



**Pearson**  
**Edexcel**

## **Mark Scheme (Results)**

**Summer 2018**

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (8RS0/4A)  
Paper 4: Study of Religion  
Option 4A: Buddhism

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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 4: Study of Religion, Option 4A: Buddhism**  
**Mark scheme**

Question number	Indicative content
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theravada Buddhism is the only surviving form of Nikaya Buddhism and can be mainly found in south and Southeast Asia.</li> <li>• The emphasis of Theravada is “To do no harm whatsoever”.</li> <li>• Within Theravada the idea of the Three Vehicles is rejected. Theravada Buddhists do not think that the other forms of Buddhism are based on the teachings of the Buddha.</li> <li>• Theravada Buddhists only accept the historical Buddha and teachings that can be historically linked. Anything that has not come from him is rejected.</li> <li>• The relics of the Buddha are especially revered through stupas. Images are reminders of him. Devotion to him creates ‘merit’ in the kammic balance.</li> </ul>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vipassana is taught to a person by a master.</li> <li>• Usually vipassana is carried out in the lotus position.</li> <li>• Practitioners are trying to develop mentally so that they can look at themselves as if they were an outsider.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of vipassana is to internalise the dhamma. It is not just theoretical concepts but a (the only) reality that becomes a part of the meditator and therefore enables them to attain enlightenment.</li> <li>• It is the insight gained by this method which brings enlightenment; as such it is hugely significant as all other forms of meditation are really preparation for vipassana.</li> <li>• Dhyana meditation can be carried out through quieting the mind, sitting in certain positions, controlling the breathing, or fixing the mind on particular ideas and as such is more accessible and therefore more important for the majority of Buddhists.</li> <li>• Vipassana may be seen to be inaccessible to many and for the majority of Buddhists samatha would be more important as it enables a very common focus for the mind through breathing. For example, focusing on one's own breathing enables the meditator to rid themselves of outside distractions and stresses.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
3	<p data-bbox="300 306 707 338">3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p data-bbox="300 376 1422 551"><b>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.</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 589 1238 620"><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul data-bbox="300 624 1390 837" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="300 624 1219 692">• Every being has a Buddha nature (tathagatagarbha) which means that they have a potential for enlightenment.</li> <li data-bbox="300 696 1238 763">• The process of attaining enlightenment is a search within to discover the Buddha nature.</li> <li data-bbox="300 768 1390 837">• The purpose of life is to become a bodhisattva, which is achieved through completing the ten stages (bhumis) by developing paramitas.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="300 902 1318 1039"><b>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.</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 1077 1238 1108"><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul data-bbox="300 1113 1422 1666" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="300 1113 1355 1261">• Realising the Buddha nature enables Buddhists to recognise that nibbana is a lesser goal for those whose main desire is to escape suffering. It enables a more selfless goal of becoming a bodhisattva therefore recognising that such beliefs are essential.</li> <li data-bbox="300 1265 1398 1413">• The belief in the Buddha nature is central only in Mahayana Buddhism, as such it would be rejected by Theravada Buddhists who see nibbana as the ultimate goal, therefore anything else is illusory and lacking in importance.</li> <li data-bbox="300 1417 1422 1525">• Scriptures such as the wisdom Sutras discuss the Buddha nature and as such the centrality of the doctrine in Mahayana texts suggests its importance and influence for all followers of its traditions.</li> <li data-bbox="300 1529 1326 1666">• Realisation of the Buddha nature may help a Buddhist exercise metta in seeking to help others escape the cycle of samsara; therefore the Buddha nature is central in living one of the main aspects of the Eightfold Path and, by extension, a Buddhist life.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="300 1704 1358 1774">Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

<b>Level</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> </ul>



Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Four Sights were when Siddhartha left the palace and saw the four different types of people that helped him realise that suffering and impermanence existed.</li> <li>• Asceticism: following the four sights Siddhartha renounced all wealth and lived as an ascetic.</li> <li>• The Bodhi Tree: when Siddhartha meditated under the Bodhi Tree and attained enlightenment. He set the example of meditation necessary to achieve enlightenment.</li> <li>• Following his experience of the Bodhi tree the Buddha travelled to the Deer Park near Varanasi in northern India. Here he delivered his first sermon to a group of five companions with whom he had previously sought enlightenment which is seen as the founding of the sangha.</li> <li>• When he was eighty the Buddha announced that he would soon achieve parinibbana (final and complete nibbana at the passing away of a Buddha). Soon after this the Buddha ate his last meal provided by Cunda, the blacksmith.</li> </ul>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content
4(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis. 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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Buddha lived and taught in India about 2500 years ago and was influenced by the context of the time.</li> <li>• The Vedic religion had some basis in the ritual sacrifice of animals.</li> <li>• There was an increasing urbanisation with high population areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The message of the Buddha was more egalitarian and also democratic in the sangha which therefore may be seen as a rejection of the hierarchical and sometimes discriminatory nature of society.</li> <li>• Urban development may have made the reality of suffering more evident to people in the time of the Buddha, perhaps shown through the story of Krisha Gotami; therefore the social context can be seen to have echoes in the message as the reality of suffering is the basis of the Buddha's teachings.</li> <li>• The urbanisation of society may be seen to have enabled greater reliance of the monks on the villagers, which may have been possible in previous years and as such can be seen as a direct influence on the nature of the sangha.</li> <li>• All other teachings of the Buddhist belief and practice spring from the Tipitaka and this therefore clearly shows how far the Tipitaka has been adopted across various forms of Buddhism.</li> <li>• Some of the religious teachings of the time, such as those found in Vedic scriptures were rejected by the Buddha. As such it is possible to see the Buddha plotting an independent path or one that rejected existing thought.</li> <li>• Some aspects of religious belief such as Brahman and atman were rejected and did not influence his message while others such as kamma, found in the Upanishads were embraced, therefore this suggests an influence on his thought in developing his view of the nature of existence.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>

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

