

Examiners' Report  
June 2018

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2G

## Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com) or [www.btec.co.uk](http://www.btec.co.uk).

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at [www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus).



### Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit [www.edexcel.com/resultsplus](http://www.edexcel.com/resultsplus). Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

### Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: [www.pearson.com/uk](http://www.pearson.com/uk).

June 2018

Publications Code 1RB0\_2G\_1806\_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Pearson Education Ltd 2018

# Introduction

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Religious Studies B Paper: Area of Study 2 – Study of Religion Option 2G – Sikhism.

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

The area of study comprises a study in depth of Sikhism as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world, and its beliefs and teachings on life, specifically about the issues of peace and conflict, and crime and punishment.

Section 1 and 3, Sikh beliefs and Living a Sikh life were on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout, especially AO1 questions. The AO2 questions were not answered so much in depth, although the knowledge was there, but the candidates need to start to critically analyse the statement using various techniques. Candidates should compare and contrast the areas of ethics within Sikhism and non-religious views when asked. Candidates should also look at divergent views within Sikhism in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Section 2 and 4 , Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict were answered in a generic way. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge in order to gain the higher marks.

Sources of wisdom must be used that are appropriate to the question and not just quotes that the candidate has learnt.

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh beliefs. Bullet point 1.4. 'Sikh beliefs about life after death'.

The question asked was 'Outline three Sikh beliefs about life after death.'

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

- God is creator (1 mark)
- God is creator, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)
- God is creator, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)
- Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)
- Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)
- Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

This candidate achieved 3 marks.

Sikhs believe in reincarnation

They believe that gurmukhr will achieve mukti and become reunited with Godo

Also believe that Manmukhr will reincarnate into something lower than humans.



The candidate outlined three correct beliefs.

Believe in reincarnation (1)

Gurmukh will achieve mukti (1)

Manmukh will reincarnate into something lower (1)

The last two bullet points are an alternative answer that is not on the mark scheme but is credit worthy.



Candidates should write in three full sentences to gain full marks.

This candidate achieved 2 marks.

- Sikhs believe in reincarnation

- They also believe in heaven

- They also believe you will come back to life as a different form.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Two beliefs were given:

1. Sikhs believe in reincarnation
2. They also believe you come back to life in a different form.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Centres need to ensure the candidates do not get confused over the religion. In this case this answer is a mix of Christianity and Sikhism.

This candidate achieved one mark.

Sikhs believe that life after death is real and it does happen. They also believe that when you die you come back to life as a animal or human



1.They come back into another life form as an animal or human.

The first point is too generic.



Candidates should write 3 full sentences.

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh Beliefs. Bullet point 1.6. 'The oneness of humanity: how the equality of humans is shown in the Guru Granth sahib....., in stories from the lives of the Gurus.

The question asked was 'Explain two ways equality is shown in the lives of the Gurus'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

This candidate achieved two marks.

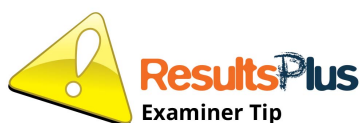
Equality was shown when the Guru's introduced langar, a place where everyone can eat and we all eat on the floor representing that no one is higher than someone else. Another way is Harmandir Sahib, it has 4 doors for all 4 corners of the world and anyone can come no matter race.



One developed answer was given

1. Gurus introduced langar developed by a place where everyone can eat and we all sit on the floor representing that no one is higher than someone else.

If the candidate had linked the Harmandir Sahib to Guru Ram Das or Guru Arjan this would have been credit worthy.



Candidates should separate their ways, as it makes it clear that two ways were given.



This candidate achieved 4 marks.

- Equality is shown in the lives of the Gurus as Guru Ram Das built the Golden Temple with four ~~doors~~ entrances. This is because he said "it is open to everyone regardless of creed, caste or religion" and "it's for every religion".

- Guru Nanak went on his travels and his 2 best friends were a Hindu and Muslim and this shows equality as they weren't Sikhs.



Two clearly developed answers relating to specific Gurus

1. Guru Ram Das building the Golden temple developed by four doors so that all people can enter regardless of caste or religion.
2. Guru Nanak went on his travels with his friends a Hindu and a Muslim developed by showing equality as they were not Sikhs.

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh Beliefs. Bullet point 1.1 "How the characteristics of God are shown in the Mool Mantar'."

