



Examiners' Report

June 2023

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 1D

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Introduction

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions, there is no element of choice on the paper. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is set from the specification.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Buddhism as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and throughout the world. There are four sections: Beliefs; Marriage & the Family; Living the Religious Life; and Matters of Life & Death. In preparing for this paper, candidates will have studied Buddhism within the context of the wider British society.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

This question showed candidates understanding of the cessation of tanha. Many candidates gained all 3 marks. Those that were not able to get marks tended to struggle to articulate their ideas, responded to tanha rather than the cessation of tanha, or were unclear on the specification term cessation.

The candidate is awarded 3 marks.

Examiners awarded one mark for each belief identified and written in a sentence.

1 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist beliefs about the cessation of tanha.

(3)

One belief is that tanha ends when all karmic energy is removed, preventing the need for another life.

Another belief is that tanha is caused by greed therefore is removed when greed is removed.

Tanha is caused by attachment therefore the cessation of it occurs when one removes attachment to material objects.



Tanha ends... preventing the need for another life. (1)

Tanha is caused by greed, therefore is removed when greed is removed. (1)

Cessation of (tanha) occurs when one removes attachment to material objects. (1)



Candidates should make sure they have three distinct sentences, but should not sacrifice time by offering more content than can be credited.

The candidate is awarded 1 mark.

One mark is awarded for each belief identified and written in a sentence.

1 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist beliefs about the cessation of tanha.

(3)

One belief is that in order to cease tanha we must detach from the material world.

Another belief is that tanha means desire and is one of the three poisons.

Another belief is that tanha causes suffering.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate writes appropriately simple sentences however they have focused on tanha rather than the cessation of tanha for some of their responses.

One belief is that in order to cease tanha, we must detach from the material world. (1)



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to be familiar with key vocabulary used in the specification, so that they are able to appropriately show their knowledge when questioned.

Question 1 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the teaching given and to the question asked.

Most candidates were able to show their understanding of the First Noble Truth and many students gained full marks. There were a range of approaches, which were generally valid. Many answers made specific reference to dukkha.

(b) items are point marked – Two teachings are required.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about why people suffer.

(4)

One teaching about why people suffer is because of cravings and attachments. These cravings are caused by change and prohibit Buddhists on their way to enlightenment. Another ~~teaching~~ teaching about why people suffer is the law of karma. If someone isn't creating good karma for themselves they can be left with bad karma in the form of suffering, which also needs to be overcome.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two reasons and develops each of the reasons with additional relevant detail in order to be awarded the development mark.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should refer to the specification for likely questions.

The candidate is awarded 3 marks.

The candidate gives two responses, one of which is developed.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about why people suffer.

(4)

one buddhist belief about why people suffer is
that tanha (craving and ~~attate~~ attachment) causes
suffering.

another buddhist belief is that people may suffer due to
bad kamma they have cultivated in a past life which
causes them a worse rebirth in the cycle of samsara



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Examiner Comments

Response One – One Buddhist belief about why people suffer is that tana (craving and attachment) causes suffering. (1)

Response Two – Another Buddhist belief is that people may suffer due to bad kamma they cultivated in a past life. (1)

Development Two – Which causes them a worse rebirth in the cycle of samsara. (1)



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Examiner Tip

Refer to the specification bullet point and cover all the different parts of it. These bullet points are the basis of question setting.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs were required, and both needed to be developed for 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information: a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must relate to the belief given and to the question asked.

The belief should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the belief given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as a source.

(c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for beliefs, 2 for the development of each belief and one for an accurate source that relates to the belief given.

This candidate was awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about The Middle Way.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Buddhist belief about The Middle Way is that it is The path to enlightenment. ^{This is because} ~~so it is how~~ the Buddha ~~became~~ reached nibbana under the bodhi tree. This is ~~demonstrated~~ in after following the middle way.

Another Buddhist belief about The Middle Way is that ^{is significant because} it ~~eradicates~~ suffering. This is ~~to~~ demonstrated in where the Buddha says "I teach one thing and one thing only, that is suffering and The cessation of suffering." This means that ⁱⁿ the key Buddhist teachings (dharma) and through the middle way the goal is to end suffering.



Belief One – One Buddhist belief about the Middle Way is that it is the path to enlightenment. (1)

Development One – This is because the Buddha reached nibbana... after following the Middle Way. (1)

Belief Two – It is significant because it eradicates suffering. (1)

Source – 'I teach one thing and one thing only, that is suffering and the cessation of suffering.' (1)

Development Two – This means that in the key Buddhist teachings and through the Middle Way, the goal is to end suffering. (1)



GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom.

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word. The source of wisdom can be given as a recognisable paraphrase.

