

Examiners' Report  
June 2019

GCSE Religious Studies 1RB0 3G

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# Introduction

This paper focuses on Sikhism and the following four sections: Sikh beliefs, philosophy of religion, living the Sikh life and equality. 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: Questions relating to the topic of Sikh beliefs were on the whole answered well by candidates, with sound knowledge displayed and key Sikh terms used throughout, especially in the AO1 questions. The AO2 questions were not answered in as much depth as required, although candidates appeared to have the necessary knowledge. Candidates are beginning to critically analyse the statement using various techniques; although there needs to be more strands of reasoning and a justified conclusion in order for candidates to gain the higher levels. Candidates should compare and contrast ethical issues within Sikhism and also consider non-religious views when prompted. Additionally, candidates should look at divergent views within Sikhism, in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Section 2: Philosophy of religion questions tended to be answered in a generic way. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge in order to gain the higher marks; although there was some improvement in the knowledge and terms used compared to previous series.

Section 3: Living the Sikh life questions were on the whole answered successfully, with sound knowledge expressed and key Sikh terms used throughout. Although few candidates used sources of wisdom/authority in connection to the (c) questions.

Section 4: The equality questions were answered quite well in relation to A01, however, candidates again did not reference the source of wisdom/authority sufficiently and lacked Sikh knowledge. Candidates struggled with the A02 question, lacking knowledge on key issues including prejudice and discrimination in relation to Sikh teachings as well as other ethical arguments.

Sources of wisdom must be used where prompted and should be related to the question asked.

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on section one: Sikh beliefs, specifically bullet point 1.2. '...the nature and importance of God as creator.'

Candidates are asked to 'outline' on (a) items and therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark. Any further development is not required.

Candidates are advised to write three different points, in three different sentences. One mark is awarded for each sentence identifying one correct piece of information.

On the whole this question was quite well answered, with candidates including the key terms of Karta Purakh and Mool Mantar, but some failed to appreciate why believing in God is the creator is important and just wrote generic answers about God creating the universe.

This candidate has achieved 1 mark.

1 (a) Outline **three** reasons why believing God is the Creator is important for Sikhs.

(3)

Sikhs believe in the mool mantar. In the mool mantar it states that God is the creator. Sikhs believe in one God. Sikhs believe that God is omnipotent. Sikh believe that God is omnibenevolent.



The candidate gave one reason: Sikhs believe in the mool mantar, it states that God is the creator (1).

The rest of the answer does not relate to the question.

This candidate achieved three marks.

Enhances faith that God is real.  
Shows God is Omnipotent.  
Shows God is beyond the  
Laws of science.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined three reasons:

1. Enhances faith that God is real (1).
2. Shows God is omnipotent (1).
3. Shows God is beyond the laws of science (1).



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should separate the reasons, as it then makes it clear that three reasons are given.

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on section one: Sikh beliefs, specifically bullet point 1.8. '....problems for Sikhs living without a sangat'.

This question was answered well and candidates had clear knowledge of the importance of the sangat within the Sikh community.

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' ways, reasons, etc, on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote, or examples. The development must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why living without a sangat might cause problems for Sikhs.

(4)

one reason why living without a sangat may cause problems for sikhs is that it doesn't allow them to pray as a sangat and praying as a sangat is important because 'God resides within a sangat'.

Another reason why it may cause problems is because it may stop sikhs from doing sewa such as preparing langar which can't be done as there's no sangat to offer it to. living without a sangat may then reduce the belief in God and cause problems in belief of sikhism.



The candidate gave two developed reasons:

1. If there were no sangat Sikhs, there would be no sangat prayer (1), developed by God resides within the sangat (1).
2. May stop Sikhs doing sewa (1), developed by, eg the langar (1).

## **Question 1 (c)**

Candidates were assessed on section one: Sikh beliefs, specifically bullet point 1.1 '.. why the Mool Mantar is significant for Sikhs.'

Candidates had sound knowledge of the Mool Mantar and clearly understood its importance.

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' ways, reasons, etc, on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information and must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

Reasons 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.

The following is advice for centres as to what constitutes a source of wisdom:

- 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 gives the paraphrase and then puts (Guru Granth Sahib 15) in brackets, the paraphrase will gain the mark and the bracketed reference will be 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.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Mool Mantar is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

The Mool Mantar is important to Sikhs as it shows God is the creator. This is also shown as "Karta purakh" - meaning creator, therefore it gives proof to Sikhs that God created the world. Also Mool Mantar describes God as being "without fear, without hate" therefore God loves all of his creations equally meaning we all have an equal chance of getting attaining Mukti.



