



Examiners' Report

June 2018

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 1D

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June 2018

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Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies.

Religious Studies B Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Option 1D – Buddhism.

The paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The assessment consists of four questions; candidates must answer all four questions. The details of the assessment content is provided in the specification. Centres are to use this rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

Question 1 (a)

Paper Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Religious Studies B Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Option 1D – Buddhism.

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1RB0_1D_Q01a

Question Introduction

The question asked was 'Outline three beliefs about the Three Marks of Existence'. Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, only a list can reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

Using this question:

- Impermanence, no self, suffering (1 mark for list).
- All things are in a state of change. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information.)
- Impermanence, no self, right intention (no marks as all three of list must be correct to gain the mark.)

This question asked candidates to 'Outline three beliefs about the Three Marks of Existence'. As an outline was asked for a list of beliefs can only gain a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC INFORMATION ABOUT LISTS/SENTENCES

Using this question:

- Impermanence, no self, suffering (1 mark for list)
- All things are in a state of change (1 mark for a sentence outlining one correct piece of information)
- Impermanence, no self, right intention (no marks as all three of list must be correct to gain the mark)

Buddhists believe that the first mark of existence is

Dukkha or suffering.

Buddhists believe another sign of existence is impermanence.

Buddhists believe a third sign of existence is anatta or no-self.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This was awarded three marks for three correct outlines:

suffering
no self
impermanence



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres should encourage candidates to write in full sentences in order to ensure that their response is an outline and not a list.

1 (a) Outline **three** beliefs about the Three Marks of Existence.

(3)

One ~~mark~~^{belief about the} marks of existence is there is always suffering - dukkha.
A second ^{belief of the} marks of ~~existence~~^{existence} is that suffering has a cause.
A third ^{belief of the} marks of existence is that suffering can be overcome - by ^{reaching} enlightenment.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The response was awarded one mark.

The candidate began well, but moved into a description of the Four Noble Truths. However, reward was given for the relevant outline of dukkha:

There is always suffering.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres need to encourage candidates to be sure they are clear about the different 'numerical' teachings within Buddhism - for example the difference between the content of the Five Precepts and the Five Khandas. Failure to do so, or confusion - as here between the Marks of Existence and the Noble Truths - can mean the loss of marks.

This response was given three marks.

The three marks of Existence are truths that apply to everyone. They are Anicca, that all things is one impermanent and ever changing. Another, that nobody has a 'self' or soul because nothing remains the same, you are constantly changing. And the third is that every living being experiences suffering and that



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are three correct outlines in this response:

All things are impermanent
Nobody has a self as they are constantly changing
Every living being experiences suffering



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

It is good idea to separate each outline by starting a new line for each one.

Question 1 (b)

This question asked for two reasons why panna was important for Buddhists. Candidates who performed less well on this question were either unable to develop answers or were unsure of the meaning of panna. It is important that centres teach both the original term and the translation as questions can include either when both are given in the specification.

Furthermore, the question was about how panna can be understood/interpreted by Buddhists. Answers which were simply a description of wisdom were not credited.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why panna is important for Buddhists.

(4)

P. Panna is important to Buddhists as it helps them to understand key Buddhist teachings.

D. This means that they are able to did their journey towards enlightenment.

P. Panna is important to Buddhists as it ~~also~~ allows them to have a ^{deeper} ~~deeper~~ understanding of Buddhism.

D. This means that they are able to strengthen their faith and be more committed and devoted towards Buddhism.



This response gained four marks.

There are two developed reasons in this response.

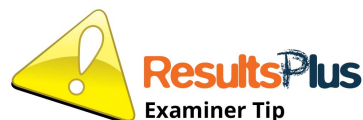
Reason 1: 'understand Buddhist teachings' was

developed by 'aid journey to enlightenment'

Reason 2: 'deeper **understanding** of Buddhism'

(not the same as teachings) was developed by

'strengthen faith and deeper commitment'.



Centres should encourage candidates to make sure that, in a developed response, both parts of their answer are able, as here, to stand on their own.

This response gained one mark.

One reason is that Buddhists
require knowledge of panna
to reach enlightenment. This is
important as buddhists main goal is
often to reach enlightenment



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Here there is one simple reason: 'can be used to reach enlightenment'.

The second part of the answer does not really develop the theme, saying much the same thing, and so the mark remained at 1.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres need to make sure candidates realise rewording a reason does not count as development.

This response gained two marks.

It encourages metta and kuruṇā, developing more positive karma.

