

GCSE Religious Studies

Delegate marking activity to support
the introduction of the amended mark
scheme for (d) item questions



Delegate Marking Activity

About this resource

This interactive resource forms the **third training session** in a **series of four**. It is aimed at all teachers who are currently delivering Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies, or who are thinking of delivering the qualification for the first time. It provides essential information and guidance, relating to amendments made to the mark scheme for (d) item questions, designed to improve accessibility.

This session will:

- remind you of the amendments made to the level-based mark scheme, for (d) item questions, featured in the previous two modules
- provide you with a series of new (d) question exemplars
- offer the opportunity to apply your understanding of the application of the new mark scheme for (d) item questions, against the exemplars provided
- provide detailed commentary from our senior examiners, to assess your understanding of how the new mark scheme for (d) item questions is to be applied.

Other sessions in this series:

Session/event	Description
1: Pre-record	Introduction from our Chair of Examiners to the amended mark scheme for (d) item questions
2: Live online event	Live introduction and Q&A to the amended mark scheme for (d) item questions
3: Interactive session (this resource)	Delegate marking activity to support the introduction of the amended mark scheme for (d) item questions
4: Live online event	Live session addressing queries associated with the amended mark scheme for (d) item questions

Please see [this webpage](#) for further details of the other sessions and to register for the live events.

Delegate Marking Activity

Mark scheme and guidance

Our extended evaluation questions are level-marked rather than point-marked. This involves the examiner reading through the whole answer before awarding a level using a best-fit approach.

A mark is then decided based on how well it meets the descriptors within that level.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
N/A	0	No rewardable response.
1	1-3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
2	4-6	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
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'Point(s) of view' always means arguments for and against the statement. Where specified in the bullet points under the question, it may also include one of the following:

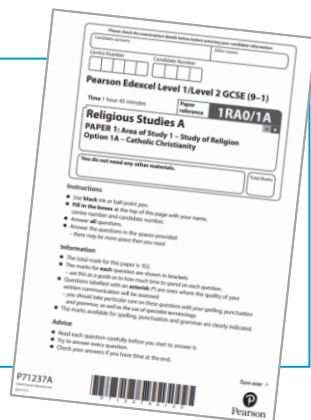
- different views within the religion
- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

Delegate Marking Activity

How to work your way through the marking activity

Now that you've been introduced to the amended mark scheme and read through the guidance you will be presented with some exam questions on the next slide.

You'll be able to view the corresponding student answer, mark scheme, examiner commentary and additional guidance for each one.



Step 1: Read through the exam question and student answer.

Step 2: From the question-and-answer page, you can access the guidance and mark scheme to determine the mark that you would award the answer.

Delegate Marking Activity

Example 1: Buddhism

"It is impossible to overcome desire."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Student answer:

The statement "It is impossible to overcome desire" could not be convincing as it may be possible to overcome desire. How? The Buddha stated that meditating clears your mind and helps you focus on yourself and calming down. This means that meditation may help you overcome desire as it clears your mind of whatever you may be thinking of.

On the other hand, the statement "It is impossible to overcome desire" could be



= Guidance



= Mark Scheme



= Examiner commentary

Step 3: Note down the mark you would award the script.

Step 4: Check your mark by clicking on the examiner commentary.

Click on the 'Go to question hub' button below to get started.

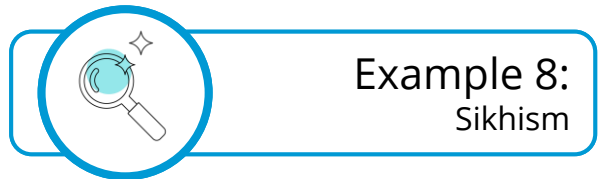
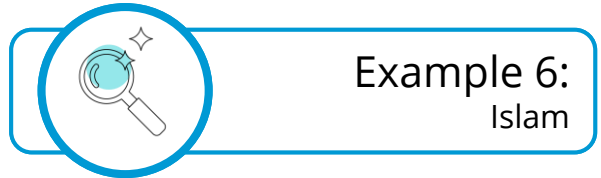
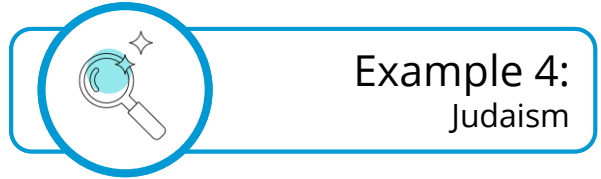
Go to question hub



