



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

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

Option 2C – Islam

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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 2: Study of Second Religion 2C – Islam 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. • The guidance of prophets shows Allah loves his people (1) • They are an example of how to have complete faith in Allah (1) • They show how to overcome adversity (1) • Their example shows people how to live their lives (1) • They brought Allah’s word to the people (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 teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four. • On the Day of Judgement, Allah will judge everyone fairly (1) as he is al-Adl (1) • The book of deeds of a person’s life will be presented (1) which was compiled by the recording angels (1) • All the good and bad deeds will be weighed up on the scale of deeds (1) and everyone will either be rewarded or punished (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching / development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching 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. - Jibril is shown as the messenger angel (1) who appeared to Maryam with the news of the coming of prophet Isa (1). 'Then We sent to her Our Angel, and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man.' (Surah 19:17) (1) - Jibril is described as the angel of revelation (1) who revealed the Qur'an (1). 'It is (none but) he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart, (O Muhammad), by permission of Allah.' (Surah 2:97) (1) - The angel Jibril is given great honour in the Qur'an (1) and disrespecting him goes against Allah (1). 'Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Gabriel and Michael - then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers.' (Surah 2:98) (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. AO2 Arguments for the statement: • Predestination is more important because even though humans are free to make their choices, Allah is fully aware of these choices because he is beyond the world of space and time • For Sunni Muslims belief in predestination is more important as it is one of their Six Beliefs, referred to in the Kitab-al-iman. Believing in this is therefore a key aspect of being a Sunni Muslim • Predestination shows Allah is in control of all events past, present and future. This reflects a number of Allah's ninety nine names in the Qur'an such as the all-knowing, the all-powerful so Muslims must accept this. Arguments against the statement: • Shi'a Muslims do not accept predestination and it is not part of their Usul ad-Din. They emphasise that Allah has not set a definite path but rather it depends on human choices and freedom • Shi'a Muslims believe that although belief in human freedom is paramount, this belief does not go against Allah's power over his creation. They refer to the Qur'an 76:3 'We guided him to the ways, be he grateful or be he ungrateful' and see freewill as a gift from Allah • Shi'a Muslims believe that predestination cannot be accepted alongside the concept of divine justice, 'Adl. If Allah is to judge all humans fairly then they must have freedom to be truly responsible for their actions. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different Muslim 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 mark	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. - The main purpose of fasting in Ramadan is to fulfil Allah's command in the Qur'an (1) - A purpose of fasting is to bring Muslims closer to Allah (1) - One purpose of fasting is to develop discipline (1) - A purpose of fasting is to bring Muslim families and communities together (1) - A key purpose of fasting is to develop empathy with the needy (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 role. Award a second mark for development of the role. Up to a maximum of four. - Reciting Shahadah welcomes a new-born baby into the ummah (1) when it is whispered into the ear (1) - It initiates new Muslims into the faith (1). The convert recites it in front of witnesses to confirm the new faith (1) - It plays a decorative role in calligraphy (1) and adorns many mosques and Muslim homes (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated role/ development - Development that does not relate both to the role 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. • Muslims ensure Salah is prayed at the correct times (1) which were established through guidance from the Qur'an and Muhammad's Sunnah (1). The Qur'an in Surah 30:17-18 states Muslims should pray morning, afternoon and evening (1) • Muslims wash in preparation of prayer (1) ensuring physical and mental purity in front of Allah (1). The Qur'an tells Muslims to '...wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles.' (Surah 5:6) (1) • Muslims face towards the Ka'ba in Makkah when they pray (1). This unites all Muslims towards a common focal point (1). The Qur'an states 'turn your face towards al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you (believers) are, turn your faces towards it (in prayer)' (Surah 2:144). 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: • Zakah was established to look after the widows and orphans after the battles that took place between the Makkans and Madinans. In this way its main purpose was to relieve poverty • Zakah was also established to relieve the poverty of new converts. They were often shunned by their families and needed the support of the community to survive • Zakah is used to help out people in debt. Zakah funds are used to pay off people's debts so they can break away from the vicious cycle of loans and avoid interest. Arguments against the statement: • The main purpose of Zakah is to purify a Muslim's wealth. Zakah means to purify and once Zakah has been paid a Muslim's wealth is free to be used however they wish • An important purpose of Zakah is to build empathy in the community and unite the ummah through shared responsibility for each other • Zakah as one of the Five Pillars is an act of worship of Allah. By completing this pillar, Muslims are following the commands of Allah, bringing them closer to him. Accept any other valid response.	12

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