



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies B

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Option 1F – 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 1: Religion and Ethics 1F - 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 Almighty can be seen as the Creator (1) • He is seen as the Law-Giver (1) • He will judge humanity after death (1) • The Shema shows he is One (1) • The Almighty is seen as all powerful (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
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 marks. • The Covenant with Abraham is the first Covenant the Almighty makes with the Jews (1) which marked them as his Chosen People (1) • It gave the Jews the Promised Land (1) which became the Jewish homeland (1) • The Almighty asked Jewish men to be circumcised (1) as a sign of their faith (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 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. • The Almighty chose Moses to be a great prophet (1) by giving him the Ten Commandments (1) 'The Lord said unto Moses: So shall you say to the children of Israel...' (Exodus 20:19) (1) • The Covenant reinforced the belief in monotheism (1) that began with the prophet Abraham (1) 'You shall not have the gods of others in My presence' (Exodus 20:3) (1) • The Covenant gave the Jews rules for a peaceful society (1) such as 'You shall not commit adultery' (Exodus 20:13) (1) which are still relevant today for Jews across the world (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
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: • Shekhinah is the Almighty's Divine Presence on earth and therefore what could be more important than a personal connection with him? • Shekhinah is so important that hundreds of thousands of Jews go to pray at the Western Wall of the Temple, where the Tabernacle was thought to be placed, the dwelling place of the Divine Presence on Earth • Shekhinah is the reason why Jews have prayed together for thousands of years, believing the Almighty comes amongst them when they gather, and this has kept the religion alive. Arguments against the statement: • The Almighty created the world, he created humanity, he breathed life and spirit into all people. How could anything be more important than one's very existence? • The Almighty as Law-Giver is more important for Judaism as a religion. The mitzvot are what has kept Judaism alive as a faith and as a culture, with Jews all around the world keeping the same rules about Shabbat, the same food laws, saying the same prayers • One of the fundamental beliefs of Judaism is that the Almighty will judge humanity, and that this judgement will ultimately decide one's eternity, so this seems more important than his presence on Earth. 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. • The Jewish community offers family worship services (1) • There are Bar Mitzvah classes for children (1) • There are classes for parents (1) • There are playgroups for small children (1) • They offer counselling sessions (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Both men and women are expected to work (1) traditionally, men outside the home whereas women bring up the children (1) • Both parents may contribute financially to their family (1) and both have a responsibility to bring their children up in the faith (1) • Both parents are commanded by the Almighty to love and care for their children (1) and be a good example to them (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated belief/development • Development that does not relate both to the belief 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. • According to Maimonides, a man can divorce his wife if she goes without a veil (Mishneh Torah) (1) because he expected Jewish women to be submissive to their husbands (1) and appear modest at all times (1) • Divorce is allowed if one partner has been unfaithful (1). One of the Ten Commandments is not to commit adultery (Exodus 20:13) (1) showing marriage is a contract and can be broken (1) • According to the Torah, a Jew may divorce his wife if he finds something indecent about her (Deuteronomy 24:1) (1), for example if she has shamed him in some way (1) such as dressing inappropriately in public (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 Jews allow any form of contraception, including the morning after pill, as some Jewish authorities believe that an unwanted pregnancy may harm the mother • Talmudic teaching allows women to use a form of birth control for a number of reasons, for example if breast feeding or has recently given birth • Some Jews argue that belief in stewardship should stop people having large families, as the world is overpopulated and the resources are scarce, so contraception is necessary. Arguments against the statement: • For many Jews, a large family is seen as a blessing from the Almighty, and therefore, contraception should not be necessary at all • Some Jews believe that any form of contraception which wastes sperm, such as the withdrawal method, goes against the teaching on the sin of Onan in the Torah • For many Jews, sterilisation is forbidden, as it damages the body given by the Almighty, and it goes against the command to multiply and replenish the earth. 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.
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.

