

# Examiners' Report

## November 2009

IGCSE

### IGCSE Religious Studies (4425) Paper 02

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## Paper 2: The Religious Community

### General Comments

Paper 2 of the IGCSE Religious Studies course requires students to complete two questions which are designed to assess the candidates' knowledge and understanding of the faith and practice in one or two major world religions. These two questions are selected from a choice of thirty. Candidates may choose to focus on one religion or answer more broadly on the basis of two. Each question is divided into two parts: part (a) aims to assess the knowledge a candidate has of a chosen religion (AO1), part (b) aims to assess the understanding a candidate has of an aspect of their chosen religion (AO2). The main religions covered in paper 2 are: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. The examination lasts for one hour and is an alternative option for those centres which do not wish to enter candidates for coursework.

Once again centres should note that in general, responses to part (a) were more successful than responses to part (b). Some candidates are still displaying a temptation to describe rather than explain when dealing with AO2. In some cases, candidates had made no attempt at all to answer part (b) and centres should stress to all students the need to complete all the required parts of the paper. Similarly, in some cases, responses to questions were simply too brief to reach a higher level.

## **Section 1 - Buddhism**

**Question 1a.** Candidates showed an impressive knowledge of the different images of the Buddha used by Buddhists. However some candidates lost marks by not going on to then apply this knowledge to the different ways in which Buddhists may show devotion.

**Question 1b.** This produced some impressive answers; however, once again candidates did not gain marks when they did not distinguish between explanation and description.

**Question 2a - 5b.** No candidates attempted these questions.

## **Section 2 - Christianity**

**Question 6a - 7b.** No candidates attempted these questions.

**Question 8a.** There was a balance in the quality of responses to this question. Some candidates achieved a maximum level with comprehensive and well developed answers. In other cases, candidates did not gain marks because they did not concentrate on the Sermon on the Mount. Answers which gave more general accounts of how the Ten Commandments relate to the New Testament could not reach the higher levels.

**Question 8b.** This was a well answered question with virtually all the responses showing a good understanding of the importance of the Golden Rule in Christianity.

**Question 9a.** This was a popular and generally well answered task with all candidates showing a good knowledge of Jesus' healing ministry. However in a few cases, candidates did not gain marks because they did not focus on a description of a specific healing miracle.

**Question 9b.** Once again, a popular and well answered question. Candidates showed a good understanding of the importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus in Christianity.

**Question 10a.** This was a less popular question, although answered effectively.

**Question 10b.** The candidates who answered this, showed a good knowledge of the Holy Land although some lost marks by failing to fully explain its significance.

### **Section 3 - Hinduism**

**Question 11a.** All the candidates who answered this question, did so successfully, showing an impressive knowledge of the Sacred Thread Ceremony.

**Question 11b.** Once again, a successfully answered question with all the candidates using a sound knowledge of the practise of worshipping at home to explain its importance in Hinduism.

**Question 12a & 12b.** No candidates attempted this question

**Question 13a.** There was a balance in the responses to this question; some candidates were far too brief in their outline of Hindu teachings on ahimsa to go beyond level 2, whereas others developed their outlines into comprehensive answers.

**Question 13b.** Similarly to part b; some candidates showed a sound understanding of the importance of dharma, whereas others did not to take their answers beyond description.

**Question 14a.** Candidates should take note where the question requires an account of **one** story. Where this is the case; if candidates give a broader account of several stories only a small part of their answer can be credited.

**Question 14b.** As in previous tasks, there was a balance in responses for this question with those candidates who didn't explain their knowledge not going beyond level 1.

**Question 15a & 15b.** No candidates attempted these questions.

#### **Section 4 - Islam**

**Question 16a.** This question was the most popular question on the paper. All the candidates who attempted part (a) did so successfully.

**Question 16b.** Responses to part (b) were more balanced than those for part (a). This was due to candidates not distinguishing between description and explanation.

**Question 17a.** This was a less popular question which was not very effectively answered. A poor knowledge of the role of the Ulema was shown here.

**Question 17b.** As with part (a), this was less successfully answered. Candidates did not gain marks when they became confused about the distinction between Sunni and Shi'ah Islam.

**Question 18a.** A popular question with all candidates showing an impressive knowledge of the guidance regarding food in the Shari'ah.

**Question 19a.** A less popular question which was poorly answered. Candidates need to be aware of the specific requirements of each task. In this case, a general account of the life of the Prophet which did not concentrate on the Hijrah could not reach a high level.

**Question 19b.** In contrast to part (a), part (b) was more successfully answered with candidates showing a sound understanding of the term "Seal of the prophets".

**Question 20a.** All the candidates who answered this question showed a detailed knowledge of pilgrimage at Makkah.

**Question 20b.** Whilst candidates showed an impressive knowledge of what happens during pilgrimage at Makkah, they were less able to use this knowledge to explain its importance within Islam.

#### **Section 5 - Judaism**

No candidates attempted questions from this section.



## **Section 6 - Sikhism**

**Question 26a.** Although this was a less popular question; it was answered successfully by all those candidates who attempted it.

**Question 26b.** As with part (a), a successfully answered question, with candidates showing a sound understanding of the importance of private devotion in Sikhism.

**Question 27a.** Candidates showed a sound knowledge of the role of the granthi in the Gurdwara when answering this question.

**Question 27b.** Once again, a successfully answered question. Candidates showed a good understanding of this fundamental aspect of the Sikh faith.

**Question 28a.** Answers to this question reflected a good knowledge of the amrit ceremony.

**Question 28b.** As with part (a), this was a successfully answered task, with all candidates showing a good understanding of the importance of the Khanda.

**Question 29a.** In contrast to the responses to the other tasks in this section, this question was poorly answered. Candidates should concentrate on the specific aspect of religious faith referred to in the question if they are to reach the higher levels.

**Question 29b.** All the candidates who attempted this question demonstrated a good understanding of the formation of the Khalsa.

**Question 30a & 30b.** No candidates attempted these questions.



# Statistics

## IGCSE Religious Studies (4425) Grade Boundaries

### Option 1 (paper 1 & paper 2)

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Overall boundary mark	84	70	56	43	34	25	16	7

### Option 2 (paper 1 & paper 3)

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Overall boundary mark	81	68	55	42	33	24	16	8

**Note:** Grade Boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject depending on the demands of the question paper

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