



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies B

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and
Conflict

Option 2B – 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 2: Religion Peace and Conflict 2B - Christianity Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
Q1 (a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Atonement allows Christians to be one with God (1) • Atonement means that sins are forgiven (1) • Most Christians believe atonement with God occurred when Jesus died (1) • Christians believe that Jesus was able to facilitate atonement with God (1) • Christians believe that atonement allows Christians to enter heaven (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 teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Most Christians teach the Trinity is one God in three Persons (1), the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (1) • The Bible shows the Trinity during the Baptism of Jesus (1). At the Baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit appeared as a Dove and God the Father spoke (1) • Each of the three Persons of the Trinity are God (1). They are described as being of the same substance (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching /development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching 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 Bible records that God became flesh as Jesus (1). 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son' (John 1:14) (1). This explains that Jesus shows the glory of God (1) • The Bible shows that the Incarnation means that Jesus is fully divine (1), as well as fully human (1). Timothy taught 'He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels' (1 Timothy 3:16) (1) • The Incarnation led to the atonement of the sins of humanity (1). The Bible shows that God sent Jesus to Earth as a sacrifice (1). '[S]ending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering' (Romans 8:3) (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
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: • Some Christians argue that free will completely solves the problem of evil and suffering. It explains that God cannot interfere with the issues that humans cause by their misuse of free will • Some Christians teach human misuse of free will solves the problem, as even seemingly natural disasters would not occur unless humans have somehow misused resources, for example causing climate change • Some Christians may feel that the free will argument completely solves the problem because God has chosen to give free will so humans can choose to do good, but in doing this they must also be able to choose to do evil. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians may feel that the free will does not fully solve the problem of evil and suffering, an omniscient God would know how to give humans free will and ensure they cause no evil • Some Christians would maintain that free will alone does not solve the problem. Christians also need to look at the Bible to learn that evil and suffering may have a purpose. Job shows people need to have faith in God • Some Christians will argue that the practical responses to the problem of evil and suffering are a better solution. By praying and performing charitable acts Christians are doing what God intends. 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. • Some Christians teach that the use of the death penalty is murder (1) • Some Christians teach that it ignores the sanctity of life (1) • Some teach that only God can take a life not humans (1) • Some believe it is a form of punishment that does not allow for reform (1) • Some Christians believe it is not an effective method of deterrence (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 teaching. Award a second mark for development of the teaching. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Most Christians teach that evil allows people to know what is good (1). Christians then know how they need to behave (1) • Most Christians teach that good and evil allows God to choose who goes to heaven (1). God can reward and punish people according to their actions (1) • Some Christians would explain that good and evil is a result of human moral behaviour (1). Humans create evil as a result of the misuse of free will (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated teaching / development • Development that does not relate both to the teaching 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. • The Bible teaches that people should forgive each other (1), they cannot worship God until they do (1). Matthew's Gospel teaches that they must 'go and be reconciled to them' (Matthew 5:24) (1) • The Bible shows that if a person wants forgiveness, they must forgive other people (1). 'if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins' (Matthew 6:15) (1). This shows that reconciliation with others is important in Christian life (1) • In the Bible it teaches that Christians should keep forgiving (1). Even if the same person keeps asking for forgiveness (1). 'Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them.' (Luke 17:4) (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 Christians would argue that justice is the best way to show love to others, as it ensures that victims feel cared for and that their hurt has not gone unnoticed • Some Christians would say that justice is the best way to show love to others, including the criminals who need to learn that what they have done is wrong, and how to become better people • Some non-religious people would teach that justice shows love as it allows human rights to be protected, meaning that no one is maltreated, society is a safe place. Arguments against the statement: • Some non-religious people believe that justice is not the best way, that there are many ways to show love to others and responding to the needs of people in any situation is the best way to show love • Some Christians may argue that forgiveness is the best way to show love to others. Jesus said that people should forgive 'not seven times, but seventy-seven times' (Matthew 18:22) • Some Christians may explain that love for others may be best shown by praying for others, trusting that if they pray God will help others in the way that he feels best. 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. • Christians may use the Lord's Prayer as it was given to them by Jesus (1) • They use it as it joins all Christians together (1) • They may use it as it contains all the types of prayer they need (1) • They may use it as it is called the perfect prayer (1) • They may use it as it recognises the omnipotence of God (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 problem. Award a second mark for development of the problem. Up to a maximum of four marks. • The persecuted Church faces a lack of religious freedom (1), people are prevented from practising their faith (1) • Some Christians are prevented from worshipping (1) because churches are destroyed (1) • Some Christians may face conflict when they practice their faith (1). For example, some Christians in Egypt were injured when their church was blown up (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated problem / development • Development that does not relate both to the problem 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. • Individual Christians may feel evangelical work is their vocation (1), they believe that Christians are called to evangelise (1). Jesus taught 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' (John 20:21) (1) • Some may feel that evangelisation is what Jesus taught them to do (1), that it is important to make as many followers as possible (1). Jesus asked his disciples to 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' (Mark 16:15) (1) • It may be important to some as it is a way to build the Church (1). If people hear the word of God, they may believe (1). 'Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved' (Mark 16:16) (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
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: • Some Christians believe Christmas has lost its real meaning as it has become too commercialised. When people are celebrating they are not thinking about the Incarnation • Some Christians believe it has lost its real meaning as many of the people who are celebrating are not Christians, and do not believe in the Incarnation • Many Christians believe that Christmas has lost its real meaning as many people are not aware of the story of the nativity, it is no longer retold in some schools. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians would say that Christmas has not lost its real meaning, Christians will always recognise that the festival has a religious meaning • Some Christians may maintain that Christmas has not lost its real meaning, when families gather together to celebrate, it is recognising that the main meaning of Christmas is to bring love into the world • Some Christians would argue that Christmas has not lost its meaning, that the celebration of Christmas with presents, lights and family gatherings all have religious meanings. Accept any other valid response.	15

