



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 4: Area of Study 4 – Textual Studies

Option 4B – The Qur'an

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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 4: Textual Studies 4B – The Qur'an 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 Qur'an is used as the basis of Shari'ah laws by applying the commandment 'obey Allah...' (Surah 4:59) (1) • The Qur'an is used as the basis of Shari'ah laws on food and drink (Surah (2:173) • The Qur'an sets out the basic rules on how to perform ablution before Salah (Surah 5:6) (1) • Laws on who to give Zakah to are in Surah 9:60 (1) • The basis of laws on divorce can be found in the Qur'an (Surah 2:229) (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 reason. Award a second mark for development of the reason. Up to a maximum of four. • Submission to Allah's will is important because no other being can be depended on (1). Muslims should only rely on Allah for their needs (1) • It is important as Allah has control over all things (1) and Muslims should trust in his decree (1) • It shows only Allah is worthy of worship (1) as there is no other being like him (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
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. • Surah al-Baqarah states that non-believers are firm in their disbelief (1) and any efforts to change their beliefs will be futile (1). 'Indeed, those who disbelieve - it is all the same for them whether you warn them or do not warn them - they will not believe.' (Surah 2:6) (1) • They are described as unable to accept the truth (1) because their hearts, eyes and ears are sealed (1). Surah 2 states that 'Allah has set a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and over their vision is a veil. And for them is a great punishment.' (Surah 2:7) (1) • Some are described as faking belief (1), but Allah knows what is in their hearts (1). 'In their hearts is disease, so Allah has increased their disease; and for them is a painful punishment because they [habitually] used to lie.' (Surah 2:10) (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: • In the Qur'an, in the story of creation the angels are asked to bow down to Adam (Surah 2:34). This clearly indicates that humans are above angels • When the angels question Allah on the creation of Adam, Allah responds by showing the angels that Adam is gifted with intellect and freewill, whereas the angels lack these qualities (Surah 2:30-34) • Angels have no choice but to worship Allah but when a human submits to Allah, he recognises Allah's oneness, his authority and power. This clearly shows that the actions of angels have less value compared to humans'. Arguments against the statement: • Angels have great value in Islamic theology. Their obedience and worship is something that humans aspire to emulate themselves (Surah 21:19) so angels act as good role models for them • Humans are above angels in terms of intellect and use of free will only when humans use them for good and to submit to Allah. They lose their exalted status when they misuse these and sin • Angels are pure beings and can come in the presence of Allah. Humans are not able to do this and that is why they need angels as intermediaries. 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.

'Understanding of religion and belief' includes the Qur'an

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. • Allah asked Prophet Nuh to warn his people (Surah 71:1) (1) • Nuh tried to preach Allah's message (71:5) (1) • Prophet Nuh prayed to Allah to punish the disbelievers (Surah 71:24) (1) • Allah asked Nuh to build an ark (Surah 11:37) (1) • Prophet Nuh was not able to save his son from the punishment (Surah 11:43) (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 event. Award a second mark for development of the event. Up to a maximum of four. • Prophet Dawud joined Saul's army (1) and defeated Goliath (1) • Prophet Dawud was taught armour making (1) and the ability to mould iron with his hands (1) • He was given an exalted status amongst the prophets (1) and brought the Zabur to his people (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated event/development • Development that does not relate both to the event given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each event. Award further marks for each development of the event up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • Before her birth Maryam's mother prayed to Allah to accept her child in his service (1), so Maryam grew up in Allah's protection (1). 'It is from Allah. Indeed, Allah provides for whom He wills without account' (Surah 3:37) (1) • An angel told Maryam she would give birth to the Messiah (1). When she questioned this, she was told Allah is able to do all things (1). 'Such is Allah; He creates what He wills' (Surah 3:47) (1) • She faced accusations from her community (1), but Allah caused her baby to speak to defend her from his cradle (1). '(Jesus) said "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the scripture and made me a prophet"' (Surah 19:30) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated event/development • Development that does not relate both to the event and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the event 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: • The betrayal led to Prophet Yusuf being taken to Egypt (Surah 12:21) and the many events that happened subsequently, that showed Prophet Yusuf's many great qualities, could not have happened without the initial betrayal • When Prophet Yusuf was betrayed by his brothers (Surah 12:9), it revealed their true nature to him. Before this he did not know that they could have such malice in their hearts against him • The betrayal of Prophet Yusuf's brothers reveals the complexity of familial relationships and emotions. It reveals what depths jealousy (12:8) can make humans sink to. Arguments against the statement: • The most important event of Prophet Yusuf's life was in prison when he used his gift of interpretation of dreams (Surah 12:36). It was through this special gift that he was able to earn his freedom from prison and an honoured position in society • Prophet Yusuf's rejection of Zulaikha's advances (Surah 12:24) was an important event as it showed how he was of excellent moral character and an example for all Muslims to look up to • Prophet Yusuf's reunion with his family (Surah 12:92) was a particularly important event as he was able to show how forgiveness and compassion are favoured over revenge. Accept any other valid response.	12

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