

Examiners' Report  
June 2019

GCSE Religious Studies 1RB0 1G

## 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 2019

Publications Code 1RB0\_1G\_1906\_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Pearson Education Ltd 2019

# Introduction

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Sikhism, its beliefs and teachings on life, specifically within families and with regard to creation.

This approach encourages students to reflect upon the links between beliefs and teachings of Sikhism and the topics of families and creation which are an important part of life today.

There are four sections: Sikh Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Sikh life, and Matters of Life and Death. 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.

Section 1, Sikh beliefs 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. The candidates are beginning to start to critically analyse the statement using various techniques, although there needs to be more chains of reasoning and a justified conclusion in order for candidates to gain the higher levels. 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, Marriage and Family were answered in a generic way. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge to gain the higher marks, although there was some improvement in Sikh information.

Section 3, Living the Sikh Life was on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout. Although there was a lack of source of wisdom in connection to the c question.

Section 4, Matters of Life and Death was answered quite well in relation to A01, however the source of wisdom question lacked Sikh knowledge and sources of wisdom. The A02 question was poorly answered due to lack of knowledge on key issues and a lack of understanding on a specification word 'commodity'.

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

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh beliefs. Bullet point 1.6. '...equality of men and women is important for Sikhs today...'

The question asked was 'outline three ways the equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism.'

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

On the whole this was well answered with candidates including joining of the Khalsa and participating in the langar (sewa).

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)

The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

### Question 1: Sikh Beliefs

1 (a) Outline **three** ways the equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism.

(3)

One way equality is shown in Sikhism is through the Khalsa and how both genders can join. Another way equality is shown is through sewa and how both genders can perform it. Lastly, equality is shown in Sikhism through prayer and how both genders can conduct set prayers (gurbani) in a gurdwara.



The candidate has given 3 correct responses- the khalsa, through sewa and conducting prayers.



It is useful if the candidate shows three separate ways on different lines.

The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

One way equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism is that they are both permitted in the Gurdwara

Another way equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism is that both are able to become Amritdhari

Another way equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism is that they both have to cover their head in the Gurdwara.



A clear response that is set out well.

One way is that they are both allowed to take a part  
in other words be initiated into the Khalsa.

Another way is that they are given equal ~~share~~ respect  
when performing sewa and worshipping God.

Lastly, both men and women share their  
responsibilities in the upbringing of their children.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

See above.

## Question 1 (b)

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 characteristics of God shown in the Mool Mantar'.

This question was well answered and candidates had sound knowledge of the Mool Mantar. Most answered using the qualities of Ik Onkar and Karta Purakh.

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.

The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** characteristics of God shown in the Mool Mantar.

(4)

One characteristic shown in the Mool Mantar is that Waheguru is seen as Ik Onkar, which means there is only one God to be worshipped; this makes Sikhs monotheists.

Another characteristic is that Waheguru is nirvair, which means Waheguru is without hatred and therefore loves everyone equally and will never hate anyone.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate clearly shows two characteristics of God in the Mool Mantar- *ik onkar* and *nirvair*- with development.



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

The candidate was awarded 4 marks.

One characteristic is Ik Oknar meaning God is one.  
This means that God is equal to each and  
everyone because of the divine spark in everyone.

Another characteristic is Ajoarni meaning God is immortal.  
This means he will live forever and his presence  
will never disappear. His teachings will always be  
important.



The candidate has given two developed answers.



The candidate was awarded two marks.

One characteristic of God shown in the Mool Mantar is that he believes in equality. He doesn't think anyone should be discriminated against because of gender, age or race.

Another characteristic of God shown in the Mool Mantar is that he is the only God. This means all worship / prayers should be directed to him as he is the only Waheguru.



The candidate gave one developed reason; however the first point is not related to the Mool Mantar and is not credit worthy.

The candidate achieved 3 marks.

(b) Explain **two** characteristics of God shown in the Mool Mantar.

Truthful - oneness  
- creator. (4)

One characteristic of God shown in the Mool Mantar (The mainchant) is that God is a "creator" of the universe and is powerful and brave.

Another characteristic is oneness



The candidate has given one developed point and one simple point.

## **Question 1 (c)**

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Sikh Beliefs. Bullet point 1.4 '...How and why karma is important for Sikh life today.'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why karma is important for Sikhs'.

Candidates had sound knowledge of karma and some struggled with the source of wisdom, however a lot of candidates used a paraphrase of 'karma is like a robe', which is credit worthy.