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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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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
4(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Christians believe conflict is wrong (1) • Christians teach that conflict does not show love to others (1) • Most Christians teach that they should not be involved in conflicts (1) • Most Christians believe that conflict should be the last way to resolve a dispute (1) • 'Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry' (Ephesians 4:26) (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 condition. Award a second mark for development of the condition. Up to a maximum of four marks. • One condition of a Just War accepted by Christians is that it must be for a just cause (1), it must be to support a morally correct reason (1) • Many Christians believe that a Just War must be declared by a proper authority (1), usually the leader of a country (1) • One condition of a Just War is that it can only be waged when all other ways of resolving the problem have failed (1); negotiation and discussions have not managed to solve the problems (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated condition /development • Development that does not relate both to the condition given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(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. - Some Christians may feel that passive resistance follows the teachings of Jesus (1), he taught that people should show peace (1). 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (1) - Most Christians teach that passive resistance is how Christians should respond to conflict (1). It shows love to others rather than hate (1). Jesus explained, 'I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.' (Matthew 5:39) (1) - Many Christians would teach that passive resistance is the ideal (1). Jesus teaches 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' (Matthew 5:9) (1). However, sometimes conflict may be required (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
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 AO2 descriptors. A02 Arguments for the statement: • Some Christians would argue that forgiveness is the most important part of peacemaking, without it any problems that may have arisen will remain and cause further issues • Some Christians would say that forgiveness is an essential part of peacemaking. To cause peace to arise there must be an understanding that past wrongdoings have been forgotten • Some Christians argue that continual forgiveness is the way to make peace as the alternative is conflict which is a lack of peace. Arguments against the statement: • Many Christians believe that forgiveness is not the most important part of peacemaking. An understanding of others' points of view does not have to include forgiveness for past actions • Some Christians may argue that justice is more important in peacemaking, that it is essential that any form of peace brings justice. If there is any injustice the relationship will break down again • Some Christians may argue that following the teachings of Jesus is the most important part of peacemaking, as he was a peacemaker. This is exemplified in the success of his followers such as Martin Luther King. Accept any other valid response.	12

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