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

1. The Mool Mantar shows that God is the creator (1), reference to Karta Purakh (1) and further developed by, therefore, there is living proof that God created the world (1).
2. Describes God as a being 'without fear, without hate' (1), developed by, therefore, God loves us all equally.



This candidate achieved two marks.

~~Mool~~ <sup>mool</sup> Mantra is important (5)  
for Sikhs because it  
gives them a better relationship  
with ~~God~~ God. ~~show~~  
It gives them guidance.  
~~It~~ removes all their  
sins helps them  
have better ~~and~~ future



The candidate gave 2 simple reasons with no source of wisdom:

1. Gives Sikhs a better relationship with God (1).
2. Gives guidance (1).

## Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. 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, therefore, 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 then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted candidates' progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on section one: Sikh beliefs, specifically bullet point 1.6. '.....how and why complete equality of men and women is important for Sikhs today.'

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

Most candidates achieved level 2 and some candidates achieved level 3. Many candidates failed to deconstruct religious information and critically analyse the statement throughout. Generic answers were given, and Sikh key words were limited. Those who achieved higher level 2 or level 3 analysed the equality of men and women in Sikhism with excellent sources of wisdom to support their points. Candidates are advised to extend their analysis, use sources of wisdom and provide logical chains of reasoning throughout in order to achieve the higher levels.

This candidate achieved 6 marks in total. The candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 3 marks plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

**\*(d) "Men and women are equal in every way in Sikhism."**

**Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.**

**In your response you should:**

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

**(15)**

From history we can see that Guru Nanak dev ji was the first Guru who tried to abolish sexism and through time, ~~the~~ women have shown themselves to be very important. Such as Mai Bago, she went into ~~battle~~ ~~with~~ with other women as their husbands

left guru Gobind Singh. Mata Gujri put patase (sugar crystals) in the Amrit. Guru Granth Sahib teaches us equality. From a woman mas is born. However it could be argued that no, women still don't have the same equality as men. For example there are no ~~fewer~~ female Gurus and the day Guru Gobind Singh ji ~~was~~ picked the panj payare there were no females in the crown and in the modern day period women cannot do seva in the Golden temple.

In conclusion women do have more rights than they did before Guru Nanak dev ji however there are still some aspects that need to be overlooked.



The candidate gained level 1 because:

- The knowledge and understanding is 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.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar 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.



There are many ways a candidate can successfully match the level descriptors.

It was clear in this years marking that many centres are using writing frames. Unfortunately, many of the candidates were so intent on 'filling the gaps' on the frame or completing sentence starters, they did not answer the question. The starters of: for, against, moreover, furthermore, this is a strong argument because, this is a weak argument because, often undermined the information candidates tried to present and prevented the appraisal being robust enough.

This candidate achieved 8 marks in total. The candidate reached level 2 and gained 5 marks plus 3 for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Many Sikhs would argue that men and women are equal in every way in Sikhism. This is because the Guru Granth Sahib Ji teaches Sikhs to "recognise the human race as one". This shows that both genders are equal, as they have both been created by God, and so both have equal value. It also shows that humans are equal as they all have the divine spark of God within them and so they are of equal <sup>value</sup> in the eyes of God.

However, some Sikhs could argue that in the past, men and women have not always been shown to be equal. This is because the 10 living Gurus of Sikhism were all male Gurus. This suggests that only God gave men those <sup>important</sup> ~~part~~ roles, suggesting women are inferior to men. Therefore, these Sikhs would argue that men and women are not equal in every way.

Furthermore, Sikhs would argue that men and women are equal in every way because both men and women are allowed to prepare langar, eat the langar and take <sup>to</sup> part and lead worship. This shows that <sup>men and</sup> women have a significant role in all parts of a Sikh life, therefore showing

that men and women are equal in every way. However, in the past, women were not always allowed to become Granthis in the gurdwara. This suggests women were not allowed important spiritual roles, consequently suggesting that they do not have an equal role to men. Therefore, some Sikhs would argue that in certain cases, men and women have ~~not~~ not been shown to be equal.

To conclude, men and women are equal in every way in Sikhism. Although in some cases this has been untrue, ~~but~~ in most cases, both genders have equal roles as they are equal in the eyes of God.



