



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (8RS0/01)
Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion
Mark scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many types of suffering including physical and emotional caused by both natural and moral 'evil'.• Although much suffering can be explained by human free will this does not account for the suffering caused by natural evil such as flood, drought, famine.• The logical problem remains of how an omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient God can exist alongside the reality of evil and suffering, it suggests God cannot or will not prevent suffering.• The wisdom of creating humans with free will who can choose to do evil is challenged by the scale of suffering.• The evidential problem challenges the probability of the existence of God as even if suffering can be seen to be purposeful it is not convincing on such a scale.	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of
Level 3	6–8	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Answer	Mark
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 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 the AO2 descriptors described below.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything that begins to exist has a cause. • The universe began to exist. • The universe has a cause, the personal being God is the best explanation for this. <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 Kalam argument is strong because it is supported by a posteriori evidence of observation of cause and effect in the world. • The Kalam argument refutes the idea of infinite time as this would mean an infinite number of days had been traversed already which is impossible thus making the argument strong. • The big bang theory supports the Kalam argument's premise that the universe began to exist which makes it a strong argument as it has the backing of modern science. • However its strengths are undermined as the oscillating universe theory can suggest the universe is in fact part of an infinite series of universes which undermines the strength of the argument and suggests there is no single cause. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	<p>(9)</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<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	4–6	<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	7–9	<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).

Question number	Indicative content
3	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 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"> • The analogical argument for design observes there is order, complexity and purpose in both human-designed objects and the natural world. • It suggests as like effects have like causes nature is likely to be designed. • It is strong because it draws clear parallels between what we do know and that which we seek to explain and the analogies used by the likes of Aquinas and Paley are accessible. <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 analogies are strong as they are based on <i>a posteriori</i> observations of order, purpose and regularity in the world and in man-made objects, such empirical evidence strengthens the argument. • There are similarities between the natural world and man-made machines but as Hume and others point out it might be more suited to a natural explanation as the world is more organic than mechanical which undermines the strength of the argument based on analogy. • The analogies can weaken the notion of God as it anthropomorphises God which is against the aim of the argument. • The analogies are useful but if too strict they undermine the strength of the argument, therefore although they add value to the argument it needs other factors such as issues of probability to make it a stronger argument. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-3	<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	4-6	<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	7-9	<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).

Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</p> <p>Candidates who assess only one key idea and not two cannot normally proceed beyond level 2.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principle of testimony suggests we should believe the testimony of others unless we have good reason to doubt them. • The principle of credulity states we should accept that things probably are as they appear to be, so if it seems x is present, it is likely that x is present. • If we did not follow these principles all sorts of experiences would need to be doubted and we would have to change the way we live. • In relation to the religious experience argument this suggests testimony of experience of God should be believed, in the absence of a reason to distrust the witness, similarly experiences that seem to be of God should be accepted as such. • These applications rest on the idea that it is possible that a being, God, exists and can be experienced.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).
Level 3	6–8	<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). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Indicative content
4(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 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"> • If people have experienced God then God must exist, people have reported many religious experiences therefore God exists. • The nature of religious experiences and their impact upon the life of experiants adds weight to the argument for the existence of God based on experiencing God. • These experiences constitute evidence of God’s existence as people are perceiving something external to them and these experiences should be trusted as veridical. <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 effects of a religious experience are often long-lasting and can involve conversion which adds to the persuasiveness of the argument because people choose to base their lives on these events. • The nature of mystical experiences that convey knowledge, leaving the recipient in no doubt but are hard to express add to the persuasiveness of the argument as it fits with the idea of experiencing something beyond this world. • Religious experience is persuasive as an argument as it is supported by the idea that a loving God would wish to interact with creation. • Experiences are often not as they seem in everyday life, so we should not trust them especially when about something that cannot be verified, the argument is therefore not persuasive. • The vicious circle challenge seriously undermines the persuasiveness of the argument by suggesting experiences may be the product not cause of faith. • Religious experiences may have alternative natural or psychological explanations to do with brain chemistry rather than God which undermines the persuasiveness of the argument. <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	<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 may be selected (AO2). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question. • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 2	6–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2). • Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. • Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	11–15	<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 simple chain of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. • Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	16–20	<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). • Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. • Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).

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