It reminds them of the three marks of existence which are very important to them as well as the 4 noble truths



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

In this response there is one developed reason : 'encourages metta' (1) was developed by 'develops more positive karma' (1)

The second reason did not really respond to the question and seemed to try to use material from 1a to justify itself, and so did not gain marks.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres should encourage pupils not to rely on transferring material from different parts of a question in order to try to gain marks.

Question 1 (c)

The question asked for two reasons why nibanna was important for Buddhists, and this was point marked. A fifth mark is given for a relevant source of wisdom integrated into the answer.

Some candidates added the source of wisdom almost as a footnote at the end of their response. This could not be credited when it was not linked to the body of the response.

One reason why kamma is important for Buddhists is that it reminds Buddhists that their actions have consequences. This means that they will be aware of how negative actions can result in bad kamma and a ~~bad~~ bad rebirth. A source of wisdom and authority that supports this is the five moral precepts that set out the kinds of actions Buddhists should avoid ~~to~~ so that they have ^{positive} good kamma. Another reason is that it reminds Buddhists that attaining nibanna is the priority in their life. This means that kamma will be a motivation ~~that~~ ^{so} their ^{skillful} actions will bring them supreme peace.



This response received five marks for two developed reasons and a clear source of wisdom correctly used:

Reason 1: 'actions have consequences' (1)
developed by 'can lead to a bad rebirth' (1)
Reason 2: 'reminds that nibbana is a priority' (1)
developed by 'skilful actions bring peace'
Source: Five Precepts used to justify the arguments.



Centres should be certain that the source of wisdom is genuine as Buddhism and the Buddha have attracted a considerable number of 'fake quotes'.

This response gained four marks.

* Karma is important for Buddhists because it explains unskillful and skillful actions. This means that Buddhists know how they should behave and act towards others in order to generate good karmic energy.

* Karma is important for Buddhists because it allows them to understand what ~~will~~ will help them achieve enlightenment. This means that they can achieve their goal as the Buddha did when meditating under the bodhi tree.



It is an interesting response in that it can be seen as two developed reasons, or as one developed reason plus a simple reason with a source of authority.

The example of the Buddha can therefore either be seen as a development or as the source of authority. However it cannot be credited twice, so the mark remains at 4, not 5.

Reason 1: 'explains actions' (1) developed by 'should therefore know how to behave' (1)

Reason 2: 'helps to understand how to reach enlightenment' (1) developed/sourced by the example of the Buddha (1)



Separating the two reasons into two paragraphs not only makes it easier to distinguish those reasons but can also help clarify the thinking of the candidate.

This response gained two marks.

Kamma is the result of the actions that carries through with you through life, death and re-birth. You can have good or bad kamma according to your actions and this kamma determines what you are re-born as. If you have bad kamma you may become an animal such as a bug however if you have good kamma you may be reborn as a human which is considered one of the most sacred things to be as a Buddhist. One reason it is important is so ~~you~~ a Buddhist can try to become a human by having good kamma so they can then be enlightened, ^{escape wheel of samsara} and another reason is that you can determine other peoples kamma so for example a Buddhist may think it is okay to eat meat as the animal has bad kamma and they as humans are sacred and have good kamma.



This response gives two clear reasons:

Reason 1: 'kamma can bring about enlightenment'
(1)

Reason 2: 'your behaviour can influence other
people's kamma' (1)

There was no reference to a source of wisdom, so
it was not able to receive a mark for that reason.



The first part of this response was description
rather than reasoning and so was not creditable.
Centres need to encourage candidates to pay
particular attention to the wording of the question
and respond accurately to
'reasons'/'ways'/'teachings' rather than, as in this
case, giving a description of kamma.

Question 1 (d)

Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors.

This response gained a total of 11 marks.

The reason why this statement is an issue is because Bodhisattvas are a mainly ^{of} Mahayana ~~and~~; ~~the~~ reason that is an issue is because in Theravada Buddhism the main goal is to attain enlightenment and to reach ~~to~~ Nibbana, whereas ~~the~~ bodhisattvas attain enlightenment and choose to help others attain enlightenment, ~~they also have to~~ ^{this is seen in} the bodhisattva vow in which their aim is to help sentient beings achieve enlightenment and realise their own bodhi nature. Whilst bodhisattvas aim to help others to become ~~enlightened~~ ^{enlightened} Theravada focus more on singular enlightenment, this means that they would see no point to become a bodhisattva and are more likely to become ~~an~~ Arhats.