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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.
- The conclusion is not fully justified and is a repeat of the analysis.

It is at the middle of the level range.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar 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 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on section two: philosophy of religion, specifically bullet point 2.8 '.....how a Sikh upbringing provides a basis for belief in God'.

There were some good responses, with candidates clearly understanding why a Sikh upbringing leads to a belief in God, for example, attending the gurdwara with the family, learning important Sikh stories, etc.

This candidate achieved 3 marks.

**2 (a) Outline three ways a Sikh upbringing leads to belief in God.**

(3)

*If the child is going to the Gurdwara to pray.  
Going to Punjabi classes.  
Reading the Guru Granth Sahib J.*



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined three ways:

1. If the child is going to the gurdwara to pray (1).
2. Going to punjabi classes (1).
3. Reading the Guru Granth Sahib (1).

This candidate achieved 1 mark.

2 (a) Outline **three** ways a Sikh upbringing leads to belief in God.

(3)

- Reading Gurbani
- Reciting the Mool Mantar
- Performing seva



The candidate gained 1 mark as this is a list.



Candidates should write in full sentences.



## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on section two: philosophy of religion, specifically bullet point 2.7 '...what the cosmological argument shows about the nature of God...'

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' ways, reasons, etc, on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote, or examples. The development must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

This question was well answered if candidates showed how the cosmological argument relates to the nature of God, for example, 'it shows that God is omnipotent as God is the first cause of the universe', etc.

This candidate gained 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** things the cosmological argument <sup>- causes of causes</sup> shows about the nature of God. (4)

one thing it  
Shows is that God is omnipotent. As ~~only~~ God ~~can~~ <sup>has to</sup> be powerful to create the world. AS no one else has the strength or power to create the world except God.

Another thing it shows is that God is all loving. Because God has created ~~so~~ such a beautiful world for humans to live in. therefore he must be all loving.



The candidate gave two developed answers:

1. It shows that God is omnipotent (1), as God is the only one powerful enough to create the world (1).
2. Shows God is all loving (1), as God created such a beautiful world to show his loving nature (1).

This candidate gained 0 marks.

The cosmological argument shows that God created the world and fashioned it for us to live in. Also it argues that the big bang theory is false and the story of God creating the world in 6 days, the seventh day being ~~Monday~~ <sup>Sunday</sup>, the holy day of rest. "You are the creator yourself."



The candidate does not answer the question.



Candidates should clearly understand all of the key concepts in the specification. In this case the cosmological argument and how it shows God's nature.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on section two: philosophy of religion, specifically bullet point 2.2 '...the nature and importance of visions in Sikhism.'

Candidates did not answer this question well and found it difficult to find a relevant source of wisdom that related to visions and the nature of God. Candidates needed to respond using the key words related to God's nature, eg God's omniscience.

This candidate gained 4 marks.

(c) Explain **two** ways visions explain the nature of God.

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

(5)

One way <sup>in which</sup> visions <sup>can</sup> explain the nature of God is by describing the vision a Sikh saw of God. The visions explain that God is all powerful as it goes against the role of science, also showing God's existence.

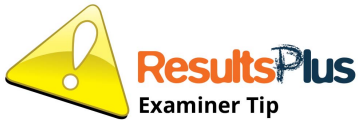
Another way is when Guru Nanak Dev Ji's river experience in which he had a vision of God. This showed that God was all knowing and the creator so God knows everything and this also promotes the belief in God.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways with no reference to a source of wisdom:

1. Visions explain that God is all powerful (1), developed by, as it goes against the laws of science (1).
2. Guru Nanaks river experience was a vision (1), developed by, shows God is all knowing, promoting the belief in God (1).



It is useful to look at this particular part of the specification and fully understand what visions are and how they explain the nature of God in relation to Sikhism.

This candidate achieved 2 marks.

Visions are a type of special revelation. ~~If~~  
~~you see~~ ~~and~~ visions can be dreams, miracles  
and near death experiences. An example  
would be when Guru Nanak went to  
the river and saw a vision. Visions  
could show you that God is omnipotent.  
They ~~can~~ can also show you that  
God is omnibenevolent and is all knowing



The candidate gave two simple ways with no source of wisdom:

1. It shows God is omnipotent (1).
2. It shows that God is omnibenevolent (1).

The rest of the answer is a definition of what visions are and is not credit worthy.

## **Question 2 (d)**

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion, therefore, 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 then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted candidates' progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on section two: philosophy of religion, specifically bullet point 2.2: 'visions/mystical experiences as proof of the existence of God.'

