

Edexcel GCE Religious Studies

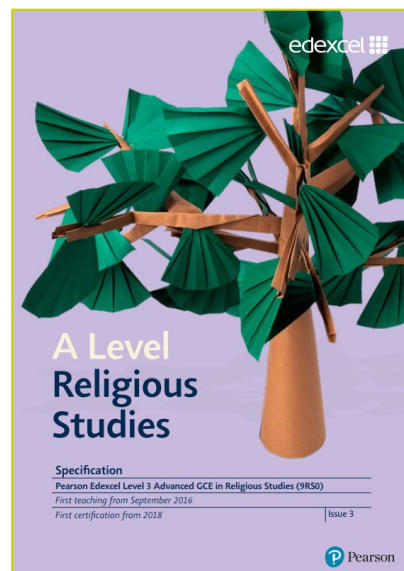
12-mark 'Assess' question exemplars

About this resource

This pack includes A level exemplars for 12-mark 'Assess' questions.

We have selected examples across the mark range from a variety of different papers, each including analysis against the level descriptors. These exemplars are taken from the 2022 exam series.

It should be noted that standardisation occurs to ensure consistency across series and the standard is set by the senior examining team.



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► Further Support for Edexcel Religious Studies

12-mark 'Assess' guidance

Level descriptors

4 marks are available for AO1 (knowledge and understanding). 8 marks are available for AO2 (evaluation and assessment). Questions are designed to allow candidates to provide a reasoned argument of factors to reach a judgement regarding their importance.

Recommended time: 20 minutes

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).• Information/issues are identified (AO2).• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).

The 12-mark 'Assess' level descriptors are consistent across papers and exam series. It is important to recognise that there are many reasons why an answer may meet a level, as the level descriptors contain a mixture of elements that need to be fulfilled.

Generally to achieve a Level 3, answers:

- Unpick the question and select relevant points in relation to the question to show a wide range of knowledge.
- Select and correctly use relevant specialist language, appropriate to the question.
- Show knowledge of different arguments supported by relevant and accurate reasons.
- Develop points fully (more than one simple development) to achieve chains of reasoning to present arguments.
- Are accurate and directly focus on the question throughout

Example 1: 3 marks

Paper 4e: Judaism

Q: Assess Jewish responses to the challenge of science.

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses Maimonides claimed that science is one of the routes to the love and fear of God. • By the early to mid-1900s, the majority of Conservative Judaism and Reform Judaism came to accept the existence of evolution as a scientific fact; they interpreted their scriptures and related Jewish teachings in light of this fact. • Science is about creating hypotheses and testing data against these theories; Judaism is about how Jews act to improve this world, here and now; these processes can easily go hand in hand. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maimonides endeavoured to integrate both science and the Jewish tradition as expressions of divine wisdom because he stated that if science invalidated creation <i>ex nihilo</i>, he would reinterpret scriptural passages to conform to science. • Many Jewish scholars argue that Judaism has always been pro-science because of the requirement that current scientific knowledge be factored into Halachic (legal) decisions. • Order in nature is a prerequisite for the development of any science; for this reason Judaism embraces science because order in nature is also central to Torah theology. • However, medieval Jewish thinkers struggled to reconcile both the Torah and the Talmud, with the science as it existed then because they believed that some of the Talmudic laws were established on incorrect science; consequently they disagreed about changing these laws to accord with the science of their day, or uphold the laws out of respect for Talmudic authority. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 1: 3 marks

Paper 4e: Judaism

Q: Assess Jewish responses to the challenge of science.

2 Assess Jewish responses to the challenge of science.

(12) 002

Orthodox Jews would respond very differently to the challenge of science than Reform Jews would. Orthodox Jews would completely shun the challenge of science, whereas Reform Jews would be more open minded to the challenge of science in the sense that they would listen to the ideas, and sometimes even incorporate it into the religion.

Example 1: 3 marks

Paper 4e: Judaism

Q: Assess Jewish responses to the challenge of science.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 1: 3 marks.