If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and the source.

If the source is attributed to the wrong person/source/numerical reference it cannot be credited e.g. a Dali Lama quote attributed to the Buddha and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Numerical or generic references on their own are not awarded. The candidate must use the reference correctly ie not just state the name of a sutta.

(c) items are point marked.

This candidate was awarded 2 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about The Middle Way.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Buddhist belief about the Middle Way is that you have to experience both luxury and poverty to understand the concept. This is because after Buddha experienced both, he devised the middle way ^{to be enlightened.} ~~and~~

Another belief about the Middle Way is that without it, ~~you~~ it would inhibit your chances of becoming enlightened. Choosing to overcome it ^{follows} the Buddha's teaching of "be a refuge unto yourself". In the end it will show your commitment to gain spiritual wisdom.



Belief One – One would disbelief about the middle way is that you have to experience both luxury and poverty to understand the concept.(1)

Development One – This is because after Buddha experienced both, he devised the middle way, to be enlightened. (1)

The candidates attempt to offer an additional developed belief, does not offer anything additional to their answer.



Candidates should be encouraged to present their answers to b) & c) questions in two separate paragraphs. This will help them to organise their thoughts and responses in such a way that they gain full access to the marks available.

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d items.

The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used / appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but failed to evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting student's progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to follow this up with genuine evaluation.

(d) items are marked using levels and awarding is carried out using 'best fit' according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were generally confident in their understanding of what the Sangha is. Discussions tended to be based on a comparison between the founding of the Sangha and other actions of the Buddha, such as him encountering the four sights. Many made reference to the Buddha's enlightenment as the central event of his lifetime. There were attempts at appraisal, but often a suggestion of either strength or weakness was not supported with solid argument.

(d) items are LEVEL marked they are NOT point marked.

The candidate gains 9 marks in total – The candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks + 3 marks for SPaG.

* (d) "The founding of the Sangha was the most important action of the Buddha."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I disagree with this statement because the Buddha's enlightenment paved the way for Buddhism and without it, some say Buddhism wouldn't exist.

Some may disagree and argue that the founding of the Sangha was the most important action of the Buddha. This is because it spread the word about Buddhism and without this, Buddhism would not be as well known. Furthermore, the Sangha is very important for Buddhists today as they can come to the monastic Sangha for aid in mental health, and learning more about the Dhamma. The *Knuddapatha* states "I go for refuge to the Sangha" which highlights its importance for Buddhists today. These points are not convincing because, though they are somewhat accurate, the Sangha could have easily altered many of the Dhamma after the Buddha died. This makes their teachings seem hagiographical and possibly inaccurate.

Therefore, the founding of the Sangha is not the most important action of the Buddha due to the ~~inaccuracy~~ inaccuracy of the teachings of the Sangha.

Some may agree with that the Buddha's enlightenment ~~is~~ was the most important action of the Buddha. This is because many key teachings such as the four noble truths was derived through his enlightenment. The Buddha also said ~~in~~ in the Vakkali Sutta "he who sees the dhamma sees me". This means those who believe in the Buddha's original teachings are one step closer to becoming enlightened. Furthermore, Buddhists end goal is enlightenment; that is what they work, train and put their efforts towards. The Buddha also said "do this out of reverence of me" meaning Buddhists should be aiming for enlightenment because of the Buddha. These points are convincing because without the Buddha's enlightenment, there wouldn't even be a sangha. Therefore, enlightenment was the most important action of the Buddha.

In conclusion, some may still say founding of Sangha is most important but this essay ^{concludes} ~~is convincing~~ concludes that enlightenment is most important.



The candidate gained level 2 because....

The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – they are able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and show a limited understanding of religion and belief.

A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded 6 marks at the top of the mark range for level 2 because the demands of the level descriptor are met.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- Candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- Candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately



Do not try to point mark d answers. They should be read completely and then assessed against the level descriptors to find a best fit.

(d) items are LEVEL marked they are NOT point marked.

The candidate gains 8 marks in total – The candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 5 marks + 3 marks for SPaG.

*(d) "The founding of the Sangha was the most important action of the Buddha."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

An argument that suggests the founding of the sangha was the most important action of the buddha is that it allowed his teachings of the Dhamma to be remembered. The buddha's teachings were never to be written down so they were passed on orally by monks and nuns who chanted them. On the other hand it would still be possible for the buddha's teachings to be passed on without a formal sangha, this is a more viable argument as it is not truthful to say that the buddha's teachings would not have been passed down without the sangha. So this argument suggests the founding of the sangha ~~was~~ was not the most important action of the buddha.