Candidate responses lacked Sikh teachings. There were a lot of references to Guru Nanak's river experience but candidates failed to analyse why it may prove that God exists or an alternative view. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse it. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information, leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The response should give reasoned judgements and answer the question in full.

This candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 3 marks.

(d) "The River Experience proves that God exists."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

The River Experience proves that God exists as Guru Nanak Dev Ji went into the river and hadn't come out after three days when he had ~~imagined~~<sup>mentioned</sup> seeing God and looking at God. However some may argue and say how even if God had been in the river then what if God ~~is~~ if only seen through the prime Sikh beliefs that remember and acknowledge God for everything in life. Also Sikh teachings suggest that if God had ~~be~~ and does exist then no harm in order for God to stop any harm around the world including nature or simple things such as the proof of God in the Gurm Granth Sahib ~~is~~ the Gurm Granth Sahib is the words from God himself.

Even though Sikh teachings say that God exists, the River Experience is the only explanation however some may want proof. This may be in order to be able to justify whether God does really exist.

In conclusion, even if the River Experience is proof and evidence that God does exist even Sikhs may argue that the River Experience isn't the only experience that proves that God does exist, ~~in~~ so despite ~~the~~ the opinion

ce the story that God does exist it need as God  
is with a sign in their daily life therefore if  
anything had happened it's due to God for exam  
mple natural disasters and evil events the event.  
The nicer experience proves God exist.



**Do not** point mark – the level should be decided first using the level descriptors. After a best fit is found award a mark within the level. 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.

### Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on section three: living the Sikh life, specifically bullet point 3.6 '.. how and why Sikhs may take part in the akhand path.'

This question was answered well with many candidates clearly understanding the ways Sikhs may take part in the akhand path, eg listening to it, being read it or actually reading the Guru Granth Sahib.

This candidate gained three marks.

**3 (a) Outline three reasons why Sikhs might take part in an akhand path.**

**(3)**

It helps connect to God.

It helps them concentrate on God.

It helps them relax and focus.



The candidate outlined 3 reasons:

1. It helps connect to God (1).
2. It helps them concentrate on God (1).
3. It helps them relax (1).

These are alternative points but are credit worthy as they relate to why Sikhs may take part in an akhand path.



### Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on section three: living the Sikh life, specifically bullet point 3.4 '...the nature and significance of Nam Japna.'

Candidates gave excellent responses and there was a good use of key Sikh technical terms.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons Nam Japna is important for Sikhs.

(4)

One reason why Nam Japna is important for Sikhs is because it is one of the 3 principles of Sikhism and means to recite the name of God at all times and when in need of help.

Another reason is that it allows Sikhs to always remember the name of God so they can pray anywhere by reciting God's name. It is easy to say so all ages can do it and can make the belief in God stronger.



The candidate gave two developed reasons:

1. One of the three principles of Sikhism (1), developed by, means to recite the name of God when they need help (1).
2. It is easy to do (1), developed by, so all ages can do it and make their belief in God stronger (1).

This candidate achieved 2 marks.

Naam Japna also means reciting God's name. By Guru Nanak dev Ji told us that naam japna was one of the 3 principles of sikhism. By nam japna you can meditate and connect with God.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave 2 simple reasons:

1. It is one of the 3 principles (1).
2. You can connect with God (1).



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates must understand the difference between a reason/way and development.

### Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on section three: living the Sikh life, specifically bullet point 3.8 '... the significance of Amrit Sanskar for Sikh families.'

Candidates gave excellent responses and used key Sikh technical terms, although there was a lack of appropriate reference to sources of wisdom. A number of candidates failed to gain marks as they confused Amrit with Amrit sanskar (the initiation ceremony).

This candidate achieved 2 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Amrit <sup>sanskar</sup> ~~sanskar~~ is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

One reason Amrit is important for Sikhs is because Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the Panj Pyare took it. Sikhs may want to follow them as an example and take Amrit. Therefore, Amrit is important to Sikhs.

Another reason Amrit is important to Sikhs is because Guru Gobind Singh Ji asked all Sikhs to take Amrit. Sikhs may see this as a Hukam from their Guru and find it important.



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The candidate gave one developed reason:

1. Guru Gobind Singh initiated it (1), developed by, Sikhs want to follow his example (1).

The rest of the answer is repetitive and does not relate to the specific initiation ceremony.