Delegate Marking Activity

Delegate marking activity: Question Hub

Select a question from the list below to view the question text, exemplar student answer, guidance, mark scheme and examiner commentary.





Delegate Marking Activity

Example 1: Buddhism

“It is impossible to overcome desire.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

The statement “It is impossible to overcome desire” could not be convincing as it may be possible to overcome desire. How? The Buddha stated that meditating clears your mind and helps you focus on yourself and calming down. This means that meditation may help you overcome desire as it clears your mind of whatever you may be thinking of.

On the other hand, the statement “It is impossible to overcome desire” could be seen as convincing. How? We can refer to the Buddha; he was meant to be living a princely life, however his heart desired to escape the palace. If it were possible to overcome desire, the Buddha would not have escaped and would not be enlightened.

To conclude, I believe it is not convincing that “It is impossible to overcome desire” as a well-minded Buddhist would know how to overcome it.

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- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

[Back to student answer](#)

[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 1 – Buddhism

Arguments for the statement:

- The Buddha himself accepted the rapidly growing nature of desire, once saying that all occurrences are rooted in desire. He explained to his followers 'The Dhamma-wheel is set in motion in the instant Koṇḍañña sees the realities pointed out by the Buddha' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)
- Within all human beings is the desire for happiness, which leads to want, which is another desire. This want helps a person overcome feelings of limitation which is part of human nature
- For Buddhists the only thing not rooted in desire is Nibbana, for it is the end of all phenomena. The desire to seek enlightenment is not wrong and does not need to be overcome.

Arguments against the statement:

- Buddhists believe that it is possible to overcome desire and this can be done by achieving enlightenment; they seek to attain it through their spiritual life. If it was possible for the Buddha it is possible for all Buddhists
- The Buddha spoke of ending pain resulting from desire 'for the spiritually ennobled ones, is the true reality which is the way leading to the cessation of pain' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)
- By following the Eightfold Path, Buddhists believe they can free themselves from desire and break the cycle of Samsara. This is a spiritual aim of Buddhism.

Accept any other valid response.

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answer

Mark Scheme





Delegate Marking Activity

Example 2: Catholic Christianity

“The teachings of Jesus are all a person needs to make ethical decisions.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

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I agree with this statement as throughout the Gospel Jesus acts as a role model on how to live a good life. One example is servanthood as Jesus teaches us always to be humble. This is logical to say as not only did he teach these things but he also showed them like washing the feet of the disciples in the story of the last supper. From this Catholics learn to never think you are above someone as in all situation Jesus tried to serve others.

Some people say that while Jesus does teach many good virtues it is also important to refer to other scripture. This is a strong argument because of the Magisterium who re-interpret many teachings. Through this, the teachings become modernised meaning it's fair to say that by referring to their interpretations we are able to make contextual decisions. An example of this is Vatican II that tells us how to act in regards to modern issues like abortion that Jesus' teachings cannot effect since it wasn't a thing then. Additionally, other Christians might not accept Catholic books but would accept that vicars may explain teachings differently to help Christians follow Jesus' advice in the modern day.

Another reason I agree with the statement is because of Jesus' constant displays of love and forgiveness in the Gospels. This is a strong argument as in the Gospels Jesus shows how to live and even in his darkest hours while being crucified he said 'Father, forgive them' which shows the ultimate quality to have is forgiveness. Jesus' showings of love and forgiveness are valid points as these are what shape many Catechism teachings so it would make sense to only look at these teachings of Jesus.

