



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies B

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Option 1G – Sikhism

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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 1G - Sikhism Mark Scheme 2025

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
Q1 (a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Sikhs are taught that when the body dies the soul is reborn (1) • Rebirth will keep repeating until the soul is liberated (1) • Rebirth can happen in human form (1) • Rebirth can happen in animal form (1) • Rebirth can happen 8.4 million times (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. • Sewa is important for Sikhs as it is not used for personal gain (1), it includes selfless actions (1). • A reason why sewa is important is to show community spirit (1), as Sikhs are discouraged from leading a solitary existence (1) • By performing sewa a Sikh may become gurmukh (1), as sewa helps to move away from the five vices (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 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 reason why the sangat is important for Sikhs is because it was established by Guru Nanak (1), so they can learn to recite Guru Nanak's hymns together (1). 'The Sat Sangat, the True Congregation of the True Guru, is the school of the soul...' (Guru Granth Sahib 1316) (1). • The importance of the sangat for Sikhs is to enable them to practise their faith (1), by providing opportunities to hear the words of the Guru Granth Sahib (1) '...where the Glorious Virtues of the Lord are studied.' (Guru Granth Sahib 1316) (1). • The importance of the sangat for Sikhs is to experience religious understanding (1), so a Sikh can progress in the spiritual life (1). 'Sitting in the Sangat, the True Congregation, the mind is comforted and consoled by the True name.' (Guru Granth Sahib 69) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated reason development • Development that does not relate both to the reason given 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: • Complete equality of men and women is shown in Sikhism today as Sikhs believe in the oneness of humanity. All were created by God, and both are equally important in the world today • Throughout the Guru Granth Sahib Sikhs are taught that both men and women are equal and are of equal value. "From woman, man is born..." (Guru Granth Sahib 473) • Guru Nanak encouraged both men and women to take an equal share in worship and in the family. Both men and women have equal roles in the family and in the gurdwara. Arguments against the statement: • There is still inequality for Sikhs today. Women are still treated differently, for example, women do not carry the primary scriptures in their path from the Harmandir Sahib • Women only make up a small percentage of the committees that run the management of all gurdwaras suggesting that inequality exists • Gender equality has been difficult to achieve in practice in Sikhism due to cultural, social and caste-related pressure. Although it is improving, accepting men and women as equal is challenging. 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 role of the Sikh man in the family is to do household chores (1) • The man will provide for his family (1) • The man will have equal roles in bringing up his children in the Sikh faith (1) • A man sees it as a duty to look after elderly parents (1) • To help educate his children (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 an attitude. Award a second mark for development of the attitude. Up to a maximum of four marks. • One Sikh attitude to same-sex sexual relationships is that they are morally wrong (1), as they do not believe that they provide a good role model of the family (1) • Within Sikhism heterosexual relationships are the norm (1), as the only marriage mentioned in the Guru Granth Sahib is that of a man and a woman (1) • Some Sikhs believe that to discriminate against someone due to their sexual orientation is wrong (1), as Guru Nanak taught everyone is equal (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. - Sikhs are taught that they may remarry after the death of a spouse (1), as it may increase the Sikh population (1). 'If a woman's husband has died, she may, if she so wishes, finding a match suitable to her, remarry.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 11) (1) - Sikhs are taught that they can have a formal ceremony if they are remarrying (1), conducted in the same way as all weddings (1). 'The remarriage may be solemnised in the same manner as the anand marriage.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 11) (1) - Sikhs are taught that remarriage after divorce is allowed (1), as they recognise that marriage is a contract (1). 'The remarriage may be solemnised in the same manner as the anand marriage.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 11) (1). Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated teaching/ development - Development that does not relate both to the teaching given 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 Sikhs believe that contraception should be allowed if they are in a loving relationship as it prevents unwanted pregnancies which may affect the standard of living of the family • Non-religious people believe that contraception not only prevents unwanted pregnancies but protects everyone from sexually transmitted diseases so should be used • Sikhs believe that God would not intend humans to suffer. Contraception can be seen as a positive way of helping a couple to plan when to have children Arguments against the statement: • Some Sikhs believe that contraception should not be allowed, as it prevents the couple having children. Children should be seen as a gift and part of God's creation • Some Sikhs believe that contraception may encourage promiscuous behaviour which is immoral and against the Sikh code of conduct. • Some Sikhs believe that contraception should not be used at all as it may encourage sex before marriage which goes against Sikh teachings. 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