## **Question 3 (d)**

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. 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, therefore, 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 then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted candidates' progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on section three 'living the Sikh life', specifically bullet point 3.3: 'Langar....as an expression of sewa.'

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

Most candidates achieved level 2 or level 3 and some achieved level 4. There was a good use of Sikh terminology and a solid understanding of the statement. Those who achieved the higher level 2, level 3 and level 4 analysed the importance of the Langar as a form of sewa and compared it to other forms of sewa. Candidates need to offer sufficient analysis and logical chains of reasoning throughout in order to attain the higher levels.

This candidate gains 10 marks in total. The candidate reached level 3 and was awarded 7 marks and then they were given 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

**In this question, 3 of the marks awarded will be for your spelling, punctuation and grammar and your use of specialist terminology.**

\* (d) "Langar is the best form of sewa."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

→ equality  
→ ego and  
→ let the  
→ let  
→ ego  
→ don't make  
→ hygiene  
→ all sewa  
→ every  
→ ego

(15)

Many Sikhs may agree with this statement because they could argue that the langar was introduced by the first Guru - Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Hence, it is good and important to follow his teachings. Moreover, they would say that in langar people sit at the same level regardless of caste, race etc, which promotes equality and by serving such people you will see everyone as equal and 'recognise the human race as one' (a key teaching of Guru Gobind Singh Ji). Furthermore, whilst doing langar sewa your ego will go away and you will be humble, just like the Gurus taught us to be. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's last words have believed to be "keep the langar ever open" so Sikhs believe that it is their duty to follow this teaching and partake in langar sewa. As a result, they may say agree with the statement and say langar is the best form of sewa.

On the other hand, Sikhs may disagree arguing that there are different types of sewa and all of the any of these can be done to get rid of ego and become

humble. Hence, they may see that it does not matter what seva you do - all are equal and there is no best form. For example many Gurus took part in preaching the word is about God which is unknown <sup>man (mind) seva</sup> ~~man seva~~. As the Gurus did not believe in a best form of seva we should not either. In addition to this, langar requires hygiene so some in people may not be able to take part or some may believe that a lot of food is wasted so therefore that could have been very useful. Hence, some Sikhs may disagree arguing that langar is not the best form of seva.

In conclusion, although ~~although~~ both sides of the argument are strong, ~~as~~ it could be seen as true that all forms of seva are equal and none above are another. ~~Yes~~

Although langar promotes equality and has been given importance by Gurus such as Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Gurus themselves also took part in other sevas such as preaching. Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent most of his life travelling and spreading the word of God. At the Guru Granth Sahib Ji it says "whoever does seva without thought of reward, shall obtain God"

This shows that with seva you could achieve much and be united with God as we have got rid of ego. In this quote no specific seva is specified showing how all <sup>forms</sup> ~~forms~~ of seva are equal. As a result, the statement is to be disagreed with.



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. Spelling, punctuation and grammar 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.



Prepare candidates not to argue that the statement is true or false but instead evaluate why the reasons given can be disputed by the alternative opinion.

## Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on section four: 'equality', specifically bullet point 4.5 '...the benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society.'

The question was poorly answered with only 20% gaining full marks. Candidates confused multi-ethnic with multi-faith and wrote about religions and not ethnicities.

This candidate achieved 1 mark.

**4 (a) Outline three benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society for Sikhs.**

**(3)**

one of the benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society for  
sikhs is so sikh can enhance other peoples culture / religion.



The candidate outlined one benefit:

1. Enhances other peoples culture (1).



Candidates need to understand the difference between a multi-ethnic society and a multi-faith society.



This candidate achieved 0 marks.

(3)

Sikhs can promote and educate others on Sikhism.  
Sikhs can ~~develop~~ learn <sup>about</sup> other faiths as well. Sikhs  
can promote equality within all religions.



The candidate did not answer the question correctly and wrote about a multi-faith society, so therefore achieved 0 marks.

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on section four: 'equality', specifically bullet point 4.3 'Sikh attitudes to religious freedom.'

Many candidates answered this question successfully, with 50% gaining full marks. Candidates wrote examples of how the Gurus fought for religious freedom and why they should follow in their footsteps.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Sikhs should work for religious freedom.

(4)

One reason Sikhs should work for religious freedom is because they believe that everyone is equal. Sikhs believe that we are all equal so it does not matter what religion you are. Thus Sikhs should work for religious freedom.