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Delegate Marking Activity

Example 2: Catholic Christianity

“The teachings of Jesus are all a person needs to make ethical decisions.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

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On the other hand, Jesus once got angry and destroyed a market place which demonstrates he didn't always stay calm. This means that it is logical to say other sources are always useful and should be used in times of serious decision as they have the time to review things and come to justified conclusions just as you should.

In conclusion, I believe that Jesus' teachings are all a person may need because they cover many topics and teach people what values they should have. These values can then be applied to a range of situations and will help a person make the correct decision.

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- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

[Back to student answer](#)

[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 2 – Catholic Christianity

Arguments for the statement:

- Literalist Christians view everything in the Bible as absolute truth. Every word in the Bible is the Word of God and so must be true, believing that God created the world in six days
- Literalists believe that God is omnipotent and could create as the Bible describes, both Genesis 1 and 2 are scientific truth, with chapter 1 giving an overview and chapter 2-3 giving greater details of day six, so is the truth
- Literalists reject the scientific idea of the Big Bang and evolution; they argue that it was God that created the universe and it was not an accident but planned by God as detailed in the creation account.

Arguments against the statement:

- The Catholic Church believes that the Bible is the Word of God expressed through writers of the time. The Creation account is not regarded as an absolute fact. It has stories with true meanings, based on the first human beings and their knowledge of God
- Liberal Christians such as Church of England view the Bible as written by humans inspired by God but the Creation account may need reinterpreting in light of the modern world
- Eminent Christians, such as Augustine, have questioned a literal understanding of Genesis 1-3. Augustine said, 'What kind of days these were it is extremely difficult, or perhaps impossible for us to conceive' (The City of God 11:6-7).

Accept any other valid response.

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[Mark Scheme](#)



Delegate Marking Activity

Example 3: Judaism

“Belief in the Messiah is important for Jews.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Jewish teachings
- refer to different Jewish points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

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I agree that “belief in the Messiah is important for Jews” because it creates hope amongst the whole Jewish community across the world. This is because in every generation, Jews believe that there is potential for a Messiah. For centuries, Jews have been patiently waiting for a Messiah, but also do not worry too much as they believe there eventually will be one, as promised by God. This would produce hope for all Jews as they know they have been promised this by the entity they adore and praise the most, God, who is infallible.

Another reason why I agree with this statement is because God specifically promised the characteristics of their next Messiah. These features were that the Messiah would be: a great political and military leader, a great judge, kind and inspiring to all and in line with King David. This would also then produce hope for Jews because they know their Messiah will have these incredible qualities. Therefore, a belief in the Messiah is important for Jews because it creates hope for the whole community across the globe.

One reason why someone may disagree could be because they feel that if there was to be a Messiah, there should have already been one and therefore he could be false. For example, many could argue that if God were to give Jews a Messiah then he would have done it when they were in extreme suffering, like the Holocaust. However, because no Messiah appeared during these overwhelmingly horrible times, it could create disbelief in him and would therefore be unimportant for Jews.

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Delegate Marking Activity

Example 3: Judaism

“Belief in the Messiah is important for Jews.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Jewish teachings
- refer to different Jewish points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

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A second reason why someone might disagree could be because Jews don't need a Messiah to have a "great political or military leader". Many countries have great leaders which unite them with the rest of the world. None of these leaders are the Messiah yet can still help their citizens in a plethora of ways. This implies that the Messiah could be believed to be outdated in Judaism, and they could easily just have another normal human to rule over them and strengthen the Jewish community and faith.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement because it creates hope for all Jews and is something they know will eventually happen as it is promised by God. However, I can see why others might disagree because there has not been one in times of extreme Jewish suffering and that it could just be an outdated belief.

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- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

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[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 3 – Judaism

Arguments for the statement:

- Belief in the Messiah is one of the Thirteen Principles of Faith, which says that the arrival of the Messiah will bring in the messianic age, when the dead will be resurrected and live a life of peace on earth, so this is something many Jews look forward to
- Every mitzvot obeyed pleases the Almighty and brings the arrival of the Messiah nearer. Therefore, belief in the Messiah is fundamental in everyday life. Some believe the Messiah has not come yet because the Jews are not observant enough
- Isaiah says that the Messiah will be a great political leader who will return Israel to glory and rebuild the Temple. This is the ultimate wish for many Orthodox Jews.