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 'Bible' or 'Christian teaching'.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Guru Granth Sahib 15) 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.

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why karma is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

One reason is that the karma acquired in one lifetime will determine whether ~~we~~ whether a Sikh's reincarnation will be positive – as a human or negative – as an insect. It is significant that Sikhs aim to be reborn as humans to do good actions and become ~~a~~ gurmukh (god-centred) as the Guru Granth Sahib states "the gurmukh embraces love from the lord", to show devotion to Waheguru.

Another reason is to accumulate as much good karma over multiple rebirths by following the virtues to ultimately break free from the cycle of samsara and reach mukti to reunite with Waheguru.



The candidate gave two developed answers with an appropriate source of wisdom.

Reason one, karma will determine whether a Sikhs reincarnation will be positive or negative developed by: It is significant that they are reborn to become humans to become gurmukh, referenced by 'the gurmukh embraces love from the Lord'.

Reason two, to accumulate good karma over multiple births developed by, to break free from the cycle of samsara and achieve mukti.

The candidate has achieved 4 marks

One reason karma is important is because it ties in to achieving Mukti. Mukti is the aim of all Sikhs, to become a Gurmukh and achieve Mukti which breaks the cycle of reincarnation. All of the Gurus were Gurmukhs and ~~therefore~~ therefore achieved Mukti therefore karma is essential to achieving their goal. The story of Guru Gobind Singh and the 5 sacrifices, those men were willing to give their life for their religion therefore they achieved good karma. This shows why karma is important to Sikhs because it is essential in order to achieve <sup>one of</sup> the religions main goals. Another reason karma is important is because other things they do for religion gains them good karma, for example Sewa which means to help others or selfless service, in Sikhism many Sikhs give back to others or help and take part in charity therefore achieving good karma. This shows karma is important because it is incorporated in many other Sikh activities or doings.



The candidate has given two developed reasons with no source of wisdom.

Reason one, helps achieve mukti developed by, to become gurmukh and break the cycle of reincarnation.

Reason two, serving others help to bring good karma developed by, helps Sikhs give back to others and help take part in charity.



Some students attempted to force a source of wisdom that they had learned into every answer. This often meant they did not answer the question at all. The reference needs to be part of the answer.

## 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 which will help to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against but not analysing or evaluating them. Still some candidates used formulas and writing frames which 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 1.4. 'Divergent understandings of how and why mukti are important for Sikh life today.'

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

"Achieving mukti is the main aim of all Sikhs"

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Candidates overall achieved level 2 and some candidates achieved level 3, they failed to deconstruct religious information and critically analyse the statement throughout. Generic answers were given, and Sikh key words were limited. Those who achieved the higher level 2 or at times level 3 analysed why achieving mukti is the main aim for all Sikhs in more detail using key terms of gurmukh and samsara and fairly good analysis. This however was quite limited and logical chains of reasoning throughout would benefit the candidates to achieve higher levels.

The candidate gains 10 marks in total. The candidate has reached level 3 and was awarded 7 marks and then given 3 marks for SPAG.

\*(d) "Achieving mukti is the main aim of all Sikhs."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Yes  
Gurus

— muktik enlightened  
Sangat  
eternal peace

(15)

I agree as it has been taught to Sikhs in their beliefs that their ultimate goal is to reunite their divine spark with Waheguru.

All Sikhs believe their purpose in life is to achieve mukti — liberation from the cycle of samsara. This is emphasised by the Guru Granth Sahib which states that the "Lord's light is within all" and that "within each and every heart the divine spark is contained" this indicates that Waheguru has infused a part of him within everyone and thus provided them the chance to be gurmukh and eventually reunite the divine spark with Waheguru — this is a strong argument as it is the main and basic Sikh teaching.

The Guru Granth Sahib also encourages Sikhs to "join the sat sangat... and find the Lord," which strongly supports my argument as this encourages Sikhs to stay in good company and acquire guidance on their lives to become gurmukh and accumulate good karma and

thus become ~~so~~ closer to Waheguru with each rebirth; to eventually reach mukti and rejoin with Waheguru.

Another argument to support this is that the Guru Granth Sahib states that through "selfless service, eternal peace is obtained" and this is a metaphor for an eternal afterlife with ~~god~~<sup>God</sup>, this selfless service is known as sewa and is done by Sikhs to benefit others, which ~~makes~~<sup>aids</sup> them <sup>being</sup> gurmukh and thus ~~be~~ helps them become closer to God and eventually reach mukti. However this can be seen as a weak argument because helping others provide content for ~~the~~ the Sikh carrying out sewa which is a vice - ~~Haumai~~ haumai so Sikhs should only perform sewa to aid others to reach mukti.