An argument against this statement is that the most important action of the buddha was leaving the palace to learn the nature of reality after seeing the four sights (old age, illness, holy man, death) on a trip outside the palace. If the buddha had never left the palace to reach enlightenment then his teachings wouldn't have

been taught which would've prevented others from reaching enlightenment and escaping the cycle of samsara. However, it is possible that another human could've reached enlightenment and spread buddhist teachings but this is a weak argument as the king (the buddha's father) heard of a prophecy that ~~not~~ stated the budaha would become either a religious man or a great king.

An argument that suggests the founding of the sangha was the most important action of the buddha is the importance of the sangha as one of the three jewels that people take refuge in and as a community which provides advice following the buddha's teachings. However, this may not be the most important action of the budaha compared to the other ~~arg~~ arguments.

In conclusion, the founding of the ~~sangha~~ sangha was an important action of the buddha but not the most important as although it ~~also~~ allowed his teachings to be passed on and provided a support network for buddhists it cannot be considered the most important action in comparison to events such as the buddha's enlightenment.



The candidate is reached level 2 and was awarded 5 marks which is the middle of Level 2.

The candidate gained level 2 because...

The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and shows a limited understanding of religion and belief.

A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded 5 marks in the middle of the mark range for level 2 because most but not all the demands of the level descriptor are met. The answer needs additional religious knowledge and a more substantial level of appraisal, to move to level 3.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- Candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- Candidate uses a range of specialist terms as appropriately.



Candidates should be aware that their use of punctuation will have an impact on their SPaG score.

Question 2 (a)

The candidates needed to provide any Buddhist teaching, not specifically scriptural teaching. Most highlighted a combination of traditional and contemporary understandings of Buddhist teachings on this topic. A number of candidates did not identify the focus of the question being on the family. These candidates gave answers which focused on equality between men and women, which is not what the question demanded.

Most candidates recognised the requirement to outline rather than list their responses.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about the role of men and women in the family. (3)

One buddhist teaching is that men should be kind and faithful to their wives.

another teaching is that women should be careful with the household budget.

another teaching is that women should be hospitable to guests.



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One mark awarded for each point identified.

Men should be kind and faithful to their wives. (1)

Women should be careful with the household budget. (1)

Women should be hospitable to guests. (1)

This candidate started each point on a new line. Answers do not need to be in a paragraph, but must offer an outline, rather than a list.



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Examiner Tip

Many candidates find it helpful to present their outlines on three separate lines to ensure that they clearly make separated points, avoiding the development of points, which is not credited in (a) questions.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about the role of men and women in the family.

(3)

one buddhist teaching is that women ~~should be cooking, cleaning~~ ^{and men should be equal}

Another buddhist ^{teaching} is that men should be providing for the family

Another buddhist teaching is that ~~men~~ women should cook and clean for the family.



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Examiner Comments

- The candidates first point is about general equality rather than family life and was not credited.
- Another Buddhist teaching is that men should be providing for the family. (1)
- Another Buddhist teaching is that women should cook and clean for the family. (1)



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Examiner Tip

Candidates need to ensure that they take the time to consider the wording of the question, before they write their responses.

Question 2 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two responses are required and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the response given and to the question asked.

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about Buddhist teachings about divorce. Many candidates focused on the idea that marriage is not a religious expectation placed on Buddhists, which impacts the view of marriages ending. Many also responded by explaining why minimising suffering may be a factor when considering questions of divorce.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

The candidate gives two developed responses.

(b) Explain two Buddhist responses to non-religious attitudes towards divorce.

(4)

One non-religious attitude to divorce is that it is acceptable. Because marriage is of such importance, Buddhists would agree. This is because we shouldn't become too attached to things thus rendering marriage less significant and so divorce is acceptable.

Another ^{non-religious} ~~Buddhist~~ response ~~into~~ the view ^{is} that divorce shouldn't be allowed because it breaks apart families causing pain; Buddhists would respond agreeingly. This is because Buddhists support by all means the cessation of suffering and this is achieved by avoiding the suffering a family may experience by consequence of divorce.



Response One – One non religious attitude to divorce is that because marriage isn't of much importance, Buddhists would agree. (1)

Development One – This is because we shouldn't become too attached to things, thus rendering marriage less significant, and so divorce is acceptable. (1)

Response Two – Another non religious view is that divorce shouldn't be allowed because it breaks apart families causing pain. Buddhists would respond agreeably. (1)

Development Two – This is because Buddhist support by all means the cessation of suffering, and this is achieved by avoiding the suffering a family may experience by consequence of divorce. (1)



Candidates should consider the aspects of the specification which require them to consider Buddhist responses to the views of others. Responding to questions on these topics can be time consuming if not considered during preparation.