An argument for this statement is that as the main goal in Buddhism is trying to attain enlightenment, bodhisattvas are enlightened beings therefore by aiming to become a bodhisattva you are ~~still~~ still aiming to become enlightened but still able to fill out bodhisattva duties, ~~and~~ ^{by helping} ~~help~~ other attain enlightenment. In contrast, though the aim of Buddhism is enlightenment and the ~~removal~~ removal of suffering, Theravada Buddhism believes that you must

Follow your own path, practising the Buddha's teachings.
~~After~~ To conclude the evidence suggests that
Buddhists shouldn't aim to become a bodhisattva
but more aim to become enlightened, then you can
choose to either let others follow their own
path or to help them along the way.



It was given Level Three - 8 marks - because:

The deconstruction of the religious information/issues suggests an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning which addresses the issues raised by the statement.

There are logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and there is a coherency in the presentation of the argument.

There was also a partially justified conclusion.

The response also gained three marks for SPaG as:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.



Centres should encourage candidates to go beyond for and against arguments with a conclusion as this is likely to limit them to Level Two marks.

The focus in the 'd' questions is on appraisal of the material and this response begins to show how this differs from reasons for and against. Other examples in this report will show where this has not been achieved.

Question 2 (a)

The question asked for ways in which family life is important for Buddhists. Whilst many responses were well written others performed less well as they discussed roles within the family of purposes of the family rather than the ways required by the question.

This response was awarded 2 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** ways in which family life is important for Buddhists.

(3)

Family life is important because it represents metta, love and kindness towards each other. In addition family life can help reduce due to them supporting and being there for one another decreasing suffering. Family life represents right intention as you intend to care for one another.



The response contains two clear reasons:

It is a place to show loving kindness (1)
Can decrease suffering by supporting each other
(1)

The third point is not really a way and also basically repeats the content of the first two ways and so could not be credited.



It is important for centres to stress the importance of the wording of the question. Candidates should be encouraged to highlight the key words to keep the demands of the question in focus.

This response was not credited.

- Children are important as they remember their parents when they're gone.
- A husband is important because they have to provide for the family.
- A wife is important as their duty is to look after the house / children.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is an example of where a response was not credited as it dealt with roles within the family rather than the importance of family life. Whilst the content is accurate as it does not meet the demands of the question it could not be credited.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

As in the first example, it is important that centres encourage candidates to pay close attention to the wording of the questions.

This response gained 3 marks.

Family life is important for Buddhists because it creates an environment for metta to flourish. Secondly, family life is important to Buddhists because it reduces suffering caused by loneliness. Finally, family life is important to Buddhists because Buddhists can carry out their family duties, outlined in the Sigalovada Sutta.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained its three marks for three clear ways in which family life is important:

It can help Metta flourish
It reduces suffering caused by loneliness
It means the family can carry out duties laid down in scripture



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This response shows how writing in sentences guarantees that the result is an outline rather than a list.

Question 2 (b)

This question asked for two Buddhist beliefs about sex outside marriage and was well answered by a majority of candidates, many of whom were able to use the Five Precepts to ground their responses and so develop their answers.

The response was given 3 marks.

Buddhists believe sex outside marriage is wrong because it goes against the third precept: "no sexual misconduct".

A second ~~belief~~ belief about sex outside marriage is that it is also wrong because it goes against the eightfold path "right action and right livelihood".

★ a third way in which family life is important is because they can have ceremonies to pay their respect to the Buddha.



There is in this response a simple and a developed reason.

Belief 1: 'goes against the Third Precept' (1)

Belief 2: 'goes against the Eightfold Path' (1)
developed by example of 'right action' (1)



In a question that asks for two ways, give two ways (not three) as the third way will not be credited.

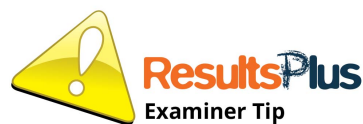
This response was given 4 marks.

- The Monastic community would disagree with sex outside of marriage because they live a life of celibacy, this means that they can live a simple life and focus on enlightenment.
- The lay community would not mind sex outside of marriage as long as it doesn't disregard teachings such as the moral precept 'abstain from sexual misconduct', this means that it is acceptable as long as no suffering is inflicted.



The response gives two developed beliefs:

- 1: 'monks lead a celibate life'(1) developed by 'they can focus on enlightenment' (1)
- 2: is REVERSE DEVELOPMENT: 'fine as long as it does not cause suffering'(1) reverse developed by 'disregards First Precept' (1). The candidate has given the development before the reason and this will be credited.



Whilst this candidate directly quotes the Five Precepts, paraphrases would be equally acceptable as long as relevant and recognisable.

Question 2 (c)

This question, unlike 1b, did ask for teachings about the roles within the family. As was specified in the comments for 1c, it is important that in each c question the source of wisdom is clearly linked to the teachings given.

This response was given 2 marks.

