



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion

Option 1B - Christianity

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Question Paper Log Number P78604A

Publications Code 1RA0_1B_2506_MS

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Paper 1: Study of Religion 1B – Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • On day one God created light (1) • God created mankind (1) • Land, plants and trees were created (1) • God rested on the last day (1) • Birds and fish were created (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four. • It reminds Christians that Jesus came to earth as a human (1), at Christmas the community join together to celebrate the Incarnation (1) • In Jesus humans can see what God is like (1), when God became flesh he revealed his glory, nature and power through Jesus (1) • Jesus came to earth to restore the relationship between God and humanity (1), it therefore allows Christians to have a relationship with God (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason/ development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each way. Award further marks for each development of the way up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • In Ephesians 2:8-9 it says that people are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus (1) and not by their own efforts or works (1) Grace alone means that God loves, forgives, and saves Christians (1) • In Titus 2:11 it says 'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.' (1) Grace is the offer from God to all people (1) those who deserve his grace and those who don't (1) • Colossians 1:13-14 describes how God rescued people from darkness (1). It refers to Jesus the Saviour (1) bringing redemption through grace (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way/development • Development that does not relate both to the way and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the way given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
1(d)	AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. Arguments for the statement: • What happens to Christians after death is based on the way they have lived in this life; therefore, they live more charitable lives to gain a better afterlife • Christians will be judged, after death, on how they have looked after the poor, this is explained to them in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats • Some Christians believe it is sinful to ignore the needs of others and not show God's love on earth, therefore they live better lives so they can get to heaven. Arguments against the statement: • It is not the belief in life after death that makes Christians more charitable but the teachings of Jesus about love and service to others. For example, the teaching from the Good Samaritan • Surveys show that all people give as equally as much to charity and work for the good of all people, despite religious belief. Some Christians do it for humanitarian reasons and not for a reward in heaven • Paul taught it was by faith, God's grace and salvation through Jesus' death not good works that Christians will go to heaven, so some Christians do not feel the need to concentrate on living a better life to go to heaven. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different Christian points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
Level 2	4–6	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
Level 3	7–9	A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

'Point(s) of view' **always** means arguments for and against the statement. **Where specified in the bullet points under the question**, it may also include one of the following:

- different views within the religion
 - non-religious views
 - philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

SPaG

Marks		Descriptors
0 marks	No marks awarded	• The candidate writes nothing • The candidate's response does not relate to the question. • The candidate's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, for example errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning.
1 marks	Threshold performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall. • Candidates use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate.
2 marks	Intermediate performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall. • Candidates use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate.
3 marks	High performance	• Candidates spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy. • Candidates use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. • Candidates use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Christians receive bread and wine (1) • They receive the body of Christ (1) • They receive the blood of Christ (1) • They pray to God (1) • They remember the Last Supper (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
2(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing an activity. Award a second mark for development of the activity. Up to a maximum of four. • Christians go on pilgrimage to Taize to gather with other believers (1). They meet and learn from other young people (1) • Some Christians engage in youth meetings (1), which search for communion with God through community prayers (1) • Taize allows parents to bring their children and spend time with others in personal reflection (1) while the children attend meetings organised by the brothers (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated activity/development • Development that does not relate both to the point activity given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. - Celebrating Advent is important to some Christians because it is a period of preparation (1) both physically and spiritually for the coming of Christ (1). 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. (Jeremiah 33:14-16) (1) - It is important because it represents hope (1) for salvation (1). 'Isaiah says, "There shall come from the root of Jesse, and he who arises to rule over the gentiles, in him shall the gentiles have hope." (Romans 15:12) (1) - It is important because it completes some of the promises from the Old Testament (1) given to the world thousands of years before (1). 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14) (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated reason / development - Development that does not relate both to the reason and to the question - Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the reason given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
2(d)	AO2 12 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. AO2 Arguments for the statement: • Prayer develops a relationship with God, developing a relationship with God is the main focus of the Christian life. God promised to be with those who pray, 'Come near to God, and he will come near to you' (James 4:8) • Some Christians who spend their lives in prayer can change things, God is all powerful and all loving, therefore requests to God can change the world. Prayer helps to make all things work together for good (Romans 8:26-28) • Prayer allows Christians to confess their sins, sin happens daily so it is important to do this every day. In Psalm 32:5 it says 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' Arguments against the statement: • It is more important to evangelise and share God's gift of salvation to others because Jesus said go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15) • It is more important to do good works. In the Parable of the Sheep and Goats Jesus explains how this will enable people get to heaven, he does not mention the use of prayer and if you are busy praying, you may not have time to do practical good works • It is more important to show love to the world. Jesus said that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. If you are busy praying you cannot be showing God's love in action. Accept any other valid response.	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
Level 1	1–3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
Level 2	4–6	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
Level 3	7–9	A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10–12	A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