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. - Nam Japna is used in daily life to focus the mind on God (1) - It is used to stop a Sikh becoming selfish (1) - It is used in daily life to keep from the five evils (1) - It can be used quietly while alone (1) - It can be used within a sangat (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 an event. Award a second mark for development of the event. Up to a maximum of four marks. - An historical event celebrated in the Sikh festival of Divali is Guru Hargobind's release from prison (1). The Guru became known as 'Bandi Chhor' (the deliverer from prison) (1) - Sikhs remember the return of Guru Hargobind to Amritsar, (1) by decorating their homes with Bandi Chhor Divas (1) - Sikhs remember the martyrdom of Bhai Mani Singh during Divali (1). He was killed because he was protecting all Sikhs from the Mughal emperor (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
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. - An akhand path is important for the Sikh community as it brings the community together (1), where they follow certain rituals in preparing for the reading (1). 'While beginning the unbroken reading, the sacred pudding should first be laid.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 7) (1) - An akhand path is important as it helps the community focus on special events in life (1), such as a marriage (1). 'The non-stop reading of the Guru Granth Sahib is carried on occasions of...elation or joy.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 7) - An akhand path is important as it helps the community respect the Guru Granth Sahib (1). By listening to the akhand path Sikhs can learn more about the religion (1). 'The reading should be clear and correct. Reading too fast, so that the person listening to it cannot follow the contents, amounts to irreverence of the Scriptures.' (Rahit Maryada chapter 7) Accept any other valid response.	- Repeated reason/ development - Development that does not relate both to the reason given 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 this statement: • Most Sikhs would agree with the statement as the Guru Granth Sahib is the most important feature as it contains Guru's teachings about God • The Guru Granth Sahib provides teaching and guidance on ways Sikhs can approach God so is a vital feature of any gurdwara. It encourages Sikhs to keep God at the centre of their lives • The Guru Granth Sahib is important as the living Guru. It has its own rest room and is adorned with rumallas and placed on a throne to show its importance Arguments against this statement: • Some Sikhs would disagree with the statement as all the features in the gurdwara are important. They all are needed for each other, so that the smooth running of the gurdwara is upheld. • Some Sikhs would choose the langar as one of the most important features. Without it sewa would not be performed. The langar is the symbol for equality between castes, religion, and race. • The gurdwara is a central place for all Sikhs to meet as a community, to offer guidance and help for each other. Having a place to share ideas and help each other could mean there is no one important feature. Accept any other valid response.	15

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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. • Sikhs discourage the use of euthanasia (1) • Sikhs believe no person has the right to end a life (1) • The timing of birth and death can only be decided by God (1) • Sikhs will support using euthanasia if a person is in a vegetative state (1) • Gurus set up hospitals for the dying so there would be no need to use euthanasia (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 way. Award a second mark for development of the way. Up to a maximum of four marks. • A way Sikhs respond to non-religious arguments against life after death is by teaching samsara (1), that death is not the end, it is part of a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (1) • Sikhs will argue that the soul is immortal (1). It goes through many life forms until purified (1) • Sikhs will argue that eventually the soul will unite with God (1), by purifying the soul a person is prepared for the afterlife (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
4(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each response. Award further marks for each development of the response up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • Sikhs respond to scientific explanations of the origins of the universe by believing that the universe was not a result of chance (1). It was made by Waheguru's hukam (1). 'By His Hukam air, water and fire came into being.' (Guru Granth Sahib 1037) (1) • Sikh teachings are not in conflict with theories such as the big bang theory (1), as Sikhs believe the theory explains how things happened and that the universe is forever expanding (1). 'In so many ways, he has unfolded Himself. So many times, He has expanded his expansion'. (Guru Granth Sahib 276). (1) • Sikhs respond by believing that God created everything (1), and cares for it (1). "As He commands, so they exist. He watches over all, and contemplating the creation, He rejoices'. (Guru Granth Sahib 8) (1) Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated response/ development • Development that does not relate both to the response given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the response given • Responses that relate to the origins of human life.	5

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(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 Sikhs believe that abortion should not be allowed because all life is created by God and the foetus is alive immediately upon conception • Many Sikhs believe abortion should not be allowed because they think the Guru Granth Sahib teaches that life begins at conception. 'O my merchant friend, you were cast into the womb, by the Lord's command (Guru Granth Sahib 74) • All Sikhs believe that life is precious as God is within all. It is by God's hukam 'in the first watch of the night, by the Hukam of the Lord's command, you enter into the womb.' (Guru Granth Sahib 74) Arguments against the statement • Some Sikhs will accept abortion if the mother's life is in danger because her life takes precedence over that of the unborn child • Non-religious people may believe that it is a women's right to choose whether to have an abortion. They may be pro-choice as the woman's physical and mental health must be considered • Some non-religious people allow abortion because they believe there is no scientific evidence that the foetus is a human at conception. 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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