



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

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

Option 2F – Judaism

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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 2F – Judaism 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 mitzvot are important for Jews because they were given by the Almighty (1) • They are important as they give Jews rules about how to live (1) • If Jews keep the mitzvot, they don't have to worry about life after death (1) • Obeying the mitzvot makes a Jew closer to the Almighty (1) • The mitzvot tell Jews what they can and cannot eat (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	
1(b)	AO1 4 marks Students are required to recognise that Christianity is the main religious tradition of Great Britain. Award one mark for describing relevant belief. Award a second mark for a contrasting description from the other religion. Up to a maximum of four. • Many Jews believe in Olam Ha Ba (1) although this is not the same as Christian heaven (1) • Some Christians believe hell is eternal punishment (1) whereas some Jews believe in a place where sins can be forgiven before going on to Gan Eden (1) • Some Christians believe the only way to heaven is through belief in Jesus Christ (1) whereas many Jews believe everyone will have an afterlife, regardless of belief (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated description • Development that does not relate both to the description 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. - The Almighty is seen as One in the Decalogue (1). The first commandment reinforces belief in monotheism (1). He said: 'You shall have no other gods besides Me.' (Exodus 20:3) (1) - The Shema reinforces the belief that the Almighty is One (1) as it says 'Hear O Israel! Lord is our God, the Lord alone.' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (1) and this is said several times a day (1) - Monotheism was a belief given to Abraham (1) during the Covenant (1) when the Almighty told Abraham that he would be their God (Genesis 17:8) (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: • The sanctity of life is the belief that all life is given by the Almighty and is therefore sacred. This means that nothing can be more important than human life • The principle of Pikuach Nefesh is the belief in the primacy of life; this means that a Jew may break almost any of the commandments in order to save a life, for example, driving to hospital on Shabbat • The Talmud says 'He who destroys one soul of a human being, the scripture considers him as if he should destroy a whole world, and him who saves one soul of Israel, the scripture considers him as if he should save a whole world' (Sanhedrin 4.5) Arguments against the statement: • Some Jews believe that it is only by everyone obeying all the mitzvot that will bring the Messiah, and the Messianic Age, and therefore it is important to obey the mitzvot • The commandments are the literal word of the Almighty; it is not up to individual Jews to decide which ones are important and which can be ignored • The Almighty gave humans free will. It is up to each person to decide whether they use that free will to obey or disobey the mitzvot, but there will be consequences for their actions. Accept any other valid response.	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. • A synagogue may be used by a Jewish community as a house of prayer (1) • It may be used as a school for Jewish children (1) • A synagogue may have a library for studying scripture (1) • A synagogue may be used for rites of passage (1) • A synagogue may be used to celebrate Jewish festivals (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 form. Award a second mark for development of the form. Up to a maximum of four. • One form of prayer is private prayer (1) which may be done at home, several times a day (1) • A form of prayer may be public worship (1) where Jews attend the synagogue to pray together (1) • The Amidah is a prayer of blessings (1) which include praise and thanking the Almighty (1). Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different forms of prayer within Judaism cannot be awarded more than 2 marks.	• Repeated form • Development that does not relate both to the form 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. • Jews may build a tabernacle (1) and live in it for 7 days (1). 'Say to the Israelite people: On the fifteenth day of this seventh month there shall be the Feast of Booths to the Lord [to last] seven days.' (Leviticus 23:34) (1) • Jews may collect the Four Species of palm branch, myrtle, willow and etrog (1) to bless the sukkah (1) 'On the first day you shall take the product of hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before your God seven days.' (Leviticus 23:40) (1) • Prayers are said (1) and Psalms are read (1); 'let us come into His presence with praise; let us raise a shout for Him in song! For the LORD is a great God, the great king of all divine beings.' (Psalm 95:2-3) (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: • Jews believe that the Almighty created men and women equally and therefore it is important that girls celebrate a Bat Mitzvah similar to the Bar Mitzvah • A Bat Mitzvah is an important rite of passage in Judaism and marks the beginning of a personal faith for the young person, and a personal relationship with the Almighty • For many Orthodox Jews, the Bat Mitzvah marks a time of reflection on Jewish history; it is common for Jewish children to honour a victim of the Holocaust at their Bat Mitzvah. Arguments against the statement: • Bat Mitzvah ceremonies are not found in scripture and are relatively modern additions, therefore they do not need to be done, they are not mitvot • Bat Mitzvahs have become commercialised; it is often more about the party and the presents than for any religious significance • For Orthodox Jewish girls, the Bat Mitzvah has little religious place as they are not allowed to read from the Torah nor to lead the synagogue service. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different points of view within the religious tradition (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	12

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