\* In conclusion it is a Sikh's main aim to achieve mukti by ~~perg-~~ performing good actions and joining the Sat Sangat to help them achieve this liberation.

\* However an ~~contra~~ opposing argument would be that Guru Nanak aimed for equality by saying ~~the~~ "there is no Hindu, there is no muslim", this shows equality as significant, but this is a weak argument because believing in equality helps Sikhs to be God-centered and thus be gurmukh, to achieve mukti.





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. The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence, this can be seen at the end of the first page but does not continue and the conclusion lacks justification. 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. 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 appropriate.



The candidate has shown a good analysis with chains of reasoning but the counter analysis needs to be more developed to gain a higher mark, and also a fully justified conclusion is required.

The candidate achieved a level one - 3 marks and 3 marks for spag.

I ~~agree~~ agree with the statement as  
mukti is the ultimate aim.

This is because by ~~ach~~ breaking the  
cycle of samsara and achieving mukti,  
Sikhs have gained eternal peace. This  
is a strong argument as it is  
backed up in the Guru Granth  
Sahib.

Another argument can be that if they  
don't want to achieve mukti, why  
do they have good karma. If mukti  
isn't the aim, why do they  
follow the teachings in the Guru  
Granth Sahib or the Rahit Maryada.  
This is also a strong argument  
as ~~the~~ ~~question~~ good karma is  
for mukti.

In conclusion, if mokti isn't the aim, why do they do good karma and mokti being the ultimate aim then is backed up in the Guru Granth Sahib.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 3 marks plus 3 marks for spag. The candidate gained level 1 because.... The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). The arguments for the statement are not underpinned fully by religious beliefs or teachings. There is a simple for and against given. There are no judgements made. The conclusion is not justified. The candidate is awarded 3 marks at the top of the mark range because most of the demands of the level descriptor are met.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

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

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family. Bullet point 2.6 'Sikh teachings about divorce.'

The question asked to 'Outline three Sikh teachings about divorce.'

There was some good answers with candidates identifying reasons for divorce but the majority incorrectly identified the mention of divorce in the Rehit Maryada. Many stated it was not allowed and gave generic answers.

The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about divorce.

(3)

The Rehit Maryada encourages that divorce should not occur unless it is for a loving reason like escaping an abusive <sup>marriage</sup> ~~marriage~~. This is ~~been~~ Another teaching is that divorce should not occur as marriage is the uniting of two souls to one soul. A final teaching is that it is a Sikh's goal to marry and have children to teach their children Sikhism, so divorce should be avoided as it hinders this from occurring.



The candidate gives three sentences explaining Sikh teachings about divorce.

One teaching is the Rehit Maryada encouraging that couples should not divorce unless it involves abuse.

Teaching of 'uniting two souls' so should not divorce.

Aim of marriage is for children, if couples divorce it stops this.

The candidate achieves two marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about divorce.

One teaching is that it shouldn't happen. (3)  
Another teaching is that it should happen  
where there's an abusive relationship.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate has given two correct sentences:

It should not happen.

It should happen if they were in an abusive relationship.

Although the answer is very generic, it is credit worthy.

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family. Bullet point 2.1 'The importance and purpose of marriage'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why marriage is important in Sikh life.'

This question was well answered and most candidates could quote 'one light in two bodies'. There was a great deal of understanding of the importance of marriage.

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, and quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The candidate achieved 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why marriage is important in Sikh life.

(4)

One reason why is that it unites two souls into one and ~~there~~ therefore allows Sikhs to develop their spiritual relationship to Waheguru, and aid them to reach mukti and reunite with Waheguru.

Another reason is that ~~it~~ it allows a couple to conceive children, which is a Sikh's significant goal to allow them to teach Sikhism to their children and keep Sikhism eternal ~~the~~ through many generations.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed answers.

Marriage 'unites two souls' developed by: develops their spiritual relationships with Waheguru.

Marriage allows to conceive children developed by, keeps the religion going.

The candidate achieved two marks.

One reason why marriage is important in Sikhism is because it unites two souls. ~~This helps~~ This helps them get good karma and achieve mukti.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave one developed reason.

Marriage unites two souls developed by, helps them achieve mukti.