'Point(s) of view' **always** means arguments for and against the statement. **Where specified in the bullet points under the question**, it may also include one of the following:

- different views within the religion
- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • The Old Testament contains the Law (1) • It contains the stories of the Hebrew nation (1) • Some parts are poetry (1) • There are some historical writings within it (1) • It records what the prophets said (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
3(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four. • Jesus fought for social justice, championing the cause of the poor and the oppressed (1). He showed tolerance, not judgement, for the outcast and the socially marginalised. (1) • Jesus promoted universal love and the brotherhood of man (1). He is a model for Christians today of love, acceptance, and inclusion. (1) • Jesus said that it was not good enough to just love neighbours (1), but people must love their enemies as well (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way/ development • Development that does not relate both to the way given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3 (c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each belief. Award further marks for each development of each belief up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. - Some Christians do not accept the authority of the Pope (1), they believe authority comes from the council of Bishops working together (1). They believe that these people have gifts given by God 'so that the body of Christ may be built up' (Ephesians 4:11) (1) - Catholics accept the authority of the Pope (1) as the successor to the Apostle Peter (1); 'you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church' (Matthew 16:18) (1) - Some Christians do not think the Pope is as important as the Bible (1) as they believe that 'All Scripture is God breathed' (2 Timothy 3:16) (1). They may believe all humans are fallible (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated belief / development - Development that does not relate both to the belief and to the question - Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
3(d)	AO2 12 marks, SPaG 3 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. AO2 Arguments for the statement: • Even though there are many different denominations Christians believe they are all united in Christ, this is demonstrated through the different denominations coming together for ecumenical services • In all denominations, those who love God and trust in him, are Christians. Therefore, there is only one Church and denominations are not the important thing • For most Christians it is a fundamental belief that 'We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church' (Nicene Creed) suggesting that as Christians recite this, they believe there is only one Church. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians believe it is necessary to challenge beliefs that have developed out of tradition rather than biblical teachings. Martin Luther, for example, can be seen to have done this and began the Protestant movement • Churches are made up of people and sometimes people just don't get along. It is a reality of human nature and these conflicts often cause division in Church communities and so some people leave to start a new Church and sometimes a new denomination • Some Christians appreciate the structure and tradition of some denominations that has been passed down over the generations. They feel more comfortable with them. They agree with the beliefs shared by the Church but like the freedom to choose a denomination. Accept any other valid response.	15

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Level 1	1–3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
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Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Statues may show important biblical people (1) • Statues may be used to encourage reflection of spiritual truths (1) • Statues may be used to express beliefs (1) • Statues may be used to help believers concentrate their minds (1) • Statues may be used to decorate the church building (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
4(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four. • Icons seek to engage the sense of sight, given by God (1), so that believers can in some way experience the truth of the Gospel (1) • Icons can show events from the Bible (1). There are icons showing Jesus cleansing the temple (1) • Icons are used to aid prayers (1). The person praying can focus on them to stop their mind wandering (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason/ development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each reason. Award further marks for each development of the reason up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • An empty cross reminds Christians that Jesus did not stay on the cross but came back to life (1). Christians may wear a cross to symbolise this (1), 'he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (1) • Christians use symbols to show their faith (1). Christians may wear an ICTHUS or put it on their car (1). These are the first letters of the words "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour" (1) • Bread and wine symbolise the body and blood of Christ (1). They are used in the Eucharist (1). They were told to do this in remembrance of Jesus (Luke 22:19) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason/development • Development that does not relate both to the reason and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the reason given.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(d)	AO2 12 marks Candidates must underpin their analysis and evaluation with knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding as well as accuracy of religion and belief when responding to the question and in meeting AO2 descriptors. Arguments for the statement: • Paintings bring vibrancy and beauty into the world. The Church can use beautiful paintings to bring a message to the modern world that can sometimes be missed • Paintings can, as in the past, be used to educate people in the stories and truths of the Bible and the Christian faith. Some people can access information through pictures rather than words • Paintings can connect the believer to God and others, it draws people into a place where they can forget the horrors of the world and see beauty. It tells them that they are not alone as others share in the visual experience. Arguments against the statement: • Paintings are less relevant today. People are continually given a stream of pictures and images from marketing firms, adverts, websites, brands and logos. People have lost the ability to view paintings in a way that helps them understand the gospel • There are so many other ways to share the gospel to a modern generation through the internet, music and other media. Paintings may be thought to be old fashioned and often expensive • Paintings may be misinterpreted. Paintings can mean different things to different people, someone might not understand the intended gospel message. Accept any other valid response.	12

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