One Buddhist teaching about the roles of men and women in the family is that women should have a more domestic role. This is supported by the Sigalovada Sutta which shows that one of the duties of a wife is to get on with her in laws, suggesting she spends more time within the house.

Another Buddhist teaching about the roles of men and women in the family is that a man will ~~be~~ be primarily in charge of businesses, although his wife may help. This suggests a man's role is as the breadwinner.

Sigalovada Sutta

→ Women = get on with in laws.



This response gives a teaching that women have a more domestic role (1) justified by an example from the Sigalovada Sutta (1 – Source of Wisdom).

The second reason could not be credited as early Buddhism in fact encouraged wives to understand their husband's business in case of the indisposition of the husband.



If in doubt about suitable sources of wisdom, use a search engine to find specific Buddhist teachings.

For accurate Buddhist teachings there are many excellent Buddhist centres which have informative and accurate teachings available online.

This response was given four marks.

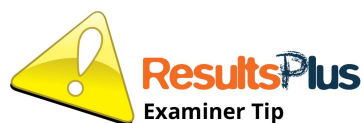
- ° Women are meant to undergo household duties as stated in the sigalovada sutta, this means that women must clean and cook for the man.
- ° Men must share authority, this means that the man and the woman must be seen as equals - and treat each other as such.



This response gives a simple teaching plus a source of wisdom and a developed teaching:

Teaching 1: 'women have household duties (1) justified by a teaching of the Sigalovada Sutta - SoWA (1)

Teaching 2: 'men to share authority' (1) developed by 'man and women should treat each other equally' (1)



Paraphrases of sources of wisdom are acceptable as long as they are accurate, relate to the question, and are from genuine Buddhist teachings.

Accurate references - i.e. chapter/verse - are not necessary as long as the reference is generally stated.

This response was given 5 marks.

The Sigalovada Sutta is a series of rules set in Theravada Buddhism, that the family must follow. It is very old, and based in old gender stereotypes, for example the wife or woman maintain the house, cook ~~or~~ look after the children, whilst the man work to sustain the family. Modern gender roles and changing times have put these rules out of fashion, however some of the more core teachings of the five precepts and other those of loyalty and compassion teach that rather than just men and women having individual roles, everyone equally shares the same role, of being kind and loyal and teaching others of good upbringing and supporting others.



This response gives two developed teachings and also two sources of authority. However, only one source of authority would have been credited, even if this candidate had only given two simple reasons.

Teaching 1: 'specific roles existed for men and women' (1) developed by historical influence (1) of Sigalovada Sutta

Teaching 2: 'everyone equally shares same role' (1) reverse developed by 'the effect of modern times' (1) and justified by source of wisdom – Five Precepts (1)



Two sources of wisdom accompanied by two simple reasons will only gain three marks as questions specifically refer to **a source** of wisdom and authority.

Question 2 (d)

See below.

Responses in d questions must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors.

The key to this question was 'in today's world' and many responses focused more on contraception rather than the Buddhist's relationship to the environment.

Some Buddhists may agree with this if a family does not have enough money to care for a larger family. However if parents are sexually active then the only way to limit family size may be conception, which many Buddhists see as wrong due to them believing life starts at conception and if a woman takes a morning after pill this could be seen as going against the first precept, killing a life form, which is seen as violence and the Buddha said 'all tremble for violence':

Other Buddhists may say that if a family cannot provide it is the responsibility to do because if you have a very large family however do not have enough money then this may cause dukkha (suffering), consequently this may equal in bad karma for the parents as they cannot care for the children equally and bad rebirth in samsara.

On the other hand, a non-religious person may believe that it is a very responsible thing to do due to it meaning that the family can have a good quality of life and not worry about things. Furthermore, throughout the world prices are rising rapidly for daily things, which some families might find challenging to obtain if they are not financially stable due to having a large family.

~~To conclude, I think I think~~ However many Buddhists may disagree, because a human life is seen as one of the greatest things. Therefore limiting the amount of humans in the world could be seen as a selfish act and goes against some of the things in the eightfold path.

To conclude, I definitely agree with this statement because if the quality of life is not better with a smaller family then I think it is a lot more responsible. Furthermore, families need to be happy and loving therefore this way of being responsible influences it in a positive way.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The response gained Level Three - 8 marks - as:

It began to deconstruct the religious information/issues which suggests that there was an accurate understanding of religion and belief. This enabled the response to develop reasoning which addressed all the issues raised by the statement.

There were logical chains of reasoning.

Both sides of the argument were considered.

There was coherency in the presentation of the argument.

There was a partially justified conclusion, but not a comprehensive appraisal.