Another reason is because of Gurus, like Guru Tegh Bahadur fought for religious freedom. Sikhs would want to use him as an example of how society should be run. Therefore they should work for religious freedom.



The candidate gave 2 developed reasons:

1. Sikhs believe everyone is equal (1), developed by, it doesn't matter what religion you are Sikhs must work for it (1).
2. Guru Tegh Bahadur fought for religious freedom (1), developed by, therefore Sikhs should follow his example (1).

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on section four: 'equality', specifically bullet point 4.7 '...divergent Sikh responses to and teachings about the nature of the distribution of wealth.'

Many candidates failed to reference a source of wisdom when responding to this question. Most candidates wrote about the teachings of Dasvand and how the langar helps in promoting sharing with others.

This candidate achieved 3 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about the distribution of wealth.

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

(5)

Sikhs teach us that if you have a lot of money use some of it to help those in need such as homeless people, people in poverty. They believe that helping the less fortunate is a good way of equality. It shows that Sikhs arent selfish and it also teaches us that helping others is a good form of seva. Another Sikh teaching about the distribution of wealth is that it shows that everyone should be treated equally.



The candidate gave one developed, and one simple teaching, with no source of wisdom.

1. Sikhism teaches that if you have a lot of money you should use it to help those in need (1), developed by, helping the homeless and people in poverty (1).
2. They believe that helping the less fortunate is a form of equality (1).

The rest of the response provides another simple reason and cannot be credit worthy as the question asks for two reasons.

## **Question 4 (d)**

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. 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, therefore, 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 then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted candidates' progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were assessed on section four: 'equality', specifically bullet point 4.4 'Sikh attitudes to prejudice and discrimination.'

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

The majority of candidates achieved level 2 for this question, with only 3% of candidates achieving level 3. The responses tended to be very generic and lacked Sikh teachings and analysis of the statement. The answers were quite limited and lacked logical chains of reasoning and relevant ethical arguments.

This candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks.

(d) "Prejudice and discrimination will always exist."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Some will agree with this statement because prejudice and discrimination is part of Maya - the materialistic illusion and Maya is controlled by kaal and the panj dhooth. This is seen in the quote "Raj Tam set kaal fare sharya" - this says that the control over the materialistic world is given to kaal - devil. Therefore prejudice and discrimination will always exist as long as the world exists. However we are taught as Sikhs to overcome these vices and to do that we must do Simran (Naam Japna) and Sewa. This is done to wash the mind and remove ego and discriminatory thoughts from our mind. We are told in Guru Granth Sahib that we can defeat these 5 vices and therefore will eradicate the evils.

Prejudice and discrimination will always exist because this age we live in is referred to as the age of Kal Jug - Dark ages. In this age evil is at its strongest and "Sants a few" as is said in Gurbani. Therefore it is impossible to remove such evils from this world as we live in an age where evil has more power which makes less people want to believe in God.

However in Guru Granth Sahib it says that "Ammulka laha leh gaye" - The Communists have reaped their profits which means these people have defeated the 5 vices in the "wrestling match" in the mind and have overcome their power. This means that in becoming Communists we are able to "throw the 5 opponents to the ground" and eradicate all discrimination from our minds and therefore the world - step-by-step.

In Conclusion Prejudice and ~~discrimination~~<sup>discrimination</sup> will always exist because we as humans are not all following the Guru's teachings in becoming pure and to put the hard work into doing Naam Japna and Japa. Therefore keeping evil in this world alive.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

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.

It is at the top range of level 2.

This candidate achieved level 1 gaining one mark.

Yes it will always exist because not everyone is perfect this will mean some people find hatred to different religions so discrimination would exist because these people should be taught to hate the person not the religion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate reached level 1 and gained one mark as they only gave one simple point. The rest of the answer lacked any evaluation, analysis or a justified conclusion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This candidate wrote very little, however, the answers do not have to be long. Candidates need to 'consider the arguments' and say if the statement holds any truth or value in a justified conclusion.

## 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 booklet pages using the blank spaces.
- When answering the (a) questions use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) questions must be relevant to the question and support the reasons given.
- The (d) questions ask for an evaluation after considering the evidence. Higher marks are achieved if the evidence/reasons given, is/are 'considered' or appraised for their value as an argument.
- On (d) questions the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that will be credited in the answer, so candidates must respond to all aspects of the question.
- Candidates should read the questions carefully in order to ensure that their answer fully responds to the question being asked.



## 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>

