



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies B

Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Religion, Philosophy
and Social Justice

Option 3B – 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 3: Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice 3B - 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. • The Creation accounts record that Creation took 6/7 days (1) • They show that God was pleased with his creation (1) • The accounts shows that Adam named all living things (1) • A feature is that God rested (1) • The accounts show God created from nothing (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 belief. Award a second mark for development of the belief. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Salvation allows Christians to go to heaven (1). They are saved from eternal damnation (1) • Salvation is important as it means all sins have been forgiven (1). Jesus achieved this for humanity when he was crucified (1) • God sent Jesus to earth to bring salvation (1). He was the perfect sacrifice (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
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. - The problem of evil and suffering may cause Christians to question their faith because it shows that God may not be all loving (1). Christians are taught that one of the characteristics of God is to be all loving (1). 'The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8) (1) - Christians may question their faith as they may ask why he lets innocent people suffer (1), this does not show knowledge of his Creation (1). 'As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him' (Psalm 103:13) (1) - Christians may question whether God is all powerful (1), whether he is able to stop evil and suffering occurring (1). Paul teaches, 'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen' (Romans 1:20) (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: • Christians may argue that the crucifixion shows them what Jesus is like, it shows that he is fully divine and fully human, he dies as a human and brings salvation as God • Christians may believe that the crucifixion shows that he loves humanity, he says 'Father, forgive them' (Luke 23:34), forgiving those who crucified him • Some Christians feel that the crucifixion shows that Jesus is part of God's plan for salvation, without the perfect sacrifice the broken relationship with God could not be repaired. Arguments against the statement: • Some Christians may feel that the crucifixion does not show what Jesus is really like, as it does not show his power in the same way that other events, like miracles, do • Many Christians would say that the crucifixion does not show what Jesus is like, they would argue that because Jesus is not like any other being, nothing the Bible teaches can completely show what Jesus is like • Some Christians will argue that there is no one event in the life of Jesus that shows what Jesus is really like, all the biblical accounts together give a better picture of his characteristics. 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. • Prayer may lead to belief in God as it may be answered (1) • Prayer may lead to belief in God as it can help develop a relationship with God (1) • Prayer may lead to belief in God because the person praying might find out more about God (1) • It may lead to belief in God as it may lead to a feeling they are in God's presence (1) • It may lead to belief in God as it may reveal God's plan for them (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 thing. Award a second mark for development of the thing. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Christians may believe the Bible reveals that God is omnipotent (1), miracles recorded show this (1) • The Bible reveals that God is the Creator of the universe (1). Genesis contains two accounts showing this (1) • The Bible reveals that God loves people (1), he sent his Son to save them (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated thing/development • Development that does not relate both to the thing given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
2(c)	AO1 5 marks Award one mark for each example. Award further marks for each development of the example up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. • One example of a miracle is the healing of the royal official's son (1). Jesus did this to teach people to have faith (1). "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe" (John 4:48) (1) • An example of a miracle is the Feeding of the Five Thousand (1). Jesus uses his power to increase the amount of food they were given (1). 'The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.' (Mark 6:44) (1) • An example of a miracle is the healing of a blind man (1). Jesus shows he can heal using touch (1). 'Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly' (Mark 8:25) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated example/development • Development that does not relate both to the example given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the example 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 believe that God is the designer of the world as it is logical, everything needs a designer and the only possible designer of the world is God because God is all powerful • God is the designer of the world, only God is omniscient and thus knows how to design a world that is as complex as it is • God is the designer of the world, the world and all that is in it clearly have a purpose. The only being that is eternal and so able to design the world is God. Arguments against the statement: • Some non-religious people would argue that the world does not require a designer, it came into existence due to natural phenomena such as gravitational pull • Some non-religious people would say that God does not exist and so he cannot be the designer of the world. Atheists may argue that religious people who see design in the world are simply seeing what they wish to see • Some Christians may argue that God is not the designer of the world, God is the Creator of the world and he created it in six days using words and nothing else. 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.	Mark 12