SPaG is not assessed in either 2d or 4d.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres need to encourage candidates to look carefully at the stimulus quotation. It will give a clear indication of what is being looked for. All parts of the quotation need to be addressed.

Question 3 (a)

This question asked for responses which outlined three ways in which meditation could be practised. Responses that scored less well often focused on places where meditation can take place rather than the ways in which it is performed.

This response was given 3 marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways meditation can be practised.

(3)

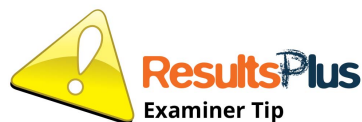
Meditation can be practised

- By focusing on a teaching or concept in Buddhism
- By focusing on the breathing
- By focusing on positive emotions such as love.



The response was awarded 3 marks as it provided a recognisable outline of three types of meditation.

Whilst the answer was in bullet points rather than in full sentences the information given was more than simply a list and so could be awarded a mark for each correct type.



Bullet points are acceptable for a question but need to be more than one or two word responses. The published mark scheme gives clear examples of the way this can be achieved.

This response was awarded 3 marks.

Meditation can be practiced to focus the mind by using statues to
the Buddha or watching candles to concentrate on. It can also be
practiced to develop insight and wisdom by reflecting upon thoughts
and how they relate to Buddhist beliefs. Also meditation can
be performed to think about the nature of existence and to fully
understand the three marks of existence and noble truths.



Unlike the first example, whilst the response does not name the types of meditation, the response clearly indicates what they are and they are clearly ways:

Focus the mind through artefacts
Reflect upon thoughts
Consider the nature of existence

and so provides a clear outline that can be given three marks.



This example and the first show that there can be very different ways of reaching full marks.

This response was awarded 1 mark.

• Through Concentration and focusing of the mind

• Through mindfulness and

• Through sensation and



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The response has one creditable way:

Concentrating and focusing of the mind.

However a second mark cannot be given for the short list that makes up the second and third way. A mark for a list will only be awarded if a mark has not already been given for an outline.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

As in all a questions one or two word reasons are not outlines.

Question 3 (b)

This question asked for two reasons why objects of devotion are used in worship. Responses that scored less well often described the objects of devotion rather than the reasons for their use.

This response was awarded 3 marks.

In Buddhist worship objects of devotion are very important as a lot represent the Dhamma of the Buddha, therefore when meditating it shows their commitment to Buddhism. In addition it helps them to focus on something when worshipping due them being able to meditate and the objects representing the Dhamma.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The response gave a developed and a simple reason:

Reason 1: 'can represent the dhamma' (1)
developed by 'therefore can show commitment to teachings'

Reason 2: 'can help them to focus' (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

A way of checking whether answers are really developed is by seeing whether each part stands on its own. Reason 1 would have been acceptable if it had only been either the first half or the second half, so is clearly a developed reason.

Equally it is very clear that reason 2 has nothing that can lift it to the higher mark.

This response was given four marks.

First of all, they are used to allow the person meditating to concentrate on the meditation. By having something like a prayer wheel or prayer beads, they can focus their mind on the object which enhances concentration and allows them to control their thoughts.

Secondly, objects may symbolise specific things such as a mantra; therefore, by using an object such as prayer beads, they can use the beads to count the amount of times they have chanted the mantra.



The response has two developed reasons:

Reason 1: 'focus the mind' (1) developed by 'enhances concentration' (1)

Reason 2: 'objects link with forms of worship (mantra) (1) developed by 'beads can count repetitions said' (1)



Separating the two reasons into different paragraphs helps with the clarity of the answer and so can help focus the argument.

This response was given two marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why objects of devotion are used in Buddhist worship. (4)

not what

Objects are used because they aid concentration in meditation, and they also show the gratitude and devotion to the Buddha and all the teachings (Dhamma)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There are two simple reasons:

Reason 1: 'aids concentration' (1)

Reason 2: 'shows gratitude for the Buddha and dhamma' (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Running the two reasons together could make it harder for both candidate and examiner to distinguish between simple and developed reasons as the eye can be confused as to where the reason changes.

Question 3 (c)

This question asked for two reasons why kathina is important for some Buddhists and was a problematical question for many candidates who did not seem to know what this ceremony was. It is important that centres cover all areas of the specification as well as both original and translated terms where both are given as questions which can come from any part of the specification.

This response was given 4 marks and whilst the candidate was unsure about Kathina they were secure enough in their knowledge of Buddhism to produce credible assumptions.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Kathina is important to some Buddhists.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Kathina is important to some Buddhists because it allows them to show respect to their school. This means that they are expressing their gratitude as well as obeying the laws of the sangha which say you should respect your superiors.

