

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 12 *Buddhism*

- The Dhamma (Dharma)



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B The Dhamma (Dharma)

(a) Explain the Buddha's teaching on the first Noble Truth (suffering). (6 marks)

(b) 'It is easy to get rid of suffering in one's life.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about

more than one point of view. Refer to Buddhism in your answer. (6 marks)

(c) Explain the Buddha's teaching on the second Noble Truth (cause of suffering). (6 marks)

(d) 'It is impossible for Buddhists to get rid of greed and desire.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about

more than one point of view. Refer to Buddhism in your answer. (6 marks)



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 12 *Buddhism*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
The Dhamma (Dharma)

June series

B The Dhamma (Dharma)**(a) Explain the Buddha's teaching on the first Noble Truth (suffering).****Target: Knowledge and understanding of the first Noble Truth**

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

All life involves suffering and this is a problem people need to overcome / unsatisfactoriness is called dukkha / there is the universal truth that life is unsatisfactory / no one can escape dukkha because it is the result of kamma (karma) from previous lives / there are seven well known states of dukkha, e.g. birth is painful, sickness is painful; old age is painful; death is painful; sorrow, lamentation and despair are painful; not getting what one wants is painful and the fact that no pleasure is lasting is painful / the Buddha also talked about four 'concealed' types of suffering, i.e. things in people's lives that they might not readily associate as on the same level of suffering as those mentioned previously but still cause people to suffer, e.g. our pleasure may cause pain to others; pleasure involves the fear of losing it and pleasure makes us want more, etc. / these are categorised as dukkha – dukkha; viparanama – dukkha and sankhara – dukkha – dukkha as ordinary suffering; the suffering of change and suffering as a result of conditioned states.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'It is easy to get rid of suffering in one's life.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Buddhism in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of the place of suffering in life

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Not all life is suffering and if people earn a good wage and provide for a good lifestyle then they can suffer less / people are able to get to the root of problems that may involve suffering in their lives and solve them / if people have a positive view of life they can eliminate suffering from their lives.

Other views

All people suffer as the Buddha taught so when suffering goes it is often replaced with another form / suffering can be anxiety, loneliness and depression as well as physical suffering so it manifests itself through all 'walks of life' / if people did not know suffering, they would not know the opposite so if suffering is fundamental in people's lives, it is impossible to get rid of.

(6 marks) AO2

- (c) **Explain the Buddha's teaching on the second Noble Truth (cause of suffering).**

Target: Knowledge and understanding of the second Noble Truth

Levels	Criteria	Marks
0	Nothing relevant or worthy of credit.	0 marks
Level 1	Something relevant or worthy of credit.	1 mark
Level 2	Elementary knowledge and understanding, e.g. two simple points.	2 marks
Level 3	Sound knowledge and understanding.	3 marks
Level 4	A clear knowledge and understanding with some development and / or analysis.	4 marks
Level 5	A detailed answer with some development and / or analysis.	5 marks
Level 6	A full and coherent answer showing good development and / or analysis.	6 marks

Candidates may include some of the following points:

The second Noble Truth is about the cause of suffering or unsatisfactoriness known as samudaya / people attach themselves to aspects of this life (tanha) and therefore suffer / the cause of suffering is dominated by the three poisons or 'fires that burn within us', i.e. greed hatred and delusion or ignorance / these poisons are what cause people to grasp and crave for things and therefore suffer / people should try to break out of the cycle of births deaths and rebirths to eliminate suffering / reference to the Tibetan Wheel of life and the realms that people can be reborn into.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'It is impossible for Buddhists to get rid of greed and desire.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Buddhism in your answer.

Target: Evaluation of whether it is impossible to get rid of greed and desire

Level	Criteria	Marks	Quality of Written Communication
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation.	0 marks	The candidate's presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar seriously obstruct understanding.
Level 1	Opinion supported by simple reason.	1 mark	The candidate presents some relevant information in a simple form. The text produced is usually legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar allow meaning to be derived, although errors are sometimes obstructive.
Level 2	Opinion supported by one developed reason or two simple reasons.	2 marks	
Level 3	Opinion supported by one well developed reason or several simple reasons. N.B. Candidates who make no religious comment should not achieve more than Level 3.	3 marks	The candidate presents relevant information in a way which assists with the communication of meaning. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate not to obscure meaning.
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 marks	
Level 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	The candidate presents relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear. The text produced is legible. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently accurate to render meaning clear.
Level 6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view showing informed insights and ability to apply knowledge and understanding of religion effectively.	6 marks	

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Greed and desire permeate all aspects of people's lives / Buddhists may not want to be greedy but like all people they live in a materialistic world and therefore it is inevitable that all aspects of Buddhists' lives, whether lay or ordained, may be ruled by greed and desire / it is difficult to get away from the media which implies that the owning of particular goods and commodities will make people happy / it is difficult to get rid of the 'I want syndrome' (advertising), etc. / it is human nature therefore in the nature of Buddhists too.

Other views

The whole point of a Buddhist's existence is to rid himself / herself of greed and desire to focus on the disciplined life and inevitably, the goal of the religion which is nibbana (nirvana) / the monastic life in particular is geared towards avoiding greed and desire, e.g. possessions which are limited and the alms round, etc. / if it wasn't achievable, the Buddha would not have taught a way out of greed and desire / appropriate examples of types of suffering would be credit worthy.

(6 marks) AO2