The candidate achieved 4 marks.

Marriage is important because all of the Gurus were married meaning Sikhs would look up to that and try to achieve it. This can give them good karma and lead to mukti.

Another reason why it's important is because it brings two souls together as well as two families. This is important because Guru Amar Das said this meaning that Sikhs should want to follow it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed reasons:

Marriage is important as the Gurus were married developed by, Sikhs look up to that and try to achieve it.

Brings two souls together, as well as two families developed by, said by Guru Amar Das and therefore important.



The candidate achieved 4 marks

One reason why marriage is important in Sikh life is that it connects two families together. Marriage ~~connects~~ makes a bond for one another and the two families involved become one.

Another reason why marriage is important for Sikhs is so ~~the~~ a family can be started. The majority of Sikhs are against pre-marital sex, so when married, a family can be started.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed reasons

Connects two families developed by, makes a bond

Family can be started within marriage developed by, sex before marriage is not allowed.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family. Bullet point 2.4 'Support for the family in the Sikh community'

The question asked was 'Explain two reasons why the Sikh community tries to support families.' In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Candidates who read the question achieved good marks, but some candidates gave examples of 'how' Sikhs help families and not 'why'.

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Sikh community tries to support families.

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

(5)

One reason is to provide Sikh families with guidance to aid them to become gurmukhs and reach mukhi by experiencing good rebirths. This is significant as this is a Sikh's ultimate goal and therefore the Sikh community should help Sikhs achieve this.

Another reason is through the Sat sargad which supports families through things like marriage counselling to help families avoid divorce to enable them to have children and teach them Sikhism because "It is a Sikh's duty to get his children educated in Sikhism" (stated in the Guru Granth Sahib), so it reveals it is important to help families reunite with God and in that way reflect one of the vices - Love (compassion).



The candidate gave two developed reasons with a source of authority.

Want to provide families with guidance developed by, can help them become gurmukh more quickly.

Sat sangat will try to provide families with counselling to avoid divorce and enable them to have children referenced by, 'a Sikhs duty to educate the children in Sikhism' developed by, important to have children to help unite with God.

This is an alternative answer and is credit worthy.

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

one reason why the community tries to support families is to help maintain and keep the community stable. through the sangat families can get together (set sangat → true congregation) and spend time with each other. this is important as sikhs see themselves as a whole family as "the lord infused his light into you" meaning there is a part of god in everyone so we are all one a family.

Another reason is because sikhs say that when marriage the ~~is~~ "one soul in two bodies" therefore the community should help maintain this by helping a family to try and go through a hard time, like conceiving a divorce.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed reasons with a source of wisdom.

Supports the family to keep the community stable developed by: so they can spend time together like a family referenced by, 'the Lord infused His light into you'.

Marriage is like 'two souls in one body' developed by, therefore the community should maintain this especially if they are going through a hard time.

A well-developed answer with two sources of wisdom but only one is credit worthy.

## 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 arguments (appraise the arguments 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 students' 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: Marriage and the Family: Bullet point 2.7: '...Divergent Sikh beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the role of men and women in the family.'

"Men and women do not have equal roles in the family". 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

The answers gave a lack of Sikh teachings and divergent views. There were a lot of references to culture and stereotypes. Many were able to highlight the importance of equality for women in Sikhism but unfortunately at times this did not answer the question directly. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

The candidate reached level 3 and was awarded 7 marks.

(d) "Men and women do not have equal roles in the family."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

<sup>RDA</sup> Amar Das

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- refer to different Sikh points of view — culture — women stay at home
- reach a justified conclusion.

From her legs  
are born

(12)

I disagree as many Sikhs believe ~~women~~ women have a slightly more significant role in the family as mothers. However both men and women have the goal of teaching their children Sikhism.

One argument to support this is that the Guru Granth Sahib states that "it is a Sikh's duty to get his children educated in Sikhism" and this alludes that it is the responsibility of both parents to reach the goal of having children to teach them ~~and~~ Sikhism and so keep the religion alive throughout generations, which makes this a strong argument.

Another argument for is that Guru Amar Das rejected the practice of Sati (widow burning), in addition to <sup>pardah</sup> ~~at~~ ~~practices~~ (wearing a veil) and female infanticide. This shows that Sikhs should aim to provide their children with love and care from both parents as they should have equal roles in the family, Guru <sup>Amar</sup> ~~Raman~~ Das' rejection of Sati reveals that both mothers and fathers are <sup>equally</sup> significant in families, making this a strong argument.