Kathina is also important to some Buddhists because it helps them to generate good Kamma. This means that they are more likely to have a favourable rebirth and achieve their final goal of enlightenment.

Kathina =

Living the Buddhist life?

- SOWA
- Show respect
- Increase chance of achieving enlightenment = good Kamma



- It did not gain the fifth mark as there is no creditable source of wisdom in the response.

There are, however, two clear developed reasons:

- 1: 'show respect' (1) developed by 'obeying rules of the sangha' (1)
- 2: 'generate good kamma' (1) developed by 'more likely to have a favourable rebirth' (1)

This response was given 2 marks.

Kathina is important to some Buddhists because it shows the care they have for others which is part of the eightfold path, so it could lead them to enlightenment. Another reason why Kathina is important to Buddhists is because it allows them to be a strong part of the Buddhist community (~~of~~ dharma) so they can feel like they have a reason and purpose of life.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There is no clear connected reference to a source of wisdom so it cannot be credited, and again it was a sound basic knowledge of Buddhism carefully selected rather than knowledge of Kathina that led to the developed reason:

'care for others' (1) was developed by 'can lead to enlightenment' (1) and though general, was creditable.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Centres should encourage candidates in 'cross-referencing' between topics in order to develop skills in attempting to answer the more difficult questions.

This response was given two marks.

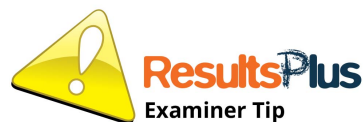
Kathina is a festival celebrated by lay Buddhists. It's celebrated at the end of ^{rain} Vassa after the monks have come back from their retreat. Buddhists think it's important because they make food offerings and give clothes to make into robes for the monks. This is giving ~~to~~ and supporting the Buddhist community (Sangha) which is important as it's one of the three jewels.



Here we have a response that did know about Kathina but the opening is description rather than reasons for its importance and so cannot be credited. However there was also a developed reason:

'offering to monks' (1) developed by 'supporting the sangha' (1)

The reference to source of wisdom (Three Jewels) is not explicit enough to credit.



Centres need to guide candidates into relating the source of wisdom to the question. Simply stating a source of wisdom is not enough.

Question 3 (d)

See below.

This response was given 13 marks.

The issue with this quote is that some Buddhists believe mantras are ineffective for enlightenment. For example, many Buddhists will make extensive use of meditation instead. This is because meditation stills and focuses the mind and in its different forms can help one focus on a doctrine or even spread compassion ~~to~~ onto all beings (Vipassana and Metta-Bhavana). A teaching that supports this is the fact that Buddha used meditation to attain Nibbana under the Bodhi tree, and it was this action that led to his realization of the Dhamma ^{the} ~~the~~ Law. However, there are many Buddhists who believe mantras can help you achieve your desires and develop wisdom and compassion. The mantra ~~recited~~ ~~practice~~ ~~that~~ Nam Myoho Renge Kyo is used extensively in this context and even the Dalai Lama said that when the mantra is used with its meaning in mind, it can be very effective. Perhaps there is another way of looking at this: using Pure Land Buddhism. In Pure Land Buddhism, mantras reciting Amitayus Buddha's name is used fully often in order to secure a re-birth in the Pure Land. However, this re-birth is not enlightenment, just a step towards, so the mantra is not actually enough to jump straight to Nibbana itself. f

In conclusion, the evidence suggests that although mantras are very useful and deepen one's spiritual practice, they are not the best way to reach enlightenment. ^{Mantras} ~~one~~ need to be used ^{along side} ~~with~~ ~~multiple~~ other worship.

ideas to be effective.

three month

* Also the Monk festival of vassa uses meditation to attain much spiritual growth and wisdom because meditation is viewed as ~~an~~ ~~extremely~~ extremely important for the monks to develop their compassion and wisdom.



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Examiner Comments

The response was given Level Three - 10 marks - as they deconstructed religious ideas and created logical chains of reasoning.

They had an accurate understanding of religion and belief.

Connections were made between many of the elements.

Their judgements were supported by appraisal of the elements, but not comprehensively, so just did not reach level 4.

SPaG was given 3, making a total of 13 marks as:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately.



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Examiner Tip

This response shows how the questions expect more than a simple for and against and conclusion answer. It also shows how much detail and understanding are needed to appraise well - and how well it needs to be done to reach into Level Four.

Question 4 (a)

This question required candidates to outline beliefs that support the existence of life after death, and was well answered by the majority of candidates. It seems the topic interests them as very few gave one or two word list answers.