- This answer includes a **narrow range of knowledge**, referring to basic ideas from different branches of Judaism which at times is overgeneralised. Some **specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question is included.
- This answer **identifies** some **issues**, recognising the differences in responses within Judaism (with some errors). The answer is focused on the question but includes a **narrow range of ideas**. An attempt is made to explain the reference to Reform Jews being '*more open-minded*' but this is simplistic.
- Judgements made are generalised and not fully developed.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Develop the simple points made to show understanding through the explanation.
2. Address all elements in the question – consider why science may present 'a challenge' when discussing responses.

Example 2: 4 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Husain was the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Husain's martyrdom at Karbala in 680 CE became the central story of Shi'a tradition. The anniversary of Husain's martyrdom takes place in Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar when rituals associated with Shi'a Muslims are observed, such as self-flagellation. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Husain's martyrdom is significant because it played a crucial role in the historical development of the Shi'a community that emerged as a distinct division between the Shi'a and Sunni Muslims in respect of their religious and political beliefs and practices. Husain's readiness to sacrifice all that he had in order to preserve the divine ideals of justice is significant in that it has resulted in becoming a model event that inspires Shi'a Muslims to replicate. The death of Husain and the way in which it took place is significant because it has shaped the ethos of Shi'a understanding about martyrdom, suffering, salvation and sacrifice, all of which are unique and distinct to Shi'a Muslims. Ashura is an annual commemoration of the death of Husain during the first ten days of Muharram and this is significant because it involves the enactment of various rituals such as Azadari, Majalis, Matam, Taziya, Noha . <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 2: 4 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices

2 Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Husain for Shi'a history and practices.

(12) Q02

Hussein was said to have been attracted / resisted
 during a trip with his companions between
 cities where they were held hostage along
 with women & children within the group.
 Every year Shia Muslim mourn on this day
 and it is called the day of Ashura where
 Shia Muslim refrain from all sexual activities
 and not listen to music etc to focus on mourning
 the death. Only Shia Muslims celebrate on the
 day of Ashura, as this day is more
 significant for them. On this day hundreds/
 thousands of shias walk from the streets
 together shirtless ~~being~~ carrying bare
 chest with bare hands to show the pain
 with Hussein and his companions.



Example 2: 4 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 1: 4 marks.

- This answer includes a **narrow range of knowledge**, describing Ashura with the significance of it implied. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question is included.
- This answer **identifies** some relevant **information**, describing the martyrdom of Hussain and how Ashura is commemorated by some Shi'a Muslims. The answer is focused on aspects of the question but includes a **narrow range of ideas** and tends to describe rather than assess.
- **Judgements** are not explicitly made but implied through the choice of information.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Avoid describing religious practice – instead focus on the significance as required by the question.
2. Comment on the significance of Hussain's death for the development of Shi'a Islam.

Example 3: 5 marks

Paper 3: New Testament Studies

Q: Assess the importance of eschatological themes presented by Jesus in the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door.

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates who only refer to one parable cannot normally proceed beyond level 2.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus used parables to refer to eschatological themes such as the end of the world and the afterlife, death, judgement, heaven, and hell. • The Narrow Door is unique to Luke and is a reply to the question whether many or few will be saved. • The Great Banquet represents Jesus inviting listeners to enter the Kingdom of God eventually widening the invitation to Gentiles since the Jews invited did not attend. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Narrow Door's apocalyptic emphasis on judgement is important for conveying that the Jews do not have an automatic right to enter the Kingdom. The parable appears to be directed against the Pharisees' expectation of an automatic invitation into the Kingdom because their invitation was withdrawn and extended to Gentiles since invited guests did not attend. • The Narrow Door references the door as the way to salvation which will close if the Jews do not respond to Jesus. The lack of clarity as to when the door will shut has given importance for the debate as to whether judgement is imminent and therefore urgent or in the future. • Luke uses the imagery of the Jewish custom of a servant, not King, to summon guests to the banquet so Jews could understand they were invited. No one is excluded from the Kingdom of God except by choice and for this reason eschatological salvific outcomes are also available to the Gentiles since the Jews have refused the offer of Salvation. • Luke removes all Matthean apocalyptic elements and this is particularly important because the banquet could now represent a heavenly reward in the afterlife rather than an apocalypse happening on earth. This understanding of eschatology suggests the Parousia is delayed and importantly fits in with the futuristic stage of salvation history fulfilled in the afterlife.