However an argument against this is that the Guru Granth Sahib states that "from her kings are born", revealing that women could be seen as most significant in a family due to their role of giving birth. However this is a weak argument as conception is not possible without men, alluding that both men and women equally create a family to teach Sikhism and fulfill their purpose of keeping the Sikh faith alive through generations.

In conclusion, both men and women do have equal roles in the family as both parents should teach their children Sikhism; Guru Amar Das' actions of rejecting sati also reveals that both men and women are necessary to fulfill equal roles in an ideal Sikh family.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

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. The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence. This can be seen at the end the first page but does not continue and the conclusion lacks justification. 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.

This just tips into level 3.



There is no spag marks in this question



The candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 2 marks.

many people would agree with this statement as in India women are still expected to remain uneducated as they have to stay at home to cook and clean after the men and children. However in more modernised countries such as United Kingdom women have a chance to get educated to work and share household roles with the men.

However some people may disagree as they feel that women may cook and clean but, they men provide financially to buy things for their family.

Overall I partially agree with this statement as some women <sup>and</sup> ~~&~~ men are equally treated and some aren't due to old traditions that they have been taught during their upbringing. Also in modernised countries men and women respect Guru Nanak ji. So they follow his teaching of 'everybody is equal' which shows he don't believe there should be any difference between genders as there life should be about become gurmukh to achieve mukti not become gender ~~stere~~ stereotypes in society as there kids will be taught this and this in-equality cycle will be continued.



The candidate gained level 1 because.... The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). The arguments for the statement are not underpinned by religious beliefs or teachings. There is a simple for and against given. There are no judgements made. The conclusion is not justified.



Do not attempt to point mark d answers. They 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 3.3 '... the significance of langar for Sikhs today, especially as an expression of sewa.'

The question asked to 'Outline three ways the langar shows sewa.'

This was well answered with candidates mainly using the Sikh beliefs of tan, dhan and man sewa.

The candidate achieved three marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways the langar shows sewa. (3)

~~One way is~~  
people are all equal and eat together.  
Another way is people can help cook the food for everyone. Another way is people can help clean the kitchen after it is done. The final way is people can help clean the actual eating room.



The candidate wrote three practical ways of showing sewa in the langar:

Help cook the food for everyone.

Help clean the kitchen.

Help clean the eating area.

The candidate achieved three marks.

one way the langar shows sewa is by tan which  
is physical service. Another way dhan which is material.  
Final way man which is material.



The candidate has given three ways langar shows sewa:

Tan which is physical service, dhan which is material service, and man.

Even though the candidate has got man meaning incorrectly they do show the three types of sewa that can be used in the langar, which is credit worthy.

The candidate achieved two marks.

One way the langar shows sewa is that it is  
TAN sewa.

Another way the langar shows is that it is  
MAN sewa.



The candidate has given two correct ways:

One way the langar shows sewa is tan sewa.

Another way the langar shows is that man is sewa.



Always use full sentences to achieve the marks; a correct list is only worth one mark.

### Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life. Bullet point 3.5 '...role and purpose of prayer in the home.'

The question asked to 'Explain two ways Sikhs might pray at home'. The question was well answered and there was a good use of key Sikh technical terms.

The candidate achieved two marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways Sikhs might pray at home.

(4)

One way a Sikh may pray at home is by taking a copy of the Holy book placing it on a raised platform and pray to it.

Another way they may pray at home is by reciting the hymns in private to feel closer to God.



The candidate gave one developed way:

Recited the hymns in private developed by, to feel closer to God.

The first way is incorrect.

The candidate has achieved four marks.

One way a Sikh may pray at home is through Japji. This is a prayer written by the Guru Nanak and can be recited anywhere. This will make a Sikh feel closer to God.

Another way a Sikh may pray at home is <sup>through</sup> sohila. This is a prayer said before going to sleep. Through the prayers at different points in the day, it would make a Sikh remember God at all times.



The candidate has given two developed ways:

One way they can pray at home is through Japji developed by, can be recited anywhere and help them feel closer to God

Another way is through sohilla developed by this is a prayer that is said before going to sleep.

The candidate has given extra information and used key prayers. A good answer.

The candidate achieved four marks.

Sikhs could pray through meditating on God's name (Naam Japna). This shows they are God centred and aren't manmukh as they aren't being selfish or focusing on themselves.