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • The Amidah might be said as part of a synagogue service (1) • A Jew may want to praise the Almighty (1) • They might want to ask for his mercy (1) • They may want to petition for the community (1) • They might want to thank the Almighty (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
3(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 marks. • The Talmud allows Jews to interpret the teachings of the Torah (1) by reading centuries of debate from learned rabbis (1) • The Talmud is regarded as the source for all Jewish legal teachings, laws and decisions; (1) for example, the Talmud explains the rules of divorce (1) • The Mishnah contains a section on the food laws (1) which means that Jews will not eat the wrong foods (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
3(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. • A Bar Mitzvah marks the point when a boy becomes an adult (1) and takes place when a Jewish boy reaches 13 (1) remembering the account of Simeon and Levi taking up their swords (Genesis 49) (1) • It is the time a boy takes responsibility for his own faith (1) and can become one of the minyan (1) which shows that they are 'angels of the most High' (Psalm 82:6) (1) • A Bar Mitzvah is important for the father, who thanks the Almighty for bringing his son to maturity (1). A man must see to the needs of his son until he is 13 (1), from there onward he must say: 'Blessed is He who released me from the responsibility for this one.' (R. Elazar ben Simeon) (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
3(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: • A synagogue is a house of assembly, where Jews meet for prayer, worship and study. There are some prayers which can only be said in the presence of a minyan so a synagogue is important • The synagogue is important as it is the centre of the community; a place of worship but also contains a Hebrew school, classes for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and often a nursery school • Festivals, such as Yom Kippur, require Jews to worship together as a community. The confessional prayer is said by all members of the congregation, to cover the sins of all people. Arguments against the statement: • A Jew's relationship with the Almighty is a personal one and prayer said silently in private is more important than prayer said in a synagogue, therefore a synagogue is not necessary • Many Jews in the diaspora do not live in a Jewish area and cannot attend a synagogue regularly. It does not matter where they pray as they believe the Almighty hears all prayers • Some Jews do not attend synagogue, but they still consider themselves Jewish, and will follow the mitzvot in a more modernised way. Accept any other valid response.	15

Level	Mark	Descriptor
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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.
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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
4(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • All people were created by the Almighty (1) • All life is a gift from the Almighty (1) • Preserving life is a duty (1) • Life is holy (1) • Only the Almighty can end life (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Lists (maximum of one mark)	3

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(b)	AO1 4 marks Award one mark for providing a belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Abortion on demand is forbidden in Judaism (1) as life is given by the Almighty (1) • Abortion should be viewed as something to be avoided (1) unless absolutely necessary (1) • For some Jews a foetus is not considered human until it is halfway down the birth canal (1) so abortion is not considered murder (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated belief/development • Development that does not relate both to the belief given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(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. - Jews believe that the Almighty is the Creator of the world, (1) that he created it for humanity to take care of (1). 'The land and the fulness thereof are the Lord's; the world, and those who dwell therein' (Psalm 24:1) (1). - Humans have responsibility to look after the world (1) as Adam was given responsibility in the Garden of Eden (1), where the Almighty told him 'to till and tend it.' (Genesis 2:15) - The Jewish concept of bal tashchit (do not destroy), forbids unnecessary destruction (1). The Almighty, in return, has given people resources to use (1). 'I have given you every seed-bearing herb, which is upon the surface of the entire earth...' (Genesis 1:29) (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
4(d)	A02 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 A02 descriptors. A02 Arguments for the statement: • Some Jews believe the Torah to be the literal word of the Almighty. The Genesis account of creation tells of humans being created on the sixth day • Some Jews use the design argument to show that there is clear evidence of the Almighty within human life, for example in the complexity of the eye • Some Jews believe that because humanity is created in the image of the Almighty humans have the ability of conscious thought. No other explanation for differences with the rest of the animal world would make sense. Arguments against the statement: • Non-religious people might question the evidence of design in humans because they would ask why an Almighty who is omnipotent would create humans with what could be seen as faults • Non-religious people could argue that the theory of evolution shows that humans have evolved to become as they are, they were not created to be like this • Non-religious people may argue that humanity shares so many characteristics with other species that only the theories of evolution and natural selection can explain this. Accept any other valid response. Candidates who do not consider non-religious points of view (as instructed in the question) cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.	12

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