Example 3: 5 marks

Paper 3: New Testament Studies

Q: Assess the importance of eschatological themes presented by Jesus in the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door.

2 Assess the importance of eschatological themes presented by Jesus in the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door.

(12) 002 5

Eschatological themes were important within the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door. As the parable of the Great Banquet specified that the poor, sinners who wished to repent and many others seen as being less valuable to Jewish society would have a place in ~~the~~ the Kingdom of God's Great Banquet.

Similarly, the parable of the ~~Narrow~~ Narrow Door specifies that it is the ~~poor~~ sinners and righteous that would be able to enter 'the Narrow Door' to the Kingdom of God. Meaning that eschatology is essential to give the Kingdom of God its meaning.

However, eschatological themes may not be as important as many think, to the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door. This is because people would still be able to understand the context of the parable. For example, if an individual were to say that only certain people can go to a banquet in ~~Heaven~~ Heaven, the people listening would still be capable of understanding that it

Example 3: 5 marks

Paper 3: New Testament Studies

Q: Assess the importance of eschatological themes presented by Jesus in the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door.

is the sinners of the world that are able to go. There is only one downfall to this, and that is because without the eschatology, individuals would understand it in a human understanding rather than somewhat of a divine understanding.

Overall, eschatological themes are important within the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow door. This is because it is only from the eschatological themes that individuals can understand the divinity of the kingdom of God.

Example 3: 5 marks

Paper 3: New Testament Studies

Q: Assess the importance of eschatological themes presented by Jesus in the parables of the Great Banquet and the Narrow Door.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 2: 5 marks.

- This answer shows a **range of knowledge** of the key messages of both parables. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question is included and used appropriately.
- This answer **deconstructs** relevant **religious information** in relation to the question, discussing the context of Jewish society and Jesus' message that Gentiles and sinners would be welcome into the Kingdom of God. These are presented in **simplistic chains of reasoning** rather than fully explaining the importance.
- Limited **judgements** are made regarding the importance of the parables but often the question is repeated rather than unpacking reasons why these parables are important in the context of Jesus' teachings.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Avoid repeating the question - develop the points that are made, explaining what makes the eschatological theme important to show understanding of the wider context.
2. Focus on explaining the 'importance' of the teachings linking these to Jesus' teachings on salvation.

Example 4: 6 marks

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of **one** critique of religious belief.

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may choose from a range of critiques of religious belief, such as the sociological, psychological or moral critiques. Mark scheme exemplar refers to the popularist critique of Richard Dawkins.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawkins argues that religion is responsible for misleading education and child abuse. • He maintains that religious belief is a trigger for violence, including terrorism, attacks on abortion clinics and intimidation of those who hold opposing views. • Dawkins claims that religious belief is irrational and absurd, promoting supernaturalism and superstition above science, reason and logic. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawkins' arguments are persuasive, and his delivery is charismatic and challenging therefore his relentless questioning is effective in identifying inconsistencies and flawed use of evidence. • Dawkins' appeal to evidence and reason is rooted in tried and tested scientific methodology and he makes use of historical and contemporary events and their interpretations, such as Paul's theology of atonement based on the historical death of Jesus and the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers as an expression of religiously inspired moral action. • However, Dawkins limits his challenges to obviously extremist expressions of religious belief and hence is guilty of the Straw Man Fallacy. • His focus is entirely on the negative aspects and outcomes of religious belief and fails to consider its positive social, emotional and cultural contributions. • Dawkins does not consider that it is possible for religious belief to be compatible with a scientific world view, thus disregarding the work of leading thinkers such as John Polkinghorne and Alistair McGrath. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 4: 6 marks

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of **one** critique of religious belief.

2 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of **one** critique of religious belief.

(126 Q02

one critic is Richard Dawkins who believes in the use of science that can discredit religion.

one strength is that fossils prove there is evolution and that God did not create animals for the earth but that they adapted to the environment to survive. However you could argue that God gave animals this ability as he is omniscient and may have planned it this way.

Another argument is that the use of the big bang as science believes that the universe started from a single atom which exploded to create the universe. But science and religion can be used together to say the big bang happened but God caused the big bang.

Religion asks why and science asks how and they can be used to fill in gaps and complete one another.

