogation of certain verses so that Muhammad's own words might be deemed more suitable for today.

On the other hand

- The Qur'an is the word of God.
- It cannot be changed and even if there is only a small amount of law contained within, it is God's law.
- Some might argue that the society that needed the Qur'an all those years ago is not too dissimilar from ours today.

(15 marks) AO2

19 Explain the concept of Pillar in Islam.

- Muslims often think of their faith as a kind of building for God held up by the five pillars, called arkan.
- These are five basic duties a Muslim must perform (candidates might well name them).
- Without the concept of 'pillar' it is doubtful that Islam would exist.
- They are the framework for every Muslim's life.
- Sometimes the Qur'an is seen as Islam's foundation and the five pillars are the uprights or supports.
- A pillar is the active expression of faith through prayer, alms, fasting and pilgrimage.
- Completion of each daily duty demands right intent and shows total submission to God.
- Prayer and fasting in particular might get mentioned as both have spiritual and physical aspects reflecting submission and devotion to God.
- They also reflect Islam as a community of believers, united in common belief and practice.

Only award up to maximum Level 5 for only writing about the 5 pillars.

(30 marks) AO1

20 'Following the Five Pillars is all that is necessary to be a good Muslim.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Candidates might argue it is the basis of all Islam and the ummah to follow the five pillars of faith.
- The first pillar alone – the declaration of faith – is sufficient to make one a Muslim. The others make one 'good'.
- The spiritual significance of them means that it could be argued that to live by the five pillars makes a Muslim what he or she is.

On the other hand

- There are so many other aspects of Islam, e.g. following the Qur'an, family life, greater jihad, etc. that it is not simply 'you just need to follow the five pillars'.
- In other words, Islam is all about peace and submission to the will of Allah, ensuring your niyyah is well directed, etc.

(15 marks) AO2

21 Examine what shirk means in Islam.

- Candidates may suggest an understanding as association of anything with God as the worst sin in Islam – blasphemous, idolatrous and pagan.
- Islam prioritises belief in only one God with no partners or association.
- Worship is of Allah, the God alone.
- God is omnipotent and transcendent and Muslims should have total allegiance to Allah compared with pre-Islamic polytheism / idolatry.
- The concept of Tawhid is central to Islam.

(30 marks) AO1

22 'In Islam, God is just rather than merciful.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Candidates might argue that views of judgement day and the laws governing their lives which come from God are all encompassing and all pervading and whilst if you make a mistake, God may forgive, there is a sense in which he is forever watching and you will have to answer for what you have done in this life when God asks.
- God then, is the controller of destiny and every creature comes under his power.

On the other hand

- 'Merciful' is one of the 99 beautiful names of Allah and he is a loving and forgiving God.
- The Mu'tazila argued that for God to be truly just, humans must have freedom to choose good or evil without God determining the outcome and this would, in turn, show God as merciful.

(15 marks) AO2

23 Explain what Muslims believe about akhirah.

- Candidates might mention judgement is a final day of reckoning in Islam which all people face.
- Life is a test so Muslims must be prepared for judgement.
- A trumpet will sound, there will be an earthquake, graves will open, recording angels and your deeds will be read out and you will be assigned to heaven or hell.
- Some Muslims view this literally, others metaphorically.
- Some believe in intercession (Shi'a) whereas others (Sunni) do not.
- Life after death is described graphically in the Qur'an – heaven as paradise and hell as eternal torture.
- Muslims believe life after death is unknown and normal rules of the material world do not apply.
- God has absolute power over man (al qadr).
- There is predestination with some Muslims accepting free will.
- Others accept a Mu'tazila view or a compromise view (Asharite).
- To achieve paradise, you must act as a caliph; ensure greater Jihad and submission in all life to God.

(30 marks) AO1

24 'Muslim beliefs about resurrection and judgement are unreasonable.'

Assess this claim.

In support of the statement

- Candidates may argue that we live in a science dominated world where there is no room for a belief we cannot prove.
- No one has ever returned to qualify the belief and there is the question of what, if anything, exactly survives after death.

On the other hand

- So many beliefs in Islam surround the afterlife as with other religions that you accept the faith wholeheartedly which includes life after death.
- Just because no one has returned to qualify Life after death does not mean it doesn't exist.
- What is the purpose of living a hard and difficult life this time on earth if there is nothing better for people in the next life?

(15 marks)

AO2