



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second
Religion

Option 2B – Christianity

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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: sections one and two – 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. • Judaism (1) • Islam (1) • Buddhism (1) • Sikhism (1) • Hinduism (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Groups from within the Christian tradition	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a day. Award a second mark for development of the day. Up to a maximum of four. • On the first day of creation God said 'Let there be light' (1) and there was light (1) • Animals and humans were created on the same day (1), humans were given responsibility to look after the animals (1) • God separated the land from the waters (1) and plants grew on the land (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated day/development • Development that does not relate both to the day given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each belief. Award further marks for each development of the belief up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • In the Nicene Creed it states that Jesus is 'the only Son of God' (1) He was begotten of the Father (1) and is God (1) • The Nicene Creed states, 'He came from heaven' (1) as the incarnate Son of God (1) by the Holy Spirit (1) • In the Nicene Creed it states that 'He was crucified for us' (1) rose again on the third day (1) and is in heaven with God (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
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. AO2 Arguments for the statement • Some Christians believe that it is the fault of humanity that there is suffering in the world. This goes back to the story of the Fall and Adam and Eve's use of the gift of freewill given by an all-loving God • The world is a vale of soul making, it is an environment where everything that is necessary for human growth and development has been put in place by an all-loving God • God, as a loving Father is a person's comforter throughout suffering. 'My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life' (Psalm 119:50). Arguments against the statement • Some Christians might ask the question how could an all-loving God create a world full of suffering • Some Christians refer to Job and say that God is a loving father and that people only have a small view of the universe and things within it • Some Christians would worry if God uses suffering to strengthen faith, this does not seem to be an action of an all-loving Father. 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. • Some Christians pray (1) • Some Christians choose liturgical worship (1) • Some like worship to be led by the Holy Spirit (1) • Many worship God through the way they choose to live their lives (1) • Some people like non-liturgical worship (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 a reason/belief. Award a second mark for development of the reason/belief. Up to a maximum of four. • Jesus only commanded his followers to share in baptism and communion (1), therefore, some Christians only have two sacraments (1) • Sacraments represent times that God communicates his grace (1), therefore, Catholic Christians have seven sacraments (1) • Some Christians believe that sacraments are not needed to communicate with God (1), therefore, they do not have any sacraments (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
2(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. • The Church speaks out against oppression and terrorism in the world (1) campaigning for peace and human rights (1). Jesus taught about looking after the oppressed in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) (1) • The World Council of Churches brings Christians together on organised days of prayer (1), often responding to calls for help and support for those in need (1). 'In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' (James 2:17) (1) • Churches work to build inter-religious trust and respect (1) by educating young people in schools and holding interfaith meetings (1), responding to Jesus' call to 'love one another' (John 13:34) (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
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 • Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation. It was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Without the birth of Jesus there would be no Christianity • Christmas is a time that unites Christians and allows non-practicing Christians and communities to reflect on their beliefs and consider their faith • Christmas reminds Christians of the importance of family and that Jesus was born as a baby to live a fully human life. Christians are reminded that Jesus knows what it is like to live on earth in human form. Arguments against the statement. • Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Without the resurrection there would be no salvation. In 1 Corinthians 15:14 it says, 'and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith' • Easter assures Christians that Jesus is alive and can help and guide his Church and be with individual Christians • Easter confirms that there is an afterlife. Jesus rose from the dead; his followers are promised that they will have life after death. Accept any other valid response.	12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
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'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:

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