



# **Examiners' Report**

## Principal Examiner Feedback

### Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (6RS04)  
Paper 1C Implications - Buddhism

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Publications Code 6RS04\_1C\_1706\_ER

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## **2017 Report on 6RS04**

With some thoughts on the Anthology in the new Spec.

### **Introduction:**

There were a significant proportion of scripts that were truly excellent. Examiners had opportunities to read outstanding scripts showing independent thought. Credit should be given to candidates and their teachers who have prepared the thoroughly, fostered a love of the subject and nurtured degrees of insightfulness. Candidates used a variety of methods in their answers to these textual questions. Some concentrated almost entirely on the selected passage, analysing each part and referring to their wider knowledge. Others set the passage within the context of the overall article illustrating key points from the passage itself. Whatever method is used the fundamental requirement is an examination of the passage. These principles will apply to the anthology passages used in the new Spec in the compulsory questions taken from the Anthology. (See conclusion below for more on this topic of Anthologies in the new Spec.)

### **1C Buddhism**

The better-quality answers presented a detailed analysis of the text with effective use of scholarship and sound knowledge of various Buddhist traditions and schools. In contrast, some summarised the whole of Griffiths' article without adequate focus on the selected passage.

In AO1 candidates were particularly good in their examination of Griffiths' emphasis on philosophy of language. This included astute understanding of 'two kinds of truth' and Zen contributions. Good synoptic links were made with reference to Ashoka and to meditation.

In AO2 there was a tendency with some candidates to concentrate on issues about agreement or disagreement but this was at the expense of the implications from this passage. Those who discussed the implications created interesting debates about anatta and controversies between Buddhist traditions such as Madhyamika and Yogacara and issues arising from Pure Land traditions.