The candidate is awarded 2 marks.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist responses to non-religious attitudes towards divorce.

(4)

Buddhists believe that a divorce should not be necessary. For if both the man and woman are both fulfilling their roles from the Sigalovada Sutta then divorce would not be needed.

However, Buddhists believe that reducing suffering is most important. So if the marriage causes stress and therefore suffering a Buddhist would permit a divorce as it helps to bring them closer to enlightenment.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two responses but does not develop these responses by being specific regarding the non-religious view that they are responding to.



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Examiner Tip

Centres should be familiar with and prepare candidates for all parts of the specification. Centres are advised to refer to the specification, SAMs materials and online support given by the senior examination team.

Question 2 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks. They must also correctly use a source of wisdom in their answer which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the reason given in the answer.

Many candidates responded well to this question. Many candidates addressed their points with heavy links to the sanctity of life and abortion, which in some cases offered extended answers going beyond the demands of the question but which would have taken up the candidates time.

(c) items are point marked and provide marks for five points: two for reasons, two for the development of each reason and one for an accurate source of wisdom that relates to the reason given.

The candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Buddhists accept the use of contraception.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Some Buddhists might accept the use of contraception if it means the action of fertilisation does not come in to place. These Buddhists believe a consciousness only arises when the process of conception happens and so ^{to} conception used to stop this is acceptable.

Other Buddhists might say the use of contraception is acceptable if it means the mother or child will suffer if it is not used. This falls into the concept of metta - loving-kindness. Also, the first moral precept - 'do no harm' means that if the child is born to pain itself or anyone ~~when~~ then it is better to eliminate the child than allow it to live through loving-kindness.



The candidate gives two ways. These are developed and there is an accurate source of wisdom.

Reason One – Buddhists might accept the use of contraception if it means the action of fertilization does not come into place. (1)

Development One – These Buddhists believe a consciousness only arises when the process of conception happens. (1)

Reason Two – But this might say the use of contraception is acceptable if it means the mother or child will suffer if it is not used. (1)

Development Two – This falls into the concept of Metta loving kindness. (1)

Source – Also, the first moral precept 'do no harm'. (1)



Candidates should be encouraged to be familiar with the requirements of the different styles of questions in order to make efficient use of their time in the exam.

(c) items are point marked.

The candidate is awarded 3 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why some Buddhists accept the use of contraception.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why some Buddhists accept the use of contraception is that it is a way of having sexual pleasure without undertaking in sexual misconduct. Buddhists should undertake to abstain from sexual misconduct & a misuse of the senses. As stated in the five precepts found in the Buddhakapatha.

Another reason why some Buddhists accept the use of contraception is that it may show that the two partners are taking a notice to the population of the earth. ~~The Buddha said~~ The dharma talks said to take notice of the rising population and so they should undertake planned parenthood. Using contraception is a form of this.



The candidate gives two reasons, but the first reason is not credited as they comment on the concept of sexual misconduct rather than contraception.

Reason Two – Another reason why some Buddhists accept the use of contraception is that it may show that the two partners are taking notice of the population of the Earth. (1)

Source – The Dalai Lama said to take notice of the rising population. (1)

Development Two – So they should undertake planned parenthood. Using contraception is a form of this. (1)



Candidates may find it helpful to think about the areas of the specification being tested in different sections of the paper, to help them compartmentalise different, related content, so they have a range of content to draw on.

Question 2 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d items. As explained in the specification this means:

Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used / appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but failed to evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting student's progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to follow this up with genuine evaluation.

(d) items are marked using levels and awarding is carried out using 'best fit' according to the level descriptors.

The statement was designed to evaluate different understandings about gender discrimination. Candidates who did well recognised that this question was about different views about why people may or may not prioritise tackling gender discrimination. Some were able to expand answers with appraisal.

This question does not have SPaG marks – it is out of 12.

The candidate gained 8 marks.

(d) "All Buddhists must work to end gender discrimination."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

all enlightened
not attached to specific
gender

Sigalovada sutta .

(12)

Overall this essay will demonstrate that all Buddhists should work to end gender discrimination as everyone should be treated equally.

Some ~~may~~ ^{disagree} ~~disagree~~ ^{may disagree} with the statement and argue that the Buddha gave ~~him~~ more precepts rules to follow than monks so ~~it~~ it is acceptable for men and women to be treated differently. ~~For~~ The Buddha is one of the three jewels and is a role model for Buddhists so we should follow his lead. This is not convincing because ~~a~~ during the time of the Buddha, society was very different & gender discrimination based on gender would have been seen as normal however this is not the case now.