This response was given 2 marks.

Firstly, the Buddha remembered his past lives in his past watch during his journey to Nibbana. Secondly, the Dalai Lama is reborn therefore showing life after death. Thirdly, there is anatta ~~with~~ (no soul) therefore the soul must be reborn.



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Examiner Comments

There are two creditable beliefs in this response:

The example of the Buddha remembering past lives.

The use of the idea of the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

However, the third reason as written contradicts itself and so could not be rewarded. We can only credit what is there, not what we think the response might be trying to say.



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Examiner Tip

Centres should encourage candidates to allow time to re-read their responses towards the end of the examination. Re-reading immediately after composition of the answer can sometimes be inaccurate.

This candidate was awarded 3 marks.

They believe in the cycle of samsara where after death you are reborn, depending on your karma. Also they think that everything depends on everything else - showing that after death you will still have life. Also the festival of Obon celebrates the spirits of the dead showing that even after you die you may still come a spirit.



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Examiner Comments

There were three creditable outlines in this response:

The cycle of samsara.

A slightly awkward worded description of dependant arising (but recognisable enough to credit).

An interesting use of celebrating the festival of Obon as a reason for belief in life after death.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Again, centres should encourage candidates to link together different aspects of their study of Buddhism.

This response was awarded 1 mark.

~~Indo~~ Buddhist believe that life is cyclic and based on you ^{Karma} ~~Karma~~ from one life, the next will be re-incarnated in a new position or a repetitive quality of life. This cycle is called samsara. Buddhist believe to escape the cycle forever you must become enlightened. This escaped place is called Nirvana, a place devoid of



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Examiner Comments

The mark was given for an extended description of the belief in samsara. Unfortunately for this candidate there are no marks for developed reasons in (a) questions so no further mark can be awarded.

Had this been a (b) or (c) question, they would have fared very much better.



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Examiner Tip

Centres need to ensure that candidates understand the differing demands of a,b,c and d questions in order that they are answering correctly.

Question 4 (b)

This question asked for two ways in which Buddhists respond to animal rights. It was answered well by the majority of candidates, but some fell into the trap of describing actions rather than giving developed ways or gave descriptions of animal rights groups rather than Buddhist ways.

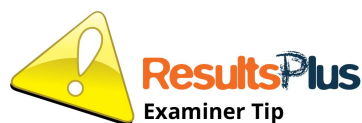
This response was given 2 marks.

- P. ~~B~~ Many Buddhists believe animals should have rights and would hold campaigns and petitions against animal testing.
- D. This means that Buddhists are positively impacting and helping the lives of animals.
- P. Buddhists would pay particular attention to the first precept - abstain from killing, including animals.
- D. This means that Buddhists may choose to become vegetarians or vegans.



The first reason was not credited as this was a how rather than a way and, as well, no specifically creditable development was given.

The second reason: 'many become vegetarian or vegan' (1) reverse developed by 'attention to the First Precept' (1) was creditable.



Centres need to be sure candidates are clear about the difference between ways, teachings, reasons and beliefs.

This response was given 4 marks.

They justly protect and support animal rights as they believe no animals should be killed. This is because it is against the first moral precept. Also this is why Buddhists are commonly vegetarians.

Secondly, they believe animals have rights as humans could be reborn into an animal. Therefore Buddhists want to protect animals.



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Examiner Comments

The response gives two developed ways, with the second being a reverse development:

Way 1: 'no animal should be killed' (1) developed by 'goes against First Precept' (1)

Way 2: 'animals should be protected' (1) reverse developed by 'humans can be reborn as animals' (1)

This response was given 3 marks.

Buddhists support animal rights, as they believe any maltreatment, ^{or killing} of these animals breaks the First Moral Precept and thus, due to Dependent Origination, all are spiritually connected to them and mustn't hurt them.



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Examiner Comments

The response gives a simple and a reverse developed way:

One way: 'maltreatment breaks the first precept' (1)

Second way: 'they must not be harmed' (1) reverse developed by 'as all are connected by dependent origination' (1)

Question 4 (c)

This question asked for ways in which Buddhists respond to the issue of abortion and was well answered by the majority of candidates, with most of them able to provide accurate and relevant source of wisdom.

This response gained 5 marks.

One way Buddhists would respond would be negatively because life starts at conception. This means that abortion is the murder of an individual with karmic identity and breaks the precept. A source of wisdom and authority applying to this is the fact that Buddha proclaimed that any monk aiding abortion would lose his monkhood. Another way would be with karma and evaluating the situation. This means that if the mother were in danger or the situation would create dukkha the abortion is acceptable. A source of wisdom is the Dalai Lama said that abortion is wrong but in some situations it is justified.