Arguments against the statement:

- Belief that a Messiah will save the Jews is not important for some Reform Jews, who believe that peace will only be created by humanity working together
- Teachings about the messianic age can be interpreted metaphorically rather than literally. Collective action is needed rather than one leader to appear who takes charge
- Belief in the Messiah can be seen as one which provided hope and comfort for Jews during times of persecution, but during the Holocaust, some Jews questioned these beliefs. The idea of future peace did not help the desperation in the camps.

Accept any other valid response.

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answer

Mark Scheme



Delegate Marking Activity

Example 4: Judaism

“Belief in the Messiah is important for Jews.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Jewish teachings
- refer to different Jewish points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

Some Jews believe this statement is true because the Messiah is the one who will bring the Messianic age. This means the temple shall be rebuilt and all the Jews will have followed the mitzvot.

This is a strong argument as the Jews were promised the second coming of the Messiah and that they would live with world peace.

This is a weak argument as some other people can say Jesus was the coming of the Messiah and why hasn't there been world peace?

Some Jews may disagree with this statement as the Messiah hasn't come in thousands of years and there is no sign of him coming to repair the broken world.

Others may disagree with this argument as the Messiah has been written about in the Torah which is the word of HaShem.

Some may see this as a strong argument as there is no proof of a second coming of Christ.

In conclusion, I agree with this statement as the Messianic age is the second coming of Christ.

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[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 4 – Judaism

Arguments for the statement:

- Belief in the Messiah is one of the Thirteen Principles of Faith, which says that the arrival of the Messiah will bring in the messianic age, when the dead will be resurrected and live a life of peace on earth, so this is something many Jews look forward to
- Every mitzvot obeyed pleases the Almighty and brings the arrival of the Messiah nearer. Therefore, belief in the Messiah is fundamental in everyday life. Some believe the Messiah has not come yet because the Jews are not observant enough
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Arguments against the statement:

- Belief that a Messiah will save the Jews is not important for some Reform Jews, who believe that peace will only be created by humanity working together
- Teachings about the messianic age can be interpreted metaphorically rather than literally. Collective action is needed rather than one leader to appear who takes charge
- Belief in the Messiah can be seen as one which provided hope and comfort for Jews during times of persecution, but during the Holocaust, some Jews questioned these beliefs. The idea of future peace did not help the desperation in the camps.

Accept any other valid response.

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answer

Mark Scheme





Delegate Marking Activity

Example 5: Christianity

“The three Persons of the Trinity make it easy to understand God.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

Most Christians follow the Trinity which is a following of God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit it technically says that in the Bible. Preaching that God can resemble and shape shift into any form which declares omnipotence and that God is all one. The Trinity makes a Christian understand that Holy Spirit means you could feel God's presence within you which could practically mean faith. While Jesus as the Son of God represents God as Jesus form to demolish the corrupt and calamity and to sacrifice his life for mankind's sins. And God the Father translates to omnipotent and omniscient because God knows everything and is the most powerful. These teachings could help a Christian to better their relationship with God and to increase their faith and knowledge.

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[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 5 – Christianity

Arguments for the statement:

- The Church teaches that the Trinity is God that there is one God, and thus this must be not only the easy way, but the only way to understand the nature of God
- The three Persons of the Trinity all show something unique about God, which means that as unity, in the Trinity, God is shown in a way that each Person alone could not
- Christians believe that the three Persons of the Trinity are shown in the Bible and thus makes it easy to understand God.

Arguments against the statement:

- Some would argue that as God is ineffable it is not easy to understand God and that the idea of three Persons and yet one God makes it more difficult to understand God, rather than easier
- The Articles of Faith state 'There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness.' Thus it can be argued it is easier to understand God as one rather than the three Persons of the Trinity
- Some Christians teach that the Trinity is a mystery, that it is not meant to be understood, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says 'The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life' (261).

