



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Philosophy and Ethics

Option 3C – 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 3: Philosophy and Ethics 3C – 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. • Miracles are important because they show that Allah is omnipotent (1) • Miracles show Allah is immanent in the world (1) • Miracles prove the existence of Allah (1) • They are important because they show Allah loves us (1) • The miracle of the Qur'an is important because it shows that it is the true words of Allah (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 an example. Award a second mark for development of the example. Up to a maximum of four. • Yusuf told his father of a vision of eleven stars, the sun and the moon prostrating to him (Surah 12:4) (1). This was a prophecy of future events. (1) • Yusuf interprets the dreams of his fellow prisoners (Surah 12:41) (1). This ability was a gift from Allah (1) • Ibrahim has a vision to sacrifice his son (Surah 37:102) (1) which was Allah's test to him (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated example/ development • Development that does not relate both to the example given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
1(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each problem. Award further marks for each development of the problem up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. - The existence of suffering may lead to some Muslims questioning Allah's compassion (1) described in Surah 1 as 'the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful' (Surah 1:3) (1). However, if he truly loves humans as it states in the Qur'an, then why is he allowing so much suffering? (1) - It may lead to some Muslims questioning his power (1). The Qur'an states that 'Allah is over all things competent' (Surah 2:284) (1), but if he is truly omnipotent then why is he not stopping all the suffering? (1) - Suffering can lead to some Muslims questioning Allah's omniscience (1). The Qur'an says that 'Allah is Knowing of all things' (Surah 49:16) (1), yet despite knowing about it he does not put an end to it (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated problem / development - Development that does not relate both to the problem and to the question - Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the problem 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: • Revelation shows that Allah is too distant for humans to have a personal relationship with, so he uses revelation to communicate with them indirectly • Revelation shows Allah is transcendent; he is outside of space and time and far above and beyond human reach. This creates a distance between him and his creation • The use of angels for revelation shows Allah keeps a distance between himself and humanity. Angels act as the intermediaries and relay Allah's message to humanity. Arguments against the statement: • Revelation shows Allah is seeking a personal relationship with humans, for example, Allah communicates directly with humans through his prophets • Revelation shows Allah is immanent. He is present within his creation, sustaining it and intervening. He did not just create humans and abandon them • Many verses in the Qur'an show that Allah is near; the Qur'an states Allah is 'closer to him than [his] jugular vein', and that 'He is the First and the Last, the Ascendant and the Intimate, and He is, of all things, Knowing.' 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. • Muslims teach sexual relationships must only take place within marriage (1) • Muslims teach that sex fulfils physical desires in a marriage (1) • Muslim teachings state that sex in a marriage fulfils emotional needs (1) • Muslims teach that sex in a marriage is a way of fulfilling spiritual needs (1) • Muslim teachings state that one purpose of sex in a marriage is procreation (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 purpose. Award a second mark for development of the purpose. Up to a maximum of four. • An important purpose of family life is to provide a nurturing environment for the upbringing of children (1) so that they can grow up as good Muslims (1) • A purpose of family life in Islam is to provide comfort and love to each other (1). This includes through the extended family (1) • A purpose of family for Muslims is to support each other (1) especially in times of difficulty (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated purpose/ development • Development that does not relate both to the purpose given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(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. - Islam teaches that Allah created spouses from one soul (1) for the purpose of procreation (1). 'O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women.' (Surah 4:1) (1) - A purpose of marriage is love and happiness (1) as Allah blesses married couples with his mercy (1). 'He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between them affection and mercy.' (Surah 30:21) (1) - Marriage is seen as the basic foundation stone of Islamic life (1). Muhammad taught that marriage fulfilled half of faith (1). 'When a man marries he has fulfilled half of the deen; so let him fear Allah regarding the remaining half' (Tirmidhi: 3096) (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
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: • Men and women have equal responsibility to create a nurturing environment in the family home. This ensures that children are brought up in a loving and caring home • Men and women have an equal role to play to ensure children are given a good Muslim upbringing. They are both expected to teach them about Islamic beliefs and practices • They are both expected to support each other in the home and domestic chores are not only the responsibility of the women. Muhammad performed many household chores, for example mending his own clothes. Arguments against the statement: • Some Muslims believe that women's status is not equal in the family as their responsibilities in the domestic domain are not seen to be of equal value to a man's financial responsibilities, which some believe gives them more authority in the home • Some Muslims believe that men and women in the family are not equal as men are given the responsibility of providing for the family whereas a woman is not required to spend her earnings on her family • Some argue that women have a more prominent status in the family as Muhammad valued the role of mothers more than fathers. Once he stated that mothers were three times more deserving of a person's kindness than fathers. 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.	12

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