The creation story says all mammals were created on the same day but science proves dinosaurs and humans did not live at the same time.

Example 4: 6 marks

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of **one** critique of religious belief.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 2: 6 marks.

- This answer shows a **range of knowledge**, selecting key scientific objections to religious belief and appropriate counter arguments. **Specialist language and terminology** relevant to the question is included and used appropriately.
- This answer **deconstructs** relevant **information** in relation to the question, identifying Dawkins' critique based on science. Relevant examples are included with some development and these are countered with relevant objections. **Simplistic chains of reasoning** are used to present these different views.
- Basic **judgements** are made but these are presented with limited detail.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Try to present a developed chain of reasoning which builds up an argument rather than a range of points with simple developments.
2. Explain the final two sentences, showing how they relate to the rest of the answer.

Example 5: 7 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices.

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Husain was the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Husain's martyrdom at Karbala in 680 CE became the central story of Shi'a tradition. The anniversary of Husain's martyrdom takes place in Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar when rituals associated with Shi'a Muslims are observed, such as self-flagellation. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Husain's martyrdom is significant because it played a crucial role in the historical development of the Shi'a community that emerged as a distinct division between the Shi'a and Sunni Muslims in respect of their religious and political beliefs and practices. Husain's readiness to sacrifice all that he had in order to preserve the divine ideals of justice is significant in that it has resulted in becoming a model event that inspires Shi'a Muslims to replicate. The death of Husain and the way in which it took place is significant because it has shaped the ethos of Shi'a understanding about martyrdom, suffering, salvation and sacrifice, all of which are unique and distinct to Shi'a Muslims. Ashura is an annual commemoration of the death of Husain during the first ten days of Muharram and this is significant because it involves the enactment of various rituals such as Azadari, Majalis, Matam, Taziya, Noha . <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 5: 7 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices.

2 Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Husain for Shi'a history and practices.

(12) 002 7

Husain was one of the Imams that took the succession after his brother Hasan died, he was a martyr meaning he sacrificed his life for what he believed, in the battle of Karbala with Yatzib.

Shia Muslim celebrate Ashura every tenth of Muharram to mourn the death of Husain in the event they wear black cultural dresses to symbolise their sadness, they perform self flagellation meaning that they beat themselves with sticks to emphasise the pain that Husain was enduring at the battle, and to also seek forgive as they were not there to accompany him in the battle, because in the battle lots of Husain followers refused to attend and help him therefore his army lost.

In the celebration they re-enact the scene of the battle, symbolising the sadness and pain Husain must have felt in those moments. Shia Muslims believe that Imam Husain sacrificed himself at the battle of Karbala, to illustrate that in Islam only worshiping is not enough, but about sacrificing what you value the most to save Islam and he did that by sacrificing his life.

Example 5: 7 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices.

Shia's view Imams, as saints, that cannot commit
sins, they value Imams as they are the successors
of the prophet Muhammad, and descendant
of Ali, they hold a big status to the group.
a is the biggest difference between Sunni groups.
The belief in Imams, believe in 12 Imams.
Ashura is a day of pilgrimage that Shia's
fly to Karbala to mourn the death of
Hussain.

Example 5: 7 marks

Paper 4d: Islam

Q: Assess the significance of the martyrdom of Hussain for Shi'a history and practices.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 2: 7 marks.

- This answer shows a **range of knowledge**, describing beliefs about Hussain, his death and how it is commemorated within Shi'a Islam. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question is included and used appropriately.
- This answer **deconstructs** relevant **information**, inferring significance through the discussion of Hussain's sacrifice and the place of Imams within Shi'a Islam. **Simplistic chains of reasoning** are created which add detail, linking to key beliefs and demonstrating knowledge.
- **Judgements** about the significance of this event are made through links to key Muslim beliefs such as forgiveness and sacrifice as well as through discussion of how the event is commemorated.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Avoid description of AO1 knowledge – instead focus all points made on the question.
2. Refer directly to significance and state how something does or doesn't show significance.

Example 6: 8 marks

Paper 4c: Hinduism

Q: Assess the importance of Sri Ramakrishna for the development of modern Hinduism.