The question asked was 'Explain two ways the characteristics of God is shown in the Mool Mantar.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.
- If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and 'Guru Granth Sahib' or 'Sikh teaching'.
- If the candidate states that it is in Guru Granth Sahib 1 and then states another verse from the Guru Granth Sahib – then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Guru Granth Sahib 1) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.
- If a candidate quotes Guru Nanak and it was Guru Gobind Singh or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

This candidate achieved 5 marks. This question on the whole was well answered.

"ਕਰਮ ਪੁਰਖ, ਨਿਰਗੁਣ ਅਤੇ, ਸਰਬ ਜਾਣਕ।" This shows how God was without fear and how God was beyond time. This tells us how God wasn't scared of anyone and anything and instead protected us. He is also shown to be beyond time. This shows us how he knew what was coming and what was going to happen even before it happened and even before anyone had any ideas. These give us an idea of how great and powerful God was.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways with a source of wisdom and authority.

1. God is without fear, developed by this tells us that God was not scared of anyone or anything and instead protected us.
2. God is beyond time developed by God knew what was coming and what was going to happen even before it happened, which gives us an idea of how powerful God is.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This is unusual, as the source of wisdom is the Gurmukhi version although the candidate can just put specific terms in, like 'Ik Onkar' or 'Sat naam' or the English version.

The reference needs to be part of the question as this example illustrates.

## Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraising the arguments will help to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against but not analysing or evaluating them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting the candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh Beliefs. Bullet point 1.5. 'The elimination of haumai'.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

The question asked was

"It is impossible to remove haumai"

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

This candidate gains 10 marks in total.

The candidate reached Level 3 and was awarded 7 marks and then given 3 marks for SPAG.

Haumai means having a sense of 'pride' and self knowledge. Haumai at times is considered to be okay, whereas most of the time, Sikhs believe that Haumai prevents Sikhs from being gurmukh (God-centered) and dependent on God, as their mind would stop paying attention to God.

~~As~~ Sikhs believe that it is possible to remove haumai, because it is a goal which disciples must follow to achieve mukti (liberation), and good karma.

Because Haumai can be removed by reciting prayers like the Japji Sahib, and following the virtues Sikhs must have like: truth and truthfulness, passion and patience, and good virtues towards everyone.

Furthermore, Sikhs believe that it is possible to remove haumai, because of the Gurus teachings and that Sikhs should always pray on Waheguru's (God's) name.

On the other hand, some people may think that haumai is impossible to remove because this world is full of the five evils, kam, krodh, moh, etc. which less people are starting to appreciate religion due to society conflicts and suffering that people go through.

In conclusion, I believe that <sup>this</sup> the statement is incorrect, because <sup>for</sup> haumai ~~is~~ to be removed, Sikhs must follow the virtues that the Guru Granth Sahib teaches, and participate in sewa (selfless service) and in sangat too. By following these basic ideas for achieving good karma, Sikhs can get closer to God, and achieve Jivan mukti, and the Devils won't stand in one's way of reaching for peace, freedom/liberation and spirituality.



The candidate gained Level 3 because...

The candidate uses an accurate understanding of religion and belief to develop reasoning which addresses the issues raised by the statement.

This is presented in an accurate and coherent way. Logical chains of reasoning are identifiable on both sides of the argument but are a little limited

The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence, although it is limited.

The candidate meets the demands of the level two descriptor but does not fully meet all the level three requirements and is therefore awarded at the lower end of the mark range.

SPAG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because

- The candidate spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms as appropriately.



Candidates need to be prepared to critically analyse the statement with Sikh knowledge but show differing divergent Sikh views.

Candidates should not just write the teachings but appraise it and relate it to the statement throughout.

A high level answer would need to include appraisal throughout the answer.

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment. Bullet point 2.4 'Sikh attitudes towards punishment: divergent teachings and attitudes to the nature and use of punishment'

The question asked to 'Outline three Sikh teachings about the use of punishment'.

This candidate gained three marks.

Sikhs believe punishment should be used when necessary,  
and should help the person become better not worse.  
The punishment should be based on how <sup>a person</sup> ~~he~~ harmed the  
victim or what type of crime they did. ~~punishment is~~  
punishment is used as a form of rehabilitation and  
retribution, it should work for peace.



The candidate outlined three teachings

Punishment should be used when necessary

Punishment should help the person become better not worse

Punishment should be based on how a person harmed the victim





Candidates need to know clearly Sikh attitudes and teachings to punishment, especially looking at differing views. The reference in the specification to this area is the Rahit Maryada Section 6 Chapter 8 article XXV.

A lot of answers were very generic but in this case credit worthy.

