

Teacher Resource Bank

GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A)

Additional Specimen Questions:

Unit 14 *Sikhism*

- Festivals



PART B

There are 24 marks for each question.

B Festivals and the Gurus

(a) Retell the story of when Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa. *(6 marks)*

(b) 'Guru Gobind Singh is the most important of the Sikh Gurus.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Sikhism in your answer. *(6 marks)*

(c) Explain how and why Divali is celebrated in Sikhism. *(6 marks)*

(d) 'Festivals are the best way for Sikh children to learn about their faith.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Sikhism in your answer. *(6 marks)*



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Religious Studies
Full or Short Course
Specification A

Unit 14 *Sikhism*

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme
Festivals and the Gurus

June series

B Festivals and the Gurus**(a) Retell the story of when Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa.****Target: Knowledge of the formation of the Khalsa**

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:

Baisakhi 1699 / Sikhs being persecuted / Guru Gobind Singh called all Sikhs to attend meeting at Anandpur / need to form fighting force / asked who was prepared to die / eventually one man came forward / Guru took him to a tent and beheaded him / repeated 5 times / returned with the 5 men dressed as *Pianje Piare* (beloved ones) / initiated into Khalsa with Amrit ceremony / introduced 5Ks and names Singh and Kaur / others initiated when they understood what Guru intended.

(6 marks) AO1

(b) ‘Guru Gobind Singh is the most important of the Sikh Gurus.’

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

Target: Evaluation of the relative importance of the Sikh Gurus

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

Final human Guru / formed Khalsa / gave Sikhs identity / led Sikhs in many battles for freedom / said Guru Granth Sahib would be only Guru / instituted the Amrit ceremony and the Kurahits / died for faith / sons also martyred.

Other views

All Guru’s important / reference to individual achievements of Gurus / God as the greatest Guru / significance of Guru Granth Sahib.

(6 marks) AO2

(c) Explain how and why Divali is celebrated in Sikhism.**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the celebration of Divali**

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:

Celebrated late autumn / festival of light / remembers story of 6th Guru Hargobind's release from prison / story of cloak with many strands to secure release of other prisoners / he returned to Amritsar and the Golden Temple was lit with many lamps to celebrate return / celebrated today with bonfires / fireworks / feasting / meles (fairs) / exchange of presents / lamps in homes / special ceremonies in the Gurdwara / Golden temple is illuminated.

(6 marks) AO1

(d) 'Festivals are the best way for Sikh children to learn about their faith.'

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

Target: Evaluation of the role of festivals in teaching the faith

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

Festivals are fun / children-centred / stories of faith retold / more time spent in worship in the home and Gurdwara / children involved in preparations.

Other views

Other ways to learn / stories lost in the secular fun activities / only teach a small part of faith / may not understand the more serious aspects of belief, practice and commitment to faith.

(6 marks) AO2