Others may disagree with the statement as they believe that it is more important to focus on the dhamma and their own enlightenment than ending discrimination ~~of~~ for everyone. The Buddha teaches to 'be a refuge unto yourself' so we should only do what is best for our own enlightenment. There are no rules so no rules.

However it is more convincing to agree with the statement because the Buddha says everyone has the possibility to become enlightened so we should all be treated equally. It shows metta to embrace this. The vikala sutta says 'Doesn't what difference does being a woman make if one's mind is well centred?' This proves that it follows the teaching of *katthagata* ^{hebra} and proves that ~~we~~ men and women should be treated equally as they have the same potential. This is convincing as following this belief, one can show metta and karuna and work to spread their belief.

Others may agree with the statement as gender discrimination ^{inhibit our chances of enlightenment} may ~~severe~~ ~~disrupt~~ and go against ~~one of~~ the eightfold path. For example discrimination may go against right speech or right action, therefore if one breaks these, it will hinder their chances of becoming enlightened. We should not attach to a specific gender ~~as we may~~ attachment also binds us to this world and prevents us from reaching nirvana. This is convincing as ~~the~~ the main goal in Buddhism is to become enlightened although others may think this argument is not convincing as enlightenment requires the right intention behind our actions so we should end discrimination out of karuna.

Overall this essay demonstrates that all Buddhists must work to end gender discrimination as this is ~~the~~ a loving thing ^{to do}. (Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The candidate has reached level 3 and was awarded 8 marks which is in the middle of the mark range for Level 3.

The candidate gained level 3 because...

The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points.

They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints.

They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question.

Within each paragraph the candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements.

The candidate begins to appraise evidence in each paragraph.

They write a partially justified conclusion.

The candidate is awarded 8 marks, the middle of the mark range for level 3 because most, but not all of the demands of the level descriptors for Level 3 are met. To move to Level 4 the candidate's first step would be to further develop their conclusion as an opportunity to offer further appraisal.



Appraisal shows:

The value of the evidence provided / the strength of the answer / the validity of the chains in the answer / a consideration of what is written in order to answer the questions (rather than which side they agree with) / a measurement of which side is more logical / an assessment of which is the more compelling argument / an understanding of which argument is more convincing or rational or cogent.

The candidate gains 5 marks.

The candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 5 marks which is the middle of the mark range for Level 2.

(d) "All Buddhists must work to end gender discrimination."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Many Buddhist would agree with this statement, because in the teachings of the Buddha, he met to the king, and when the king finds out he has had a daughter not a son he is very upset. The Buddha then teaches him that a daughter is just as good as a son. To many Buddhist this is a great example of how the Buddha believed in gender equality so in order to follow the way of the Buddha they would go against gender discrimination.

Another reason why Buddhists would work against gender discrimination is because of ~~Anicca~~ ^{An} ~~no~~ ^{fixed} Anatta, no fixed self, and also the cycle of death and rebirth. Buddhists believe that ~~unlike~~ every living being is reborn when they die, until they are free from the cycle of samsara, so essentially everyone is somehow connected. This belief would ~~not~~ lead most Buddhists to see the importance of respecting all life including ~~from~~ different genders.

Or some ~~Buddhist~~ Buddhists on the other hand may believe believe that ~~the~~ although they should not gender discriminate, they do not have to work to end it.

They may believe this ~~because~~ because they are more ~~focused~~ ~~focused~~ on their on enlightenment. This argument is not convincing because in order for Buddhists to reach ~~the~~ enlightenment, they must gain good karma. To gain good karma they must do good things, and ending any type of discrimination, especially gender discrimination is a good thing for many people.

I believe that it is important for all Buddhists to work to end gender discrimination because it is a mutually beneficial thing for them to do. It helps those who experience gender discrimination end the suffering that they get from it, and it helps Buddhists who are trying to learn Samasrab to end their suffering, gain good karma.



The candidate gained level 2 because....

The candidate's response makes superficial connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use limited knowledge from a Buddhist perspective to build simple chains of thinking.

They showed a limited understanding of religion and belief.

They begin to form a conclusion but offer no significant appraisal of the evidence.



Candidates can write on the exam paper and cross out/highlight the elements as required.

Question 3 (a)

Most candidates were able to correctly identify information about this festival and provide a number of ways that it is celebrated. Many candidates were able to offer specific ways. Others enjoyed some success with more general comments.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways that Buddhists celebrate Parinibbana Day.

enlightenment (3)
after death

One way Parinibbana day is celebrated is by reciting the dhamma.

Another way Parinibbana day is celebrated is by visiting places of worship like viharas.

Another way the festival is celebrated is by giving offerings and donations to the monastic sangha.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

One mark awarded for each point identified.