Accept any other valid response.

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[Mark Scheme](#)



Delegate Marking Activity

Example 6: Islam

“The main purpose of a Muslim’s life is to achieve paradise.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

Some Muslims may strongly agree with the statement because paradise is a place of luxury where Muslims can live for an eternity. This is shown in the Quran through the quote “what a pleasant resting place”. This shows that paradise is a place of comfort and luxury and Muslims should attempt to reach it. This can be strengthened because in paradise Muslims will get to live with Allah which is something all Muslims should try to achieve.

On the other hand, some Muslims may strongly argue that the purpose of a Muslim’s life is to do good deeds and help others. This is shown through the quote “whoever does an atom’s weight of good shall feel it”. This shows that Muslims should try to help others in their community because it will grant them many rewards. This is a weak argument because by doing good deeds a Muslim will get to go to Jannah therefore the teaching shows that the point of a Muslim’s life is to achieve paradise.

In conclusion the strongest argument is that the purpose of a Muslim’s life is to achieve paradise because every good action that they commit will help them achieve paradise.

*Also, some Muslims may agree with the statement because the prophet Muhammad taught the importance of going to Jannah and how to get there. This can be seen in many of his teachings such as about marriage and respecting your parents is one of the ways a Muslim can achieve paradise. This shows that the purpose of a Muslim’s life is to go to Jannah by following the Prophet’s teachings and showing love and respect to those around you. This is a strong argument because it shows that even the Prophet Muhammad believed the purpose of a Muslim’s life is to achieve paradise.

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[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 6 – Islam

Arguments for the statement:

- The Qur'an teaches that 'The punishment of your Lord is ever feared' (Surah 17:57). Muslims must strive to lead a good life according to the will of Allah and pray for his mercy in order to achieve paradise and avoid the punishment • Muslims believe life is a test determining where a person will spend eternity. Allah's judgement of the quality of a life is based on the life on earth so they must be conscious of Allah's judgement in every choice they make
- Since Allah already knows the outcome of the decision determining where a Muslim will spend eternity the purpose of a Muslim's life is to do Allah's will and fulfil their destiny by achieving paradise.

Arguments against the statement:

- The Qur'an says that Allah 'intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship' (Surah 2:185) so some believe that life is to be lived to the full and enjoyed, rather than living in fear of judgement
- There are many aspects of life in this world which Allah has decreed and a Muslims purpose is therefore to fulfil Allah's will, rather than serve Allah in expectation of future reward
- 'Allah is Forgiving and Merciful' (Surah 2:182) so Muslims should live life to the full and trust that Allah will judge their intentions and show them mercy since no-one is without sin. No-one can achieve paradise unless Allah wills it.

Accept any other valid response.

Back to student
answer

Mark Scheme



Delegate Marking Activity

Example 7: Buddhism

“It is impossible to overcome desire.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

To a greater extent I think this it is possible to overcome desire through means such as enlightenment and by following Buddhist teachings.

One reason why this is possible to overcome desire is because the Buddha achieved this through his own enlightenment. This means that if we dismiss the three poisons in our lives and uphold Buddhist teachings, we can escape the wheel of samsara and find the path away from suffering and desire. This is convincing because though the three poisons exist, there are still ways we can overcome it “man must learn to satisfy his needs and not feed his greed” – Lily De Silva. Therefore, I think that it is possible to overcome desire though ones own effort.

However, one might argue that for many Buddhists, it is impossible to overcome desire in one lifetime. This is because as the three poisons are constant within the wheel of samsara. This generates negative kamma which could impact one’s chances at becoming enlightened and therefore escaping from desire. This is not convincing though as by being a “refuge unto yourself” – Maha-parinibbana Sutta, Buddhists can aim to accumulate positive kamma which could help them gain enlightenment in one life or the next. In addition, if Buddhists uphold teachings such as the Eightfold Path, then this will help them overcome desire through “Right Action” and “Right Speech”.