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Ramakrishna, born in 1836, became a priest of the goddess Kali of the local Kali temple in Daksinesvar. • Ramakrishna had religious experiences from the age of 6 and his first religious experience induced <i>samadhi</i> a trance like state. • Ramakrishna modernised Advaita Vedanta during the nineteenth century and contributed to neo-Vedanta thought. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Ramakrishna lived as a sannyasin ultimately setting up his own Hindu monastery which attracted many disciples and arguably therefore Ramakrishna and some of his disciples were instrumental for securing Hinduism, particularly in its neo-Vedantic form, as a world religion and for its spread throughout India and the West. • Ramakrishna advocated Advaita Vedanta because his own experience of 'oneness' with ultimate reality convinced him that an ultimate reality existed; therefore, his development of neo-Vedanta was grounded within his own religious insight and he is still revered by millions as a great teacher. • Ramakrishna developed a more liberal form of Hinduism by incorporating Western ideas into his system; in this way Ramakrishna's teaching that all religions are true promoted Universalism and provided a basis for interfaith dialogue which has remained important for Hinduism today. • Ramakrishna, like Gandhi, believed in the unity of all religions and experienced visions of other deities as well as Kali such as Jesus, Vishnu and Krishna. Therefore, this was proof to Ramakrishna that all religions are true and that everything is a manifestation of Brahma. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 6: 8 marks

Paper 4c: Hinduism

Q: Assess the importance of Sri Ramakrishna for the development of modern Hinduism.

2 Assess the importance of Sri Ramakrishna for the development of modern Hinduism.

(12) 002

Sri Ramakrishna was a reformer who was apart of the Hindu renaissance period. One of student of the Brahmo Samaj, Ramakrishna developed his own views on how to change Hinduism for the better. Frequently compared to the other reformers, Ramakrishna was insignificant in his proposal for the development of modern Hinduism.

Ramakrishna can be deemed as not important due to the fact that he proposed no reforms to the caste system, known as the caste system - which was a prevalent issue within Hindu society. He asserted that through Brahmin the caste system will either decay and the oppression the Dalits face will subside. On the other hand, it's arguable that Ramakrishna was important in establishing the importance of Sanskrit as being the main language for Hindu. Muslim and Christian colonisers erected their aspect of Hinduism, and in modern day India, Hindus are supposed to be reinstating their culture.

Moreover, Ramakrishna was important in establishing the importance of interfaith relations and tolerance. Through western scientific discourse and Hindu spirituality this allowing Hinduism to look more modern and

Example 6: 8 marks

Paper 4c: Hinduism

Q: Assess the importance of Sri Ramakrishna for the development of modern Hinduism.

universal; capable of saving: home rule like Gandhi supported.

Furthermore, Ramakrishna could be viewed as insightful points due to the fact that most of his views derived from Ram Mohan Roy who stated the Brahmo samaj, so therefore, his views were not new or original in developing modern day Hinduism.

Ramakrishna also maintained that Hinduism should value religious texts as a guide, like he did in his pursuit of the 'cool Krishna's' lifestyle, this is important in the fact that Hinduism could have a guideline to follow instead of being viewed as anarchic. On the other hand, it's arguable that modern ~~the~~ Hinduism has disregarded Ramakrishna's views and supported bigger ^{influences} ~~figures~~ who proposed greater reform to Hindu society whether it be highly inclusive or secular evident with the Hindutva movement.

In conclusion, Ramakrishna is not significant in modern day Hinduism; his lack of reforms to prevalent issues meant that his views were pushed aside for reformers that attempted to find solutions to issues pertaining Hindu ^{culture} ~~culture~~.

Example 6: 8 marks

Paper 4c: Hinduism

Q: Assess the importance of Sri Ramakrishna for the development of modern Hinduism.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 2: 8 marks.

- This answer shows a **range of knowledge**, including reasons for and against Sri Ramakrishna's importance for modern Hinduism. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question is included and used appropriately.
- This answer **deconstructs** relevant **information**, and follows a systematic structure to assess different views and link back to the question. **Simplistic chains of reasoning** which often include basic development of points are used.
- **Judgements** about the importance are made throughout as evidence is assessed before drawing an overall decision.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Develop points further to achieve chains of reasoning and further explain the importance.
2. Justify all points, including those in introductions or theses.