Sikhs could pray through ~~singing~~ their prayer book. Many Sikhs have a prayer book at home to help them focus on their prayers and direct them towards what they should pray about.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed answers:

Pray meditating on God's name developed by, makes them more God centred.

Pray through prayer books developed by, helps them focus.



### Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Sikh Life. Bullet point 3.2 '...the role and importance of the gurdwara in the Sikh community.'

The question asked was to ' Explain two reasons why the gurdwara is important within the Sikh community'. The question was well answered and there was a good use of key Sikh technical terms, although there was a lack of appropriate sources of wisdom.

The candidate achieved two marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the gurdwara is important within the Sikh community.

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

(5)  
The Gurdwara is important in the Sikh community because is someone somewhere everyone can go and know they are equal women, man and child, things such as the langar which Guru Nanak made give everyone a chance to be equal and come together bringing the community together.

Another reason it is important



The candidate gave one developed answer with no source of wisdom.

The gurdwara is a place where all the community are equal developed by: through the langar.

The candidate has achieved 5 marks.

The gurdwara is significant within the Sikh community because it <sup>holds the Guru Granth Sahib, the</sup> 'the eternal Guru' which allows future generations of Sikhs to be educated with clarity and give them strong faith so it is important to allow Sikhs to gather and learn about Waheguru to strengthen their bond with Waheguru.

Another reason is because a gurdwara has four doors to reflect that it is open to people from all four corners of the world. This reminds Sikhs of the importance of equality that Guru Nanak preached by saying "there is no Hindu, there is no Muslim"



The candidate has given two developed reasons with a source of wisdom:

The gurdwara holds the Guru Granth Sahib developed by, everyone can be educated.

The gurdwara can have four doors to enter developed by, everyone is welcome referenced by 'there is no Hindu, there is no Muslim.'

The candidate achieved two marks.

One reason why the gurdwara is important within the Sikh community is because it is where the guru granth is placed and it ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ by a thing chauri. Also you can give langar out to people.

Another reason is ~~they~~ they get sugared water called Amrit as holy water and it is a place where sikhs can ask ~~for~~ ~~their~~ help for their problems.



The candidate gave two simple reasons.

It is where the Guru Granth Sahib is

Give langar out to people

The rest is not credit worthy as the candidate has already scored marks and is incorrect.

### **Question 3 (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, it must show appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them well. 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 Three: Living the Sikh Life: Bullet point 3.7: Gurburbs and commemorations'.

"Sikhs should celebrate all of the gurburbs". Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

The answers generally gave a lack of Sikh teachings. There were a lot of references to specific gurburbs, but in some cases they wrote about Divali being a gurburb, which is incorrect. Many were able to highlight the main gurburbs but there was a general lack of another view which could have been analysed well. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

The candidate achieved level 2- Six marks and three for spag.

\*(d) "Sikhs should celebrate all of the gurburbs."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I agree as gurburbs celebrate the birth or death of a guru, which reminds Sikhs of the Guru's achievements, teachings or sacrifices.

One important ~~gurb~~ gurburb all Sikhs should celebrate is the celebration of Guru Arjan's death; Guru Arjan was the first martyr who refused to give up his Sikh faith and was tortured for five days, Guru Arjan ~~recited~~ recited ~~the~~ nam japna in the river Ravi. This ~~gurburb~~ gurburb reminds Sikhs of the importance of worshipping Waheguru and reciting nam japna as well as other japji to develop their relationship to Waheguru and to thus aid them to reach mukhi and eventually ~~the~~ eventually reunite with Waheguru — their ultimate aim. This makes this a strong argument as gurburbs allow Sikh to remember <sup>the significance of</sup> their devotion to God.

Another significant gurburb is ~~the~~ the celebration of the birth of Guru Nanak, this is very significant as Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhism, nam japna and the

the langar, which are all believed to be created by him after he was enlightened by Waheguru. This is a strong argument as this gurburb allows Sikhs to celebrate the origins of their faith as well as key beliefs from Guru Nanak ~~the~~ such as equality <sup>as</sup> he says "there is no Hindu, there is no Muslim".

However Sikhs could also say that not all gurburbs need to be celebrated but instead only the main gurburbs <sup>and perform things like sewa</sup> as these reflect <sup>the</sup> key - Sikh ideas that Sikhs require to be gurmukh and reach mukti. However this <sup>is</sup> a weak argument because all gurburbs are significant as they reflect what each of the ten gurus did to show their faith and also reveals where some things like langar and sewa originate from, so all gurburbs should be celebrated to remind all Sikhs of all key aspects of Sikhism and Waheguru.