In conclusion, I think that since we all possess tathagatagarbha (Buddha nature), we can overcome desire through enlightenment and by upholding Buddhist teachings which enable Buddhists to avoid the three poisons “Bhikkhus all is burning, burning with the fire of craving, burning with the fire of delusion, burning with the fire of hate.”

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Delegate Marking Activity

Mark Scheme

Level	Mark	Descriptor
N/A	0	No rewardable response.
1	1-3	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.
2	4-6	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.
3	7-9	A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
4	10-12	A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

'Point(s) of view' always means arguments for and against the statement. Where specified in the bullet points under the question, it may also include one of the following:

- different views within the religion
- non-religious views
- philosophical arguments
- ethical arguments.

[Back to student answer](#)

[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 7 – Buddhism

Arguments for the statement:

- The Buddha himself accepted the rapidly growing nature of desire, once saying that all occurrences are rooted in desire. He explained to his followers 'The Dhamma-wheel is set in motion in the instant Koṇḍañña sees the realities pointed out by the Buddha' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)
- Within all human beings is the desire for happiness, which leads to want, which is another desire. This want helps a person overcome feelings of limitation which is part of human nature
- For Buddhists the only thing not rooted in desire is Nibbana, for it is the end of all phenomena. The desire to seek enlightenment is not wrong and does not need to be overcome.

Arguments against the statement:

- Buddhists believe that it is possible to overcome desire and this can be done by achieving enlightenment; they seek to attain it through their spiritual life. If it was possible for the Buddha it is possible for all Buddhists
- The Buddha spoke of ending pain resulting from desire 'for the spiritually ennobled ones, is the true reality which is the way leading to the cessation of pain' (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)
- By following the Eightfold Path, Buddhists believe they can free themselves from desire and break the cycle of Samsara. This is a spiritual aim of Buddhism.

Accept any other valid response.

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[Mark Scheme](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Example 8: Sikhism

“Sewa is the best way a Sikh can become gurmukh.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



Student answer:

Overall I agree with this statement.

On the one hand, a Sikh may agree with this statement and feel that sewa is the best way to become gurmukh (God centred). This could mean producing and cooking the Langar could make them gurmukh. “Selfless service” is a duty every Sikh must do and ‘tan’ sewa means a physical duty and cooking food for people for no reward makes them more God-centred and gurmukh. This is a strong argument as Guru Nanak performed sewa meaning it is a very good way to become gurmukh and achieve mukti

On the other hand, a Sikh may disagree and feel that procreation is the best way to become gurmukh. The Guru Granth Sahib states the “Householder” is the best path to God. This means that procreation and making a family makes someone gurmukh as it brings them closer to God. This is a weak argument however because only certain people of certain ages can have children, as they must be married first.

Overall, where I see that procreation is a good path to God, sewa is clearly the best way to achieve mukti from being gurmukh. Tan sewa, along with man and dhan sewa is a daily duty which makes a Sikh God-centred.

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Delegate Marking Activity

Mark Scheme

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[Indicative content](#)





Delegate Marking Activity

Indicative Content: Example 8 – Sikhism

Arguments for the statement:

- By performing sewa a Sikh focuses on compassion and patience, which is one of the best ways to become gurmukh. By being aware of the needs of others and helping them, a Sikh shows compassion in a practical way
- By helping others Sikhs move away from pride, greed and selfcenteredness. Sikhs will feel closer to God. 'Through selfless service eternal peace is found' (Guru Granth Sahib 125)
- It is important for a Sikh to become gurmukh and selfless service is an excellent way to show equality and the oneness of humanity. 'One who performs selfless service, without thought of reward shall attain the Lord and Master.' (Guru Granth Sahib 286).

Arguments against the statement:

- There are other ways a Sikh can become gurmukh. Meditating on God's name is one of the key teachings to help a Sikh focus on the virtues and God
- Living an honest life and truthful living are other ways for a Sikh to become gurmukh. They all should work in conjunction with each other through devotion and commitment
- All human beings are born into the stage of piety and Sikhs believe that following the five khandas of knowledge, piety, effort, grace and truth will enable Sikhs to meet with God.

Accept any other valid response.

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answer

Mark Scheme

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