Example 7: 9 marks

Paper 4a: Buddhism

Q: Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karuna is a feeling of pity or compassion which makes a person want to help the sufferer. • The Dalai Lama taught that Buddhism is very simple; it is a religion of kindness. • Karuna can be achieved by the offering of dana to alleviate the suffering of others. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If suffering is the First Noble Truth and nibbana is the cessation of suffering it follows that a Buddhist should do all they can to alleviate the suffering of others; suggesting that karuna is an antidote to dukkha which lies at the heart of Buddhism. • The ultimate act of karuna is leading others towards Enlightenment, and hence the example of the Buddha and bodhisattvas should be sought, and those who practise karuna can be seen to be following their examples. • Within Mahayana Buddhism the bodhisattvas are seen to take rebirth deliberately following the achievement of the sixth paramita. They are reborn into realms where they can help suffering beings, therefore karuna is central to the bodhisattva ideal. • While Mahayana Buddhists might believe that everything has a Buddha nature and is on the way to Enlightenment the vast majority of people have not achieved it yet and are more likely to be motivated by metta, rather than karuna, to alleviate the suffering of others. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 7: 9 marks

Paper 4a: Buddhism

Q: Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

2 Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

(12) 9 Q02

One key significance of karuna for Buddhists is that it adds to the good morality (Sila) that all Buddhists should aspire to obtain. Buddha always emphasised the significance of morality in his sermons. Additionally, Buddhism is a practical religion rather than just theory based so this exemplifies that Buddhists should always express karuna. ~~On the~~ Karuna is also evident in the ethics section of ~~the 8~~ of the 3 fold way. The right speech, action and livelihood is what generates good karma for the laity and bring them to a better rebirth. The cultivation of karuna is significant in ridding the individual from the three poisons of hatred, greed and ignorance. However, it can be argued that without metta, Buddhists do not have the right mindset to cultivate karuna. Additionally metta is the antidote to dosa meaning that it may be more significant for Buddhists to ~~exten~~ appreciate the way in which to end suffering. Suffering arises from the three poisons so metta is more significant.

Example 7: 9 marks

Paper 4a: Buddhism

Q: Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

Others may argue that Chanti is more significant than ~~the~~ karuna. This is because Chanti (patience) is needed in order to follow the 8 fold path additionally needed in order to reach enlightenment. Nirvana is not easy to reach so it is significant for Buddhists to understand that the cessation of the three poisons are only undergone with patience. Furthermore, meditation requires patience too. So, as meditation is the way Buddha Gautama reached enlightenment so should Buddhists. Buddha Gautama went through a ~~ten~~ vigorous path in the search of enlightenment. He had then found the Middle way between hedonism & ~~asat~~ asceticism. This exemplifies Chanti. ~~Others may~~ However, it can be argued that Chanti can only be realised with the right mindset / attitude cultivated with metta & karuna.

In conclusion, it is evident that all attitudes of metta, karuna and Chanti are significant. All attitudes are co-dependant of each other. With just the cultivation

Example 7: 9 marks

Paper 4a: Buddhism

Q: Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

of metta, ^{lesser} ~~the~~ good karma is generated as
karuna is more of the action that Buddhists
must undergo. However, charity is needed
in the ~~pe~~ pursuit of nirvana. Furthermore
all attitudes are significant so one is not
more significant than the other.

Example 7: 9 marks

Paper 4a: Buddhism

Q: Assess the significance of karuna for Buddhists.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 3: 9 marks.

- This answer shows a **wide range of knowledge** of Buddhist teachings and beliefs relevant to the question linking each to the significance for Buddhists. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question are **carefully selected** and used appropriately. This is **sustained throughout**.
- This answer **critically deconstructs** relevant knowledge to assess the different arguments regarding the relative significance of karuna for Buddhists. It builds **logical chains of reasoning** which are **coherent** in their discussion of the relevant material.
- **Reasoned judgements** are constructed which show a broad range of arguments have been considered and weighed-up.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Include a greater exploration and focus on karuna rather than other Buddhist attributes – the question dictates the focus.

Example 8: 10 marks

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism.