In conclusion all gurburbs should be celebrated as they all reflect key Sikh beliefs and thus provide Sikhs with guidance and aids them to reach mukti and reunite with Waheguru.



The candidate gained level 2 because....The candidate gives logical chains of reasoning for both sides of the arguments. These are underpinned by an accurate understanding of religion and belief. Beginning to show a little 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 has not fully met the level three requirements. 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.



In the d questions candidates need to show knowledge but also give analysis to back up their knowledge. This sample is a clear example of A01 but needs more A02.

The candidate achieved a level 1-3 marks and 3 for spag.

~~Start~~ I agree with the statement because gorpurbs celebrate the Guru's life.

Gorpurbs are usually when celebrating something the Vaisakhi, which is celebrating the Khanda. It helps them have good reincarnation and eventually Mukti.

Strong argument as Mukti is good.

Celebrating the birth/death or martyrdom of the Gurus can help Sikhs understand that how they lived ~~and~~ <sup>there</sup> their lives and improve their own. This will help them live a ~~deception~~ being gurmukh. Strong argument

In conclusion, Sikhs should celebrate gorpurbs as it can help them become gurmukh and achieve mukti.





The candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 3 marks. The candidate gained level 1 because.... The knowledge and understanding are isolated (superficial). The arguments for the statement are not underpinned by religious beliefs or teachings. There is a simple for and against given. There are no judgements made. The conclusion is not justified. The candidate is awarded 3 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.

## Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death. Bullet point 4.8 'Sikh responses to threats to the world.'

The question asked was to 'Outline three responses to threats to the natural world'. The question was well answered and there were some good responses to the threats shown to the natural world.

The candidate achieved 3 marks.

**4 (a) Outline three Sikh responses to threats to the natural world.**

(3)

Sikhs are against animal testing and think it is not right to harm anything which God has created. They go against deforestation or the destruction of habitats thinking everything has the divine spark in it so it's there for a reason.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave three correct responses:

Against animal testing

Against deforestation

Against destruction of habitats

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death. Bullet point 4.5 'Sikh responses to the existence of life after death.'

The question asked to 'Explain two Sikh teachings that support the existence of life after death'. The question was well answered and there were some good teachings in relation to life after death.

The candidate achieved 2 marks.

one Sikh teaching that support the existence of life after death is that it is a continuous samsara cycle and will not be able to leave unless they do good deed and this will make them be able to get closer to God.



The candidate gave one developed teaching:

There will be a continual samsara developed by, unless they do a good deed to be able to get closer to God

The candidate achieved 2 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings that support the existence of life after death.

(4)

One teaching is that we go through reincarnation, and that we're born into a new body. Sikhs get judged on their karma, good or bad, that they've achieved ~~through~~ throughout their lives.

Another teaching<sup>ing</sup> is the idea of the paranormal. Most Sikhs agree that there is a paranormal existence ~~in every~~ showing that there is a life after death.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave one developed reason:

Go through reincarnation developed by, judged on their karma.

The rest of the answer is incorrect.

The candidate achieved 4 marks.

One Sikh teaching that supports the existence of life after death is the teaching of belief in reincarnation. Sikhs believe that when we die we are either reincarnated into one of the 8.4 million life forms or we reach liberation. Moreover, another Sikh teaching that supports the existence of life after death is the teaching of Mukti. Reaching liberation with God suggests that there is a good life after death for humans.



The candidate has given two developed teachings:

Teachings of reincarnation developed by 8.4 million life forms.

Teaching of mukti (liberation with God) developed by, will have a good life after death.

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Matters of Life and Death. Bullet point 4.3 'Sikh responses to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life.'

The question asked was to 'Explain two ways Sikh respond to non-religious arguments about the origins of human life'. The question was poorly answered with a small percentage achieving full marks; there was a lack of sources of wisdom.

The candidate achieved 4 marks.

- (c) Explain **two** ways Sikhs respond to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life.

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

(5)

One ways Sikhs respond is they acknowledge theorys such as the big bang but say it was wahaguru who caused it. The Sikh faith has no creation story as such but rather states whata gura created ~~et~~ life and put the devine spark in everything therefore he caused all creation



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways but no source of wisdom.

Sikhs respond as they acknowledge the Big Bang theory developed by, because Waheguru caused it.

There is no Sikh creation story developed by, but God created the divine spark of life.