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable response.
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- 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. • One reason Christians celebrate religious festivals is to celebrate an event in the life of Jesus (1) • One reason Christians celebrate religious festivals is to bring the community together (1) • One reason Christians celebrate religious festivals is to reflect upon their own faith (1) • One reason Christmas is celebrated is to remember the Incarnation (1) • One reason is to perform worship (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. • Christianity teaches that charity is a selfless act (1) that shows love for others (1) • Christianity teaches that giving to charity shows love for God (1), because they are doing what he has asked (1) • Christianity teaches that giving to charity can bring about social justice (1), by ensuring that people receive what they need (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 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. • One way the Church carries out missionary work is by preaching (1). Missionaries may go to other countries and explain the gospel (1). 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation'. (Mark 16:15) (1) • A way the Church carries out missionary work is by placing posters outside churches (1). These posters explain the value of becoming Christian (1). Jesus taught 'the gospel must first be preached to all nations' (Mark 13:10) (1) • Local churches run programmes to encourage people to believe (1). For example Alpha (1). 'Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.' (Mark 16:16) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated way / development • Development that does not relate both to the way given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the way 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 that the best form of prayer is informal prayer. They believe it allows them to worship as God wants. '[T]rue worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth' (John 4:23) • Some Christians, believe that informal prayer should be used because people can then pray for the specific needs of the community • Some Christians feel informal prayer is the best form of prayer because it allows the Holy Spirit to work through them, guiding their prayer. Arguments against the statement: • Most Christians believe that formal prayer is preferable to informal prayer because it encourages unity. All worshippers support one another by saying the same prayers • Some Christians believe that formal prayer ensures that worship is done correctly and includes wording in line with Christian belief. • Some Christians feel that formal prayers should be used and they are traditional and, as such, join Christians worshipping today with those in the past. Accept any other valid response.	15

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Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(a)	AO1 3 marks Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of three. • Christians teach that all forms of negative discrimination are wrong (1) • Christians teach that discrimination is not just (1) • Christians teach that discrimination does not show equality (1) • Christians teach that discrimination ignores love of neighbour (1) • Christians teach that discrimination shows disrespect to others (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 benefit. Award a second mark for development of the benefit. Up to a maximum of four marks. • Christians may gain tolerance for their faith when they live in a multi-faith society (1), which may reduce conflict aimed at them (1) • Christians in a multi-faith society may learn more about other religions (1), helping them recognise similarities (1) • Christians may observe how religiously committed people are to another religion (1). They may think about how they practise their faith (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated benefit /development • Development that does not relate both to the benefit given and to the question.	4

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(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. • Most Christians believe that human rights support equality (1). They work to ensure others do not lack the basics (1). The book of Proverbs explains 'Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.' (Proverbs 14.31) (1) • Christians believe that human rights support personal dignity (1). They believe people should not be treated inhumanely (1). Jesus said, 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you' (Matthew 7:12) (1) • Most Christians believe that human rights are a way to show love to others (1). They follow the teaching of Jesus to provide for others (1). Jesus taught 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in' (Matthew 25:35) (1). Accept any other valid response.	• Repeated belief / development • Development that does not relate both to the belief given and to the question • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the belief given.	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 Christians would say that there will always be poverty in the world because it cannot be ended – there are too many causes of inequality and some, like poverty due to natural disasters, cannot be predicted • Some Christians might argue that poverty will always be in the world because Jesus said it would be. He said, 'The poor you will always have with you' (Matthew 26:11) • Some Christians may argue that poverty will be with us always they believe it can only be solved by governments and politicians, and these people are in competition with each other, often causing poverty. Arguments against the statement: • Most Christians believe that it is possible to end poverty as it reflects God's plan for people. God created people in his image and as such they should have equality of wealth • Many Christians argue that it is possible to end poverty if they work to end inequality. This would reduce division and ensure equality of wealth • Most Christians would argue that poverty can be ended because Jesus taught 'Love one another' (John 13:34). If Christians work to end poverty, then they are showing love. Accept any other valid response.	12

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