



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Philosophy and Ethics

Option 3B – 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 3: Philosophy and Ethics 3B – Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number		Reject	Mark
1(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • God came to Noah in a vision (1) • God came to Abram in a vision (1) • Moses saw God in a burning bush (1) • Some disciples saw Moses at the transfiguration (1) • Jacob dreamed of a ladder set up on the earth (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 way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four. • Through a revelation God reveals something about himself (1) therefore, this must be proof of his existence (1) • Religious revelations are not controllable (1) a person cannot choose when to have one they must be an experience of God (1) • There is no other explanation for them other than God (1) After the experience the person who experienced it knows they have encountered God (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
1(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. - In 1 John 5:14 it says 'This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.' (1) A person having a prayer answered in the way they expected leads to belief in God as they believe it was as God promised (1), their confidence in God was rewarded (1) - In 1 John 5:15 it says 'And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.' (1). This gives the person who prays confirmation that it was an answer from God (1) and not coincidence (1) - Jesus promised "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7) (1). If someone prays, they can claim this promise (1) and belief in God is confirmed when the answer is as expected (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
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 cosmological argument is based on observation suggesting there must be a God because all things in the universe are in motion, but nothing can move unless it is moved by something else: but this cannot go on to infinity so there must be a first mover who is God • Aquinas argued that everything seems to have a cause and there is no example of anything causing itself. However, there must have been a first cause and this cause must have been all-powerful so must have been God • An infinite regression of causes ultimately has no initial cause, which means there is no cause of existence. Since the universe exists, it must have a cause. This cause must be God. Arguments against the statement: • Non-religious people may argue against the cosmological argument proving God exists by raising the question 'if everything needs a cause, then why should this process stop with God?' • It is possible that matter itself is eternal and so was never created, this would mean that there would be no need for a first cause, the process of causes could go back forever • Just because everything in the universe needs an explanation does not mean the universe itself needs an explanation. The universe could just have been there forever. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider different non-religious 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. - Many Christians are opposed to any form of sexual relationship outside of marriage (1) - Some Christians accept sex outside of marriage in a long-term relationship (1) - The Catholic Church teaches sex outside of marriage is wrong (1) - Some Christians believe casual sexual relationships go against biblical teaching (1) - A sexual relationship within marriage is a gift from God (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 attitude. Award a second mark for development of the attitude. Up to a maximum of four. - The family is the place that children are introduced to the faith (1), through taking them to church (1) - Parents have a duty to provide a safe and secure environment for children (1). This is stated in the marriage vows (1) - Children have a duty to care for their parents (1). It is one of the Ten Commandments (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated attitude / development - Development that does not relate both to the attitude given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each teaching. Award further marks for each development of the teaching up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • Many Christians marry to have lawful sex (1) because they do not believe in sex outside of marriage (1). "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) (1) • The purpose of marriage is to procreate (1) raising children to believe in God (1). "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) (1) • The purpose of marriage is to be lifelong (1). In 1 Corinthians 7:10 Paul teaches 'To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.' (1). Divorce is not permitted (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching/development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the teaching 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: • Some Christians refer to Genesis 1 where it says God created male and female at the same time and gave them equal status. Therefore, they believe that both genders are equal • The evidence from the gospels shows that Jesus treated women as equals, Paul confirmed this by saying in Christ there is no male nor female • There is evidence that the early Church had women priests/leaders, therefore Christians should support gender equality in today's Church. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians believe that women do have equal status but different roles so there is no need to fight against gender discrimination, it does not exist • Some Christians refer to St Paul's teaching about women not speaking in the church, this implies that women should be submissive to men • Catholics believe that they can discriminate against women in the priesthood because in the Catechism it says only men can be priests. This is because all the apostles were men. 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

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.
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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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- non-religious views
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- ethical arguments.