

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 12 *Buddhism*

- The Kamma (Karma)



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Kamma (Karma)

(a) Explain Buddhist teachings about kamma (karma). *(6 marks)*

(b) 'Kamma is just a made up theory to make people behave better.'

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 Buddhist teachings about nibbana (nirvana). *(6 marks)*

(d) 'To be a true Buddhist, a person has to believe in nibbana (nirvana).'

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
Kamma (Karma)

June series

B Kamma (Karma)**(a) Explain Buddhist teachings about Kamma (Karma).****Target: Understanding of teachings about Kamma (Karma)**

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 sum of a person's actions in his / her previous or present state of existence controls his / her fate in future existences / all creatures can be reborn in one of the six realms of existence depending on the kamma they generate / good deeds result in an upward movement, bad deeds in a downward one / generating good kamma and acting ethically is vital for a Buddhist's spiritual development / it is the accumulated effects of actions / kamma is not fixed; it is constantly changing / a person can change his or her kamma / Dhammapada, verses 1 and 2 reference kamma.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) 'Kamma is just a made up theory to make people behave better.'

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 Kamma being a made up theory to make people behave better

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

It is a man-made law, not even from a divine source / it works! People behave better when they think of the consequences of their actions / looking at Buddhist communities throughout the world, there have been no wars fought in the name of Buddhism; this could be because of the constraints of kamma / if Buddhists believe they are the product of their own kamma it will naturally lead to behaving in a more moral way / earning good kamma with the promise of a more favourable rebirth next time means Buddhist controlled governments can have a happier society.

Other views

It is a characteristic of life that all things change but people know from experience that they can have some influence over that change and this means that kamma is a commonsense teaching and belief / kamma is a natural law; it is binding on everyone / if this theory is made up then surely all people would behave well for a favourable rebirth, but reality says they do not / actions have consequences has been around as a theory since time began.

(6 marks) AO2

(c) Explain Buddhist teachings about nibbana (nirvana).**Target: Understanding of Buddhist teachings about nibbana (nirvana)**

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:

Nibbana is the point at which all craving ceases / the Buddha is said to have achieved this state, therefore it is open to all / a person who has achieved nibbana may still carry on living, eating, having relationships with others, but his or her actions would be done from a selfless motive / nibbana is not the same as extinction / it is often referred to in negative language because the Buddha said you have to experience it, you could not teach it / it is about a state of happiness, rather than a place / the word 'nibbana' means extinguishing.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'To be a true Buddhist, a person has to believe in nibbana (nirvana).'

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, to be a true Buddhist, a person needs to believe in nibbana (nirvana)

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	
Level 4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons with reference to religion.	4 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 5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, showing informed insights and knowledge and understanding of religion.	5 marks	
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	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.

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Agree

Nibbana is the goal of the Buddhist faith / it would be pretty pointless practising the faith if there was nothing to be gained from this / the Buddha is said to have achieved it, so Buddhists will believe it can happen / it is what the Eightfold Path is all about and the Buddha gave this path as the way to an enlightened life / it is what meditation is for and meditation is the central practice of Buddhism / a Buddhist has to believe they can break free from the endless cycle of births, deaths and rebirths. This is the nature of the Buddhist faith.

Other views

In Theravada Buddhism, only the monks and nuns can achieve nibbana so there must be other aspects of their faith that devotees gain / Buddhism is often referred to as the religion of morality and this is the most important aspect of what it is to be a Buddhist / there is no proof that the Buddha achieved Nibbana / meditation is the central and most important aspect of Buddhism / to be a true Buddhist, live.

(6 marks) AO2