Candidates must be prepared for the whole breadth and depth of the specification in order to achieve higher grades.

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

One way is that ~~sa~~ Sikhs agree with ~~some~~ non-religious explanations by saying that Waheguru "expanded his expansion" and created the world and human life because it was Waheguru's hukam (divine will). Sikhs say Waheguru created human life due to his hukam and support theories explaining how ~~the~~ human life was created.

Another ~~teaching~~ response is that they agree as some non-religious, scientific theories are logical but justify the creations by saying Waheguru is Karta Purakh and therefore created ~~the~~ human life because it was ~~to~~ his hukam.



The candidate gave two developed reasons with a source of wisdom.

Respond by saying Waheguru created the world referenced by, 'expanded his expansion' developed by, it was Wahegurus hukam (divine will).

Sikhs agree with the scientific theories as they are logical developed by, however God created it 'Karta Purakh'.

The candidate achieved 0 marks.

One way sikhs respond to non-religious explanations about the origins of human life is that ~~they~~ they in a ~~cycle~~ samsara cycle and to leave it they have to achieve mukti and become manmukh so they become closer to god and leave the suffering in that cycle.



The information written does not relate to the question.



The candidate achieved 0 marks.

Sikhs respond to humanist views about the origins of human life. They have predicted this from a mutation from previous generations where a cell or chromosome has adapted which causes them to have a different characteristics which has lead upto who we are now. Also they believe we have evolved from ~~apes~~<sup>apes</sup> to humans. Sikhs believe that wahguru had just created the world in 6 days and they have no evidence to back this up whereas ~~scietists~~ scientists have charles Darwin's theory of us evolving from monkeys.



The candidate, although has written a paragraph it does not relate to the question.

## 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 argument, and appraisal is used throughout to gain higher levels. 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 Four: Matters of Life and Death: Bullet point 4.1: '...responses to the possible view that the universe may be used as a commodity.' 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

The answers gave a lack of Sikh teachings and divergent views. A large percentage of candidates failed to score due to lack of understanding, and there were a lot of blank pages. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

The candidate achieved a level 3- 7 marks.

(d) "The universe should not be regarded as a commodity."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

Har Rai

In your response you should:

illusion

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

(12)

I agree as most Sikhs would explain the universe as ~~an opportunity~~ Waheguru's creation meaning they should respect it.

Many Sikhs say Waheguru "expanded his expansion" due to his hukam and that he "pervades within the sky... and the world", so many Sikhs believe they should look after the universe and avoid regarding it as a commodity because Waheguru is present within all aspects of the universe. This makes this a strong argument as it encourages Sikhs to care for and respect the universe.

Another reason to support this ~~argument~~ argument is that Guru Har Rai reflected the importance of the universe because he encouraged stewardship — which is the act of preserving the universe and in particular the environment ~~because~~ on behalf of Waheguru. This makes this a strong argument as this encourages Sikhs to respect the universe ~~and~~ both for future generations as well as for Waheguru as it is his creation.

However a reason opposing this argument would be that Sikhs are ~~all~~ also taught to believe their life ~~is~~ on the earth is an illusion to allow them to accumulate good karma to achieve mukhi to reunite with Waheguru. However this is a weak argument because Sikhs will need to respect and care for the universe to allow future Sikhs ~~as well as~~ to accumulate good karma to reunite with Waheguru.

In conclusion Sikhs should not see the universe as a commodity and should instead respect it and care for it as it is Waheguru's creation.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

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. The candidate is starting to make judgements supported by some appraisal of the evidence, the arguments given, and the conclusion lacks justification.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be aware of all the technical terms in the specification.

The candidate achieved 0 marks.

I agree with the statement.

Siths have no creation stories in the Guru Granth Sahib assuming that the earth could be a commodity

Siths can agree with the Big Bang as it ~~is~~ could be ~~God's~~ (God's will)!

However, Scientists say it was accidental. Weak argument because Scientists ~~know~~ don't exactly know.

Also, scientists have not found any evidence of God. This is a strong argument as why would anyone believe in someone they haven't seen -

To counter this strong argument,  
Sikhs believe that God is  
separate from the universe. This  
provides an explanation for the  
point I mention.

In conclusion, the universe  
shouldn't be regarded  
as a commodity.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Although the candidate has attempted to answer the question it is incorrect.

## 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) questions use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in question (c) must be relevant to the question and support the reason given.
- The (d) questions ask 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) questions, the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer.
- Understand all key words on specification.

## 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>