A good answer would be to relate it to the Guru Granth Sahib, as it teaches that God will punish those who do wrong.

Candidates should write three separate sentences to encourage them to outline three teachings.

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment. Bullet point 2.7 'Sikh teachings about the treatment of criminals'

The question asked was 'Explain two Sikh teachings about the treatment of criminals.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom a quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

This candidate was awarded 4 marks.

God will treat the criminals accordingly to their actions. ~~This will be giving them an~~ ~~earth~~ bad karma back. This shows whatever they do wrong will come back in another form. Another way criminals are treated when they die and then God punishes them with the rebirth cycle. This shows how they are treated even after leaving Earth.



The candidate gave two developed answers

- 1 God will treat the criminals according to their actions (1) developed with 'by giving them bad karma'. (1)
2. When criminals die, God will also punish them in the rebirth cycle (1) developed with 'they will come back in another form'.



Related Sikh terminology gives the answer more focus as in point 1 and 2 in this example.

References to a teaching or scripture is a good way to develop a reason.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment. Bullet point 2.2 'Sikh teachings and responses to the nature, and causes and problem of crime'

The question asked was 'Explain two Sikh teachings about the cause of crime.'  
In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

This candidate gained 5 marks.

One ~~Sikh~~ Sikh teaching about the cause of crime is due to one of the 5 evils: 'moh' meaning (worldly attachment) and the attraction to materialistic things, and people concentrating more on capitalism than helping the poor, which causes them to steal/theft. Another ~~reason~~ teaching in Sikhism on the cause of crime is because of <sup>greed</sup> ~~materialism~~. This crime is popular in many aspects and poorer areas, where desire for ~~an~~ someone else's property ~~is~~, leads to theft as well, but for ~~a~~ no reason. Another reason is because of addiction ~~to~~ both illegally with drugs or sexually, when the Guru Granth Sahib is against ~~it~~ and states 'those who enjoys the sexual ~~desire~~ and wine, does not know the path'.



The candidate gave two developed ways, with reference to an appropriate source of authority.

Cause of crime is attraction to materialistic things developed by, 'which caused them to steal' referenced by, '5 evils 'moh' meaning worldly attachment'. (1)

Causes of crime is greed developed by, 'is popular in poor areas where there is a desire for someone else's property'. (1)



Candidates must be prepared for the whole breadth and depth of the specification in order to achieve higher grades. It is best to check that materials used in school cover the specification. In this question there were very few related sources of wisdom used. Guru Granth Sahib 61, Guru Granth Sahib 77 and Guru Grant Sahib 152 were appropriate sources for this question.

## Question 2 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the argument, that is appraised arguments will help candidates gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers for and against, but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment: Bullet point 2.1: 'Sikh response to why justice is important for the victim'.

"Justice is important for victims"

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion

This question was poorly answered with a lack of Sikh teachings.

This candidate achieved Level 1-3 marks.

I agree with the statement "justice is important for victims" because if the victims have been through alot they desene justice and they would properly nor even rest until they do get justice. Sikhs believe justice should be given to the victims but justice don't mean an eye for an eye as most people believe, justice means an ~~eye~~ acceptable punishment for the criminal but never capital punishment. non-religious people might say justice is ~~important for victims~~ because not important for the victims because they should forgive but then sikhs would say forgiveness is important but ~~the~~ the criminal need the right punishment first.



The candidate gained Level 1 because of the following:

- Superficial connections e.g. reason and development linked to statement. Either for or against the statement or both.
- Limited range of elements in the question e.g. They have only met one or two of the requirements of the question.
- Isolated elements of understanding.
- Judgments generic, weak reasons not supported or justified.
- Conclusion not fully justified or no conclusion.



Do not attempt to point mark (d) answers. The should be read completely and then assessed against the level descriptors to find a best fit.

There is no SPAG on question 2 or 4. SPAG is only assessed on the odd numbered questions 1 and 3.

### Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life. Bullet point 3.7 'Gurpurbs and commemorations;'

The question asked candidates to 'Outline three events celebrated by gurpurbs'.

This candidate achieved 3 marks.

One event celebrated by gurpurbs is Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10<sup>th</sup> guru) martyrdom, celebrating his succession as he created the Khalsa and the '5 beloved ones' (panj pyareh). Another celebration is Guru Nanak's Birthday, as he is the Guru that is the founder of Sikhism. And another event is the Guru Gobind Singh's birthday, and Guru Arjan dev Ji's martyrdom.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Three clear events were outlined

1. Guru Gobind Singh martyrdom.
2. Guru Nanak's birthday.
3. Guru Arjan's martyrdom.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Three separate sentences are a good rule.



### Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life. Bullet point 3.4 ' Nam Japna- Meditating on the name of God.....diverse ways in which the Nam Japna is used in the gurdwara and in Sikh daily life...'

The question asked was 'Explain two ways the Nam Japna is used by Sikhs'.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

This candidate achieved two marks.

- The Naam Japna is used by Sikhs to show how they should meditate on the Lord's name.
- It also reminds them that they should <sup>pray</sup> pray to God and never forget him.



The candidate gave two simple ways.

1. Meditate on the Lord's name
2. Pray to God and never forget

This candidate achieved four marks.

Sikhs use naam japna to meditate and to connect with God. It is a way of getting to God when people don't have time or just want to remember God in a quick way. Another way naam japna is used is to protect and help Sikhs. They do it to help them in something hard they are going to do and also do it to help them get out of something e.g. an argument.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways.

1. It is used to connect with God, developed by setting out a time each day which is a way to remember God.
2. It is used to help and protect, developed by, 'it is used to help them out when in need or to get out of something e.g. an argument'.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

It is useful if the candidate clearly indicates to the examiner that there are two different ways given. This is good practice.

## Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life.

Bullet point 3.5 'Prayer, including reference to the Guru Granth Sahib 305: the nature, role and purpose of prayer in the home and the importance of having different prayers'.

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why it is important for Sikhs to have different prayers.'

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of the (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then, should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development. It does not gain a second mark for the source.

This candidate achieved two marks.

Because in sikhism there is  
alot of things about god  
and holy things. so different  
prayers have different messages  
and meanings. Also because they  
pray 3 times a day, there  
suited for what are they are,  
the one at sunrise, evening and  
before you go to sleep.



One developed reason

1. Different prayers have different meanings developed with, 'they pray 3 times a day .... at sunrise, evening and before you go to sleep'.



Candidates must quote or paraphrase the source of wisdom to gain the mark. We do not expect candidates to know chapter and verse. In this example there is no reference given.

## Question 3 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is '**Evaluate**' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraising the arguments will help candidates to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers with reasons for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life. Bullet point 3.8 'the significance of the Amrit sanskar for Sikh families.....divergent understanding of these ceremonies between khalsa and non-khalsa Sikhs The specification bullet points indicate which questions which might require different Sikh points of view - in this bullet point is says 'refer to different Sikh points of view'.

"All Sikhs should go through the Amrit sanskar."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- refer to different Sikh points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

This candidate achieved a level 2-6 marks plus 3 spag =9 in total.

On the one hand, some Sikhs believe that all Sikhs should go through the Amrit Sanskar because it helps disciples to achieve a greater good, and builds a greater connection with the Gurus and God.

Some Sikhs believe this because by going through the Amrit Sanskar, you are becoming more spiritually mature and aware of your own religion and would have a better understanding of what the meanings behind each shabad and hymns.

On the other hand, most Sikhs believe that not all Sikhs should go through the Amrit Sanskar, because of their own free-will and choice, or maybe it is because they're not ready to go through with the stronger side of religion, as most Sikhs are not Amritdhar, but still follow the faith's religion.

Also, most Sikhs disagree with this statement, because if going through the Amrit Sanskar, not all Sikhs would want to live <sup>as a</sup> strictly Sikh disciple, but could still follow through with the Sikh followings and beliefs.

by being good, to achieve good karma when one would be united ~~with~~ with God, ~~is~~ and by following teachings like the Dharam Yuch, and reconciliation.

In conclusion, I disagree with this statement because not all Sikhs who want to go through with the Amrit Sanchar, have to, as they have their free will and has to have a good conscious about their reasons, and how they one still has to be down to earth and good hearted, towards others.



The candidate gained Level 2 Because of the following:

The candidate gives logical chains of reasoning for both sides of the arguments. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. The candidate is beginning to show evidence of Level 3.

However, the candidate does not attempt to appraise the arguments given or evaluate the arguments and the conclusion offers an attempt at making a judgment, but this is not fully justified.

The candidate meets the demands of the level two descriptor but does not fully meet the level three requirements and is therefore awarded at the lower end of the mark range.

The candidate is awarded 6 marks at the top of the mark range because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

SPAG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because

- The candidate spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy.
- The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.
- The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms as appropriately.



The appraisal of evidence required for the higher marks can come at any point in the answer. Those who provide the best answers give one side of the argument and then use the opposing viewpoint to clearly indicate the weaknesses of the first side.

Marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar are given on 3d. These are worth 3 marks. Candidates should be aware of these marks and be asked to take care with spellings of key words, paragraphs and punctuation.



## Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: Peace and Conflict bullet point 4.8 'Sikh responses to issues surrounding conflict: Sikh teachings and responses to the nature of problems involved in conflict'

The question asked was 'Outline three Sikh responses to the problem caused by conflict'.

This candidate was awarded three marks.

Sikhs respond to conflict by helping the people affected by conflict, also supporting them. Sikhs also try to <sup>provide</sup> shelter to people who are affected by conflict.



The candidate outlined three correct responses.

1. Helping people affected.
2. Supporting people.
3. Providing shelter.



This example illustrates practical responses to the problems caused by conflict.

If bullet points help candidates to remember to give three answers, then they are fine followed by a full sentence.

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: Peace and Conflict, bullet point 4.4 'Sikh attitudes to pacifism: Sikh teachings and responses to the nature and history of pacifism.

The question asked was 'Explain two Sikh teachings about pacifism'. Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

On the whole this question was poorly answered.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

• Sikhs ~~are~~ believe pacifism is one way to obtain peace inside and in the world so that everyone lives together as one and there are no more wars.

• A Sikh should stay pacifist and meditate God and only pick up their sword to defend innocents and to go against injustice when all methods fail it is right pick up the sword.



The candidate gave two developed teachings.

1. To obtain peace in the world developed by, 'so that everyone lives together as one and there are no more wars'.
2. Sikhs should stay pacifist and meditate on God's name developed by, 'only pick up the sword in defence of the innocent'. (1).



Most answers were of a generic nature but some candidates used some Sikh input, as this example illustrates. This is good practice.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

Firstly, most Sikhs are against pacifism as they believe it is important to fight for any injustice because it follows the teaching of the Gurus and the khalsa. However, some Sikhs are for pacifism as they believe that they should always show compassion and never cause harm to people because it goes against the teachings of the Gurus and God.



Another good example of two developed reasons and using Sikh beliefs/teachings, and an alternative view

1. Sikhs are against pacifism as it is important to fight for any injustices developed by, 'it follows the teaching of the Gurus and the khalsa'.
2. Sikhs are for pacifism as they believe that they should show compassion and never cause harm developed by, 'it goes against the teachings of the Gurus and God'.

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section four: Peace and Conflict' bullet point 4.3 ; 'Sikh attitudes to conflict: Sikh teachings and responses to the nature and causes of conflict'.

The question asked was 'Explain two Sikh teachings about conflict.' Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of the (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be related to the reasons given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom'. This must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development and does not gain a second mark for the source.

This candidate achieved 5 marks.

- Sikhs believe they should never have a conflict until every peaceful way has failed. IF everything has failed then "It is righteous to pick up the sword" Gurur~~u~~ Gobind Singh Ji - Dasam Granth.

- Sikhs believe they should only fight in a Dharam Yudh, which is a war for self defence only. They don't believe in humiliating their opponents.



Two developed answers with a source of wisdom

1. Sikhs believe they should never have conflict, developed by, 'until every peaceful way has failed, referenced by, 'if it has failed then, 'it is righteous to pick up the sword'.

2. Sikhs believe they should only fight in a 'Dharam Yudh' developed by 'which is a war for self defence, they do not believe in humiliating the opponent.'



A concise answer is shown in this example with good reference to Sikh teachings.

## Question 4 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement **considering the arguments for and against** and reach a **justified conclusion**. There must be some consideration of the arguments appraising the arguments will help candidates to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers with reasons for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting the candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict: Bullet point 4.7: 'Sikh attitudes to weapons of mass destruction (WMD);.....and the application of ethical theories, such as utilitarianism which supports the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, and Sikh responses to them'..

The question asked was "Sikhs should not support the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction"

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- refer to ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion

On the whole this question was poorly answered with a lack of ethical arguments.

This candidate achieved one mark.

*Sikh don't support the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction because it would harm innocent people for nothing they have done.*



The candidate achieved a level 1- 1 mark.

A very simple response was shown.



Candidates should study the specification and give a variety of responses to the statement including ethical theories.

Candidates should look at the bullet points in the (d) questions so that they can write a correct response. In this case 'refer to Sikh teachings' and refer to relevant ethical arguments.'

## 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 asks for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reasons given is 'considered' or appraised for its value as an argument 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, 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>