One way Parinibbana is celebrated is by reciting the Dharma. (1)

Another is by visiting places of worship like viharas. (1)

Another way the festival is celebrated is by giving offerings and donations to the to the monastic sangha. (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Starting each point on a separate line can be helpful to candidates.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three distinctive outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 2 marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** ways that Buddhists celebrate Parinibbana Day.

(3)

One way Buddhists may celebrate is to commemorate the Buddha entering the last stage of nibbana. Another way is to read Buddhist scriptures to feel more connected to the Buddha. Another way is to light candles to represent enlightenment and the joy reaching the end of nirvana gives us.



This candidate has suggested three different ways, but their first focuses on what is being celebrated (One way Buddhists may celebrate is to commemorate the Buddha entry in the last stage of Nibbana), rather than a way it is celebrated, so this is not credited. Their other two ways are credited: Another way is to read Buddhist scriptures to feel more connected to the Buddha. (1) Another way is to light candles to represent enlightenment. (1)



Candidates who answer using a list, which is not an outline, can only receive 1 mark according to the mark scheme. If any one element of a list were incorrect the list as a whole would get 0 marks.

Question 3 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two ways are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the way given and to the question asked.

Candidates were generally able to access marks on this question, describing ways a Buddhist may use a shrine room, with the majority of candidates gaining full marks for this question.

(b) items are point marked – two ways are required.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Buddhist may use a shrine room.

(4)

One way a Buddhist may use a shrine room is by meditating in front of the ^{Buddha} ~~Buddha~~ with ~~and~~ sitting below it. ^{This shows} respect to the Buddha ^{the Buddha says he who sees me sees the dharma + so} Meditating in front of the statue allows us to focus on the dharma more easily &

Another way a Buddhist may use the shrine room is to leave offerings. For example a tray of flowers which show anicca (impermanence) ~~and~~ or a light candle to show the radiance of our hearts and minds.



(b) items provide marks for four points, 2 marks for ways and 2 marks for the development of each way.

The candidate gives two ways, both of which are developed

Way One – One way a Buddhist may use a shrine room is by meditating in front of the Buddharupa. (1)

Development One – This shows respect to the Buddha. (1)

Way Two – Another way a Buddhist may use a shrine room is to leave offerings. (1)

Development Two – For example, a tray of flowers which show anicca (impermanence). (1)



Examples linked to the ways given are a good form of development.

(b) items are point marked – two ways are required.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Buddhist may use a shrine room.

(4)

A Buddhist may use a shrine room to honour the Buddha or Bodhisattvas. For instance they may give offerings such as candles, flowers or incense. This ~~helps a~~ Buddhist is known as puja and it helps a Buddhist ^{have hope} ~~to progress~~ in achieving enlightenment since they are reminded that the Buddha achieved it. Another way they may use a shrine room is by meditating or praying for example. They may use prayer beads known as 'malas' to count how many times that they have chanted. This helps a Buddhist to focus on ^{the steps that} ~~their progress~~ they need to take to improve enlightenment such as working to get rid of bad karma.



The candidate gives two developed ways.

Way One – A Buddhist may use a shrine room to honor the Buddha or Bodhisattvas. (1)

Development One – For instance, they may give offerings such as candles, flowers or incense. (1)

Way Two – Another way they may use a shrine room is by meditating or praying. (1)

Development Two – This helps a Buddhist to focus on the steps that they need to take to improve enlightenment, such as working to get rid of bad kamma. (1)



Candidates should be encouraged to carefully pay attention to the wording of the question to ensure they cover the breadth of what is being asked.

Question 3 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as a source.

Many candidates accessed marks on this question, describing why chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists. Most candidates who tried to access the mark for a source of wisdom and authority, did so by offering examples of common chants.

(c) items provide marks for five points, two for reasons, two for the development of each reason and one for an accurate source that relates to the reason given.

The candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists to bring about positive Karma. This is because the sacred syllables being chanted ~~bring~~ would give good merit as they are following the Buddhas teachings and keeping a focussed mind. ★

Chanting could also be used to ~~give~~ bring together a community and chant together with members of the Sangha. This is because a sense of community is very important ~~and~~ ~~is~~ as it is one of the Three Jewels, "I take refuge in the Sangha".

★ This is supported in the Noble Eightfold Path as "Right Concentration" helps to reach enlightenment.



The candidate gives two reasons, which are developed and they provide an accurate source of wisdom.

Reason One – Chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists to bring about positive karma. (1)

Development One – This is because the sacred syllables being chanted would give good merit. (1)

Source – This is supported in the Noble Eightfold Path, as 'right concentration' helps to reach enlightenment. (1)

Reason Two – Chanting could also be used to bring together a community and chant together with members of the Sangha. (1)

Development Two – A sense of community is very important as it is one of the three jewels. 'I take refuge in the Sangha'. (1)



Sources can be paraphrased, however they must be recognisable.