The response gives two developed ways and a clear source of wisdom.

Way 1: 'life begins at conception' developed by 'murder of a person with a kammic identity'

Way 2: 'use metta' (1) developed by 'okay if it avoids dukkha' (1) justified by clear reference to the teachings of the Dalai Lama (SoWA)



As can be seen from this response, direct quotations are unnecessary as long as they are recognisable, correctly attributed and reasonably accurate.

This response gained 5 marks.

Firstly, a Buddhist would suggest abortion is unacceptable. This is because it is against the first moral precept 'abstain from taking life' which says do not kill. Also it is seen as killing because life begins at conception.

However, it could be seen as acceptable as, if the ~~mother~~ has something wrong with it such as a physical disability or the mother's life is in danger^{as} it is with 'Right Intention' and follows the Eightfold path. Therefore the mother suffering and not reaching Nirvana could be seen as more important.



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Examiner Comments

The response gives two developed ways and two sources of wisdom, but only one source of wisdom can be credited.

Way 1: 'against First moral precept of no harm' (SOW/1) 'abortion seen as killing' (1) developed by 'as life seen as beginning at conception' (1)

Way 2: 'acceptable in serious situations' (1) developed by 'such as mother's life in danger' (1) plus second valid source of wisdom that cannot be credited as already awarded.

Even if one of the reasons had not been developed, the second source of wisdom would not have given the fifth mark as the question specifically asks for 'a source of wisdom'.

This response was awarded 2 marks.

Most
Buddhists believe that abortion is the destruction of life which
acts against the 5 Khandas 'don't take another life' which
generates bad karma.

It is also seen to act against the 8 precepts or again generating
bad karma for taking a potential life that could've reached
enlightenment.



Unfortunately the sources of wisdom are wrong and cannot be credited, but there is a relevant developed way present in the answer:

'generating bad karma' (1) developed by 'stopping potential life reach enlightenment' (1)

The candidate has confused the Five Khandas with the Five Precepts and has also confused the Five Precepts with the Eightfold Path. References to sources of wisdom need to be accurate to be credited.



Centres need to encourage candidates in accurate recall of the 'numerical' teachings in Buddhism.

Question 4 (d)

Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors.

Many candidates did not fully cover all the bullet points of the question and so limited the level they could achieve. Candidates cannot go beyond Level Two if they do not address all the bullet points. The danger in this question was they spent so much time on the scientific side that Buddhist views and beliefs were somewhat sketchy or non-existent.

This response was given Level 3 - 7 marks.

There are no marks for SPaG in this question.

The issue with this quote is that some ~~but~~ people would disagree, believing it is wrong to accept arguments about the origins of life. The reason this is an issue is because some Buddhists believe that there was no origins of life and that instead, the world is cyclical and there is no beginning or end. The religious teachings that support this are the Dalai Lama, ~~who~~ who said that theories of evolution are random and meaningless, and should not be accepted. Also, the Buddha said that asking about origins is like the Parable of the poisoned arrow, that asking about origins is asking the wrong questions, and cause dukkha, slowing the path to enlightenment. On the other hand, some people ~~may~~ agree with the quote and believe they should accept scientific arguments about the origins of life. This is argued because science disproved religion and the theories of evolution and the big bang seem more rational and likely. Non-religious believers would also agree with the quote, arguing that there is no evidence to support different religious theories, therefore it is right to accept

science. Alternatively, it might be suggested that ~~some Buddhists~~ there is no way of proving the origins of the world therefore we should accept it and continue with our journey through life, as it holds no greater understanding or significance in day to day life. In conclusion, an examination of the evidence suggests the strongest response reflects the quote, as even though scientific theories seem more logical, ~~they~~ there is no point in finding out about the origins of life, and ^{even} the Buddha himself (Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)

leaves this question unanswered, and it doesn't aid the journey towards enlightenment.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 102 MARKS



The response gained Level Three because:

the response begins to develop logical chains of reasoning.

Relevant philosophical and ethical arguments were included

Both sides of the argument were considered

There is some coherency in the presentation of the argument

Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence leading to a partially justified conclusion.



Using the examples provided in this report and utilising the level descriptors, candidates should be encouraged to make sure they are attempting to fulfil all the requirements of the Level Four Descriptors.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper, write within the scannable pages using the blank spaces.
- When answering the (a) items use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) items must be relevant to the question and support the reason given.
- The (d) items ask for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reasons given are 'considered' or appraised for their value as arguments as part of deciding the evaluation.
- On (d) items the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer.
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked fully.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

