



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE In Religious Studies (8RS0)

PAPER 4: Study of Religion Option 4B: Christianity

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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.

Question number	Indicative Content Explore key features of Christian belief in God as Creator
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. • This belief is based on Genesis; it is also in the Creeds and central to Christianity. • Most Christians believe God created out of nothing (<i>ex nihilo</i>) and this is a primary feature. • Creation can be seen as an emanation, an overflowing of the creative energy of God. • For some, God features as a master-builder, working on pre-existent matter. • Another feature is of the artistic expression of creation, seeing it as the 'handiwork of God' expressing the personality of the Creator, filling the believer with awe and wonder.

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 Assess the significance of the Arian heresy for Christianity
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. • The Arian heresy stated that Jesus was created by the Father and that he is not of the same substance or nature as the Father; instead, Jesus is a finite, created being. • Arius taught that only God the Father was eternal and too pure and infinite to appear on the earth. • This heresy developed a significant following within the Early Church. 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 Arian heresy is associated with Arius, a priest in Alexandria, which is the most significant in the history of Christianity because it concerns the mystery at the very heart of Christianity - the Trinity. • In AD 325, Constantine decided that he would settle the Arian controversy once and for all and called for a Council of all the parties involved in the dispute. This is significant because it resulted in the Nicene Creed. • An immense significance is that the Nicene Creed eventually led to the formulation of the Athanasian Creed that contains a clear statement of the Trinity and the incarnation of Christ with Jesus defined as very God and very man. • Official Church doctrines in Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox denominations reject Arianism, however, because of the continuing debate to this day, many of the key questions about Christology continue to be asked. 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)
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Question number	Indicative content Assess the Christian belief that the Bible is the word of God.
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. • 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) from its 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. 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. • 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 texts that came about as a result of refinement by people who thought they were led by God to discern his teachings. 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 Explore the key features of the diversity of practice in the Eucharist.
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 Eucharist (which in the Greek means 'thanksgiving') is celebrated by most Christian denominations as a response to Jesus' instruction at the Last Supper. • In Roman Catholic practice, at the culmination of the Eucharist, the bread/wafer and wine are changed by priestly consecration into the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation) and served to the participants. • Orthodox Christians believe that during the Eucharist they partake mystically of Christ's body and blood and through it receive his life and strength. • In some Protestant denominations the bread and wine are viewed as symbols. • The elements of the Eucharist may be shared by an ordained priest/minister or by eucharistic ministers or even shared out by all worshippers.

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 Analyse the significance of the Eucharist for believers.
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. • Sacramental worship, reflecting the outward sign of grace, distinguishes the Eucharist as significant for the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. • The Eucharist is significant for most Christian denominations as they adhere and respond to Jesus' instruction 'to do this in remembrance of me'. • The significance of celebrating the Eucharist for Christians reflects their recognition of, and participation in, sharing in the death of Christ. 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. • There are different understandings of the extent to which God is present in the practice of the Eucharist and this is important because it reflects the significance of the Eucharist for believers. • Roman Catholics believe that the significance of the practice of the Eucharist demonstrates its importance because at the culmination of the Eucharist, the bread/wafer and wine are changed by priestly consecration into the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation). • For Orthodox Christians the significance of the Eucharist is because they believe they partake mystically of Christ's body and blood and as a result receive his life and strength. • For some Protestant churches the Eucharist is significant because it reflects a belief that the Eucharist should be viewed as an act of 'remembrance' or 'memorial' rather than being sacramental. • The diversity of the practice of the Eucharist reflects diversity of belief and this is important for believers because it need not be seen as a correlation between belief regarding presence or sacraments. • The Eucharist for some Christians is celebrated infrequently, or even not at all, and therefore it is not considered a central part of worship and may even hold less importance for some believers, eg the Salvation Army. 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).