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates who address only one approach cannot proceed beyond level 2. If candidates assess more than two approaches, read all the answer and credit the best two.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious approaches to pacifism may be based on the teaching of Jesus, for example the principle of non-retaliation advocated in Matthew 5:39. • Islamic understanding of pacifism may be more focussed on peace within the community rather than opposition to going to war. • Secular and religious approaches to pacifism incorporate absolute, relative and nuclear strands. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporters of pacifism may argue that it incentivises non-violent approaches to conflict resolution such as negotiation, sanctions or peace agreements. • Religious approaches to pacifism promote compassion, protection of the environment, equality and respect for others. • Religious approaches to pacifism may encourage believers to reflect the ideals of the Kingdom of God in order to deal with conflict in peaceful ways. • However, pacifism may be criticised as too idealistic, passive and impractical, allowing aggressors to go unchallenged. • Some degree of conflict may be deemed necessary for social and economic development. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 8: 10 marks

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism.

11:04 20 min .

2 Assess strengths and weaknesses of pacifism. (12) 002 11

~~1000~~

Pacifism is the idea where violence is not tolerated. There are different types of pacifists; absolute pacifists, selective pacifists, active pacifists etc. These pacifists are different ~~strengths~~ ^{intensity} of pacifism. Such as, absolute pacifism is the view that war and violence is not condoned in any circumstance whatsoever and selective pacifism is the idea that war and violence can be tolerated in certain circumstances as long as weapons of mass destruction ~~can~~ are not used i.e. nuclear weapons.

The strengths of pacifism are that there are no unnecessary violence and wars would occur because everyone who believes that violence is not the answer and there may be more conferences and treaties and political ~~stuff~~ ^{issues} settled verbally instead of massive wars breaking out every time a country doesn't agree with another. If wars don't occur because people and countries all over the world ~~don't~~ believe in no violence then many lives would be spared and we won't have the post war guilt of how many innocent lives were taken ~~per~~ during the war and there would be less ~~tragedies~~ ^{tragedies} in the world. Furthermore, if war and violence isn't seen to be an answer nor an option for any country then things such as war crimes wouldn't exist and people won't have to live in fear that a war will break out and they can live freely.

~~However, as much as~~ Natural moral law would argue for pacifism because by keeping the peace, no one is breaking the secondary

Example 8: 10 marks

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism.

precept that one should not take a life'. However, situation ethicists and utilitarianism would argue that pacifism has many weaknesses.

Sometimes war may be the most loving outcome and cause the least amount of harm. Fletcher argues that in circumstances where violence may be needed, violence and war are justified. The amount of lives lost in a war will be ~~outnumbered~~ outnumbered by the amount of lives that may be saved according to situation ethicists. E.g. when Hitler was carrying out the holocaust, the only way he could be stopped was by violence, one of the many reasons for world war two. If no one had intervened Hitler and carried on letting him kill Jews and many other innocent people for no reason whatsoever then that would have been ethical and in that situation, the most loving thing to do would be to start a war which may have been caused because violence was what was needed to stop Hitler.

Example 8: 10 marks

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Q: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 3: 10 marks.

- This answer shows a **wide range of knowledge** of strengths and weaknesses around pacifism itself, and with regard to ethical theories. **Specialist language and terminology** appropriate to the question are **carefully selected** and used appropriately. This is **sustained throughout**.
- This answer **critically deconstructs** relevant knowledge to assess the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism, making clear, well-explained links to relevant examples and ethical theories. These are written in **logical chains of reasoning** which are **coherent** and focused on the question.
- **Coherent and reasoned judgements** are constructed throughout, showing a range of arguments which address the demands of the question.

To improve this answer, the candidate needed to:

1. Be careful to ensure all points made focus on 'assessing' the content – avoid solely AO1 sections of writing that do not address the question.

Example 9: 12 marks

Paper 4b: Christianity

Q: Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

Question number	Answer
2	<p>4 marks AO1, 8 marks AO2</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is believed by some Christians that God guided the authors of the Bible to write down his will, word for word. • There is internal evidence (material within the Bible that testify to its divine origin) for example unity; even though it is 66 individual books, written in 3 different languages, over a period of about 1500 years, by more than 40 authors who came from many walks of life, the Bible remains one unified book from beginning to end. • The Bible is considered as the major source for Christian beliefs, practices and worship. <p>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is believed that the Bible is the word of God by many Christians because it consists of a range of material such as law, prophecy, writings, history, poetry, gospels, letters, apocalyptic, parables, miracles and for some Christians the Apocrypha, through which God is revealed. • The Bible is believed to be the word of God from a historical perspective because Christianity accepted the Jewish canon and consequently Christians believe that God spoke through the Old Testament prophets and revealed his will throughout the Old Testament. • Some literalist Christians believe the Bible is the word of God because they consider it to be inspired, infallible and inerrant. • However, there are some liberal Christians that do not accept that the Bible is the definitive word of God because for them the Bible is merely a collection of Christian texts that came about as a result of refinement by people who thought they were led by God to discern his teachings. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Example 9: 12 marks

Paper 4b: Christianity

Q: Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

2 Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

9:52
(12) 1202

The belief of the Bible as the word of God stems from the Church Father's belief that it is the primary source of God's revelation and divinely inspired by God.

A strength of the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God is that the Bible can effectively be demonstrated as divinely inspired. Most Christians argue that - whilst the Bible was composed by roughly 40 authors across 66 books - these authors were inspired by God in their composition. This is a strong argument when consolidating such a belief with the ideas of Calvin that scripture is self-authenticating. Calvin never argued that, as since as humans we do not have the capacity to judge whether the Bible is the Word of God, we have to trust in it. Moreover, the argument can also be seen as strong when applying the idea of 'plenary verbal inspiration' which argues that God used human authors of the Bible, such as apostles like Paul, as mere scribes to record His will and commands thus strengthening the idea that the Bible is

Example 9: 12 marks

Paper 4b: Christianity

Q: Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

the word of God especially when using the example of Paul - who converted due to his religious experience on the road to Damascus, which provides a logical inference for divine inspiration. However, such an argument can also be viewed as weak when referencing that even Calvin himself did not believe the Bible was a testament to God, but instead to Jesus. Furthermore, glorifying verbal inspiration can be weakened when applying the belief that God is transcendent - making it impossible for him to communicate to Bible authors.

A weakness of the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God is ~~that~~^{the} ~~divergence~~^{discrepancy} across books. As previously mentioned - the Bible was composed by different authors across 1,000 years and in ~~over~~^{different} languages, namely Hebrew in the Old Testament and Greek in the New Testament. This weakness can be argued to be a strong argument because the Bible's internal discrepancies do - on several occasions - cause contradictions. Indeed, whilst the Old Testament portrays an authoritarian - and, according to Dawkins, a genocidal - God in books such as Genesis. The New Testament God appears more loving and

Example 9: 12 marks

Paper 4b: Christianity

Q: Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

arguing. Such divergences cause issues about the Bible being the word of God, especially as it is taught God is immutable and unchanging, yet He appears to within Scripture. Furthermore, there are also significant divergences in teachings. Whilst books such as Leviticus are highly prescriptive ^{and absolute} on issues such as homosexuality, others such as Matthew are more relative endorsing change. This questions the Bible as the word of God as if He is omniscient - such divergences and corrections would not have been necessary, leaving the Bible open to source criticism. However, such arguments can be seen as limited when analysing Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount that development is necessary, as Jesus is before teaching as evidence of it being the word of God.

Therefore, to conclude. The Christian belief of the Bible as the word of God can be seen as being either arguing it to concepts such as Calvin's self-verification and glory verbs as evidence. But it can also be viewed as weaker when evaluating divergences in teachings and author.

Example 9: 12 marks

Paper 4b: Christianity

Q: Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.

Using a best-fit approach, this answer achieved Level 3: 12 marks.

- This answer demonstrates a **wide range of knowledge**, showing a broad and comprehensive understanding of factors that may affect judgements on this belief. Relevant **specialist language and terminology** are **carefully selected** and **used appropriately**. These are **sustained throughout**.
- This answer **critically deconstructs** a range of relevant points, exploring different arguments with relevant scholars, scripture and examples. These are well-explained and developed building **logical chains of reasoning** which are **coherent** and demonstrate a candidate with a comprehensive understanding.
- **Coherent and reasoned judgements** are constructed throughout assessing different positions and arguments around this belief.

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