



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (8RS0)
Paper 3: New Testament Studies

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Question Paper Log Number P78597A

Publications Code 8RS0/03 2506_MS

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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 8RS0 03: New Testament Studies - 2025
Mark scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	8 marks AO1 AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question. Candidates may refer to the following. • Word made flesh – Jesus is sent into the world as the incarnation of God to reveal the glory of the Father. • Moses and the Law – Jesus is presented as greater than Moses and the Law. • Replacement Theology – Jesus offers the fullest revelation of God available to humanity and supersedes the Law and its moral code. • The 'Christ' – the Prologue stresses a higher Christology when John 1:17 mentions Jesus' name and gives him the title of Christ. • Hellenism and Judaism – the Prologue introduces Jesus as the 'Word' or 'Logos' and this concept was familiar in both Jewish and Hellenistic thought.	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• 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	• 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	• 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	3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1. • Other Gospels build on Mark's Gospel and this supports the view that Mark's Gospel was written first. • Augustine (AD 400) claimed that Mark's gospel is an abbreviation of Matthew's Gospel. In parallel accounts it is easier to see that Mark edited Matthew rather than Matthew edited Mark. • Until the eighteenth-century biblical scholars believed that Matthew was written first not Mark's Gospel. Griesbach argued Mark provided a short summary of the other two Gospels. 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. • Matthew and Luke follow the material and order of Mark very closely, but additional material shared by Matthew and Luke suggests the existence of another source referred to as 'Q' which strengthens the priority of Mark over Matthew and Luke. • The argument for Markan priority rather than Matthean priority is strengthened because the apparently abbreviated form of Matthew's gospel in Mark leaves out some of the most famous Matthean accounts of Jesus' life and teaching such as the birth narrative and the Lord's Prayer. • The priority of Mark is strengthened because of the theory that Matthew and Luke appear to have adapted or removed phrases from Mark's text possibly to improve the literary style of Mark; indeed, Matthew and Luke appear to use a better style of Greek than Mark and uncommon words used by Mark are changed. • Some scholars support the Augustinian view that Matthew was written first because of internal evidence from the Church Fathers; for example, Irenaeus testified that Matthew's Gospel was written first. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• 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	• 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	• 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	3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1. • The key purpose and concern of the Fourth Gospel is stated in John 20:31 – ‘But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name’. • The Fourth Gospel cites scriptures from the Old Testament to show Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. • The evangelist uses the phrase ‘it is written’ and this was to fulfil the scriptures to present Jesus as the fulfilment of scripture. 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. • The evangelist uses a literary technique to present Jesus as the fulfilment of scripture: this theme is introduced in the first part of the Gospel with ‘it is written’ and coupled with this was to fulfil the scriptures in the second part of the Gospel. This, therefore, shows very clearly the evangelist’s intention to present Jesus in this way. • The disciples heard Jesus’ response to the Jews who asked for a sign to prove his authority. The cleansing of the Temple narrative clearly draws attention to the significance of the response given at the time; that ‘after Jesus’ death’ the disciples ‘recalled what he had said’ and because of this ‘they believed the scripture and the words Jesus had spoken’. Therefore, the disciples now believed Jesus to be the fulfilment of scripture. • The Fourth Gospel shows Jesus as fulfilling scripture because every detail of Jesus’ suffering fits into a plan laid down by God in the scriptures. The evangelist uses all the tools at his disposal, inclusive of scriptural references such as ‘fulfilment’ passages, to offer ‘proof’ to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah and hence the fulfilment of scripture. • The Fourth Gospel was more concerned with revealing the divinity of the Christological aspects of Jesus which can be most clearly seen through his act of raising Lazarus from death. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• 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	• 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	• 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)	8 marks AO1 AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question. Candidates may refer to the following. • The signs are key Christological tools for understanding Jesus' unique relationship to God. • The signs performed during Jesus' ministry reflected his intimate relationship with God the Father. • Jesus did not act on his own authority and the signs helped to understand the source of his authority and power as Son of God. • The signs directly revealed the glory of God working through Jesus and anything Jesus said or did was consistent with his divine mission and the will of God the Father. • Signs were performed by Jesus to encourage belief in him as the Messiah.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• 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	• 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	• 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)	5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1. • Signs are miracles that only God can perform and, in this way, express understanding of Jesus' identity. • The 'I am' sayings claim Jesus is the reality to which previous signs and symbols point. • Jesus explains the meaning of each sign in the 'I am' discourse afterwards. 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. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. • The signs in the Fourth Gospel have a clarifying role for understanding Jesus' identity and ministry because they were designed to produce faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. • Jesus performed more than the seven signs [John 20:30] that were included in the Fourth Gospel. The selection of the seven signs suggests their immense value for giving a clear understanding of who Jesus is and for proving Jesus is the Christ. • The signs need the accompanying 'I am' discourse afterwards to explain their deeper meaning and to reveal who Jesus is to the crowds; however, without the discourse the signs alone do not offer a sufficiently clear understanding of Jesus' identity and ministry. Jesus affirms this by way of taking time to deliver the associated discourse to the crowds. • After performing signs which could have a naturalistic explanation, the Raising of Lazarus is the ultimate statement of divine power and the most unmistakable identifier of who Jesus is; therefore, this sign is essential for giving a very clear understanding that Jesus is the Son of God who has power over death. • The 'I am' sayings divided Jesus' hearers and the 'I am the Bread of Life' discourse resulted in a misunderstanding of the sign itself whereby disciples stopped following him. Hearers accepted or rejected Jesus and this mixed response suggests, therefore, that even the sign and its associated discourse combined were not enough to give a clear understanding of Jesus and his ministry. • The Jews expected the Messiah would authenticate his claims by means of signs and it would be unthinkable, if Jesus was indeed the Messiah, for there to be an absence of signs within Jesus' ministry. However, signs in themselves did not convince all listeners and the whole Gospel needs to be taken together to give the clearest possible understanding of Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	• 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 (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 2	6–10	• 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 (AO2). • Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	11–15	• 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 (AO2). • Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	16–20	• 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 (AO2). • Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).