(c) items provide marks for five points, two for reasons, two for the development of each reason and one for an accurate source that relates to the reason given.

The candidate is awarded 1 mark.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

ONE REASON WHY CHANTING MAY BE USED BY THERAVADA

BUDDHISTS IS TO PASS ON TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA THAT

CANNOT BE ~~WELL~~ WRITTEN DOWN.

~~ANOTHER REASON IS~~



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one reason, which is not developed.

Reason One – One reason why chanting may be used by Theravada Buddhists is to pass on teaching of the Buddha. (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

GENERIC advice for centres as to what constitutes a source of wisdom.

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word. The source of wisdom can be given as a recognisable paraphrase.

If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and the source.

If the source is attributed to the wrong person/source/ numerical reference it cannot be credited e.g. a Dali Lama quote attributed to the Buddha and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Numerical or generic references on their own are not awarded. The candidate must use the reference correctly ie not just state the name of a sutta.

Question 3 (d)

This question worked well. Students across the ability range gave confident answers. However, (d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS and this was no exception. Candidates who did well knew a range of information about different forms of meditation and were able to expand answers with evaluation. Many candidates focused their responses around the link between different forms of meditation, whereas others focused their thoughts on a direct 'either or basis'.

(d) items are LEVEL marked they are NOT point marked.

The candidate gains 9 marks in total – the candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks + 3 marks for SPaG.

*d) "Vipassana is the best type of meditation."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

Vipassana is ^{not} the best type of meditation as by singling it out contradicts *paticca samuppada* (dependent origination)

Some may believe vipassana meditation is the most important as it helps one gain ^{an} insight ~~of~~ ^{into} the dhamma. This is significant as it helps one get a better understanding of the dhamma which is crucial for one to understand the teachings on their own and reach own path to enlightenment. In addition, vipassana meditation increases wisdom as one focuses on the dhamma. This is significant as it is 'wisdom springs from meditation, without meditation wisdom wanes'. This shows that vipassana cultivates wisdom; wisdom is essential for enlightenment. However, this is not convincing as vipassana meditation needs to be assisted by monastics and therefore is not the most available type of meditation as it is not accessible to all.

Many argue that vipassana meditation is not the most important ^{because} and ^{more important} instead samatha meditation is. Samatha meditation is the most common method of meditation and is accessible to all as it can be performed alone at home. In addition, samatha meditation helps one focus their mind and makes it contemplative so it doesn't wander and engage with other thoughts. Although samatha meditation is more important than vipassana meditation it is not the best type as all are equally important and cannot be separated. This is shown in the dhamma where it states 'we artificially separate vipassana and samatha meditation when in fact they are interconnected and cannot be separated'. This is significant as it is written in dhamma ^{which is the} ultimate ~~truth~~ ^{truth} in Buddhism. In addition, all are important due to paticca samuppada (dependent origination). This means all is dependent on each other so just focussing on one type of meditation will not be beneficial.

In conclusion, all types of meditation are important as together they will allow one a positive rebirth and better chance of enlightenment.



The candidate is reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks which is the top of the mark range for Level 2

The candidate gained level 2 because...

The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and shows a limited understanding of religion and belief.

A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded 6 marks in the top of the mark range for level 2 because all the demands of the level descriptor are met.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- Candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- Candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately.



Candidates who understand the diversity within the religious tradition, and the arguments for and against different practices are those best placed to evaluate.

(d) items are LEVEL marked they are NOT point marked.

The candidate gains 4 marks in total – the candidate reached level 1 and was awarded 1 mark + 3 marks for SPaG.

*(d) "Vipassana is the best type of meditation."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(15)

Vipassana is the best type of meditation because it allows Buddhists to come at complete control with their thoughts, and just be. The Buddha described it as 'a mental stillness to have control'. It is the best type for Buddhists to reduce suffering on the path to enlightenment.



The candidate gained level 1 because....

The candidate identified some relevant religious information.

They have made superficial connections among a limited range of elements in the question.

The candidate offers a simple judgement.

The candidate is awarded 1 mark, the lower end of the mark range for level 1 because some, but not all of the demands of the level descriptors for Level 1 are met.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because:

- The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- Candidate uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- Candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately.



It is really important to use the level descriptors to find the level rather than look for the number of facts – these are AO1.

Question 4 (a)

The candidates needed to provide ways Buddhists may respond to issues surrounding the use of animals for food. This elicited a wide range of correct responses.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 3 marks.

4 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist beliefs about the use of animals for food.

(3)

Buddhist
One belief about animals in food is that this is acceptable as they are lower life forms.
Another Buddhist belief is that it contradicts the first precept and ahimsa so is wrong.
Another belief is that animals should only be consumed if included in alms and not killed specifically for monks.



Candidate was awarded one mark for each point identified:

This is acceptable as they are lower life forms. (1)

It contradicts the first precept and ahimsa so is wrong. (1)

Animals should only be consumed if included in alms and not killed specifically for monks. (1)



Candidates should write three sentences containing one piece of information in each. There is no need for development: it will not receive credit. This candidate has used bullet points. There is no problem with this, as they have still offered an outline for each point made.

(a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

This candidate is awarded 1 mark.

4 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist beliefs about the use of animals for food.

(3)

Using animals for food is discouraged as it causes suffering for the animal, this may lead to bad Karma/bad which could stall a Buddhist's journey to enlightenment.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Candidate has outlined one relevant point, but they then spend time offering development of this point, which the question does not call for.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

There is no need for development: it will not receive credit.

Question 4 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the teaching given and to the question asked.

In this question candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about Buddhist teachings about the origins of the universe. Many candidates focused on the idea that there is no value in thinking about this as it is a question which may never be answered, which was a relevant response and gained credit.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks.

The candidate gives two developed teachings.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the origins of the universe.

(4)

~~One Buddhist teaching is that we should look to scientific research as the Buddha claimed~~
one Buddhist teaching is that we should not focus on the origins of the universe as we will be unable to find the answer. The parable of the blind men shows that we should focus on the Dhamma instead.

Another belief is that the universe is cyclical and repeats itself due to the belief in the wheel of ~~the~~ samsara. The Tibetan Book of the Dead claims we should escape the swamps of cyclical existence.



Teaching One – One Buddhist teaching is that we should not focus on the origins of the universe, as we will be unable to find the answer. (1)

Development One – The parable of the poison arrow shows that we should focus on the Dharma instead. (1)

Teaching Two – Another belief is that the universe is cyclical and repeats itself due to the belief in the wheel of Samsara. (1)

Development Two – The Tibetan Book of the Dead claims we should escape this swamp of cyclical existence. (1)



(b) questions do not require the use of a source of wisdom, but they can be a useful method of offering development.

The candidate is awarded 2 marks.

The candidate attempts to give two developed teachings, but has repeated the same teaching twice. The response was not credited twice.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the origins of the universe.

(4)

One Buddhist teaching about the origin of the universe is to not ponder it too much, as it could become a ~~distrag~~ distraction from ~~en~~ following the Dhamma.

A second ~~belief about~~ teaching about the origin of the universe is that whatever happened to create the universe is not relevant to how the world is now, and ~~en~~^{one} should not waste too much time questioning how the world came into being.



Teaching One – One Buddhist teaching about the origin of the universe is to not ponder it too much. (1)

Development One – ... as it could become a distraction from following the Dharma. (1)

Repeated point – Whatever happened to create the universe is not relevant to how the world is now.

Development – One should not waste too much time questioning how the world came into being.



Candidates should ensure they read the secondary command word in each question. In this case it is teachings.

Question 4 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the teaching given and to the question asked.

The teachings then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the teaching given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as the source.

This item was straight off the specification almost using the exact wording. Most candidates were able to access marks on this question, describing Buddhist teachings about abortion. Many candidates offered a range of potential sources of wisdom and authority.

(c) items provide marks for five points, two for teachings, two for the development of each teaching and one for an accurate source that relates to the teaching given.

The candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about abortion.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Buddhist teaching is that whether abortion is accepted or not depends on the situation. The Dalai Lama said "the approval or disapproval of abortion depends on the situation". This means that Buddhists do not explicitly agree nor disagree with abortion.

Another Buddhist belief is that abortion should not be accepted as it breaks the 1st precept. This is because Buddhists believe that life begins at conception so therefore abortion can be seen as killing or harming.



The candidate gives two teachings which are developed. Their first teaching is also further developed by the inclusion of an accurate source of wisdom.

Teaching One – One Buddhist teaching is that whether abortion is accepted or not depends on the situation. (1)

Source – The Dalai Lama said, 'The approval or disapproval of abortion depends on the situation'. (1)

Development One – This means that Buddhists do not explicitly agree nor disagree with abortion. (1)

Teaching Two – Another Buddhist belief is that abortion should not be accepted as it breaks the first precept. (1)

Development Two – This is because Buddhists believe that life begins at conception, so therefore abortion can be seen as killing. (1)



GENERIC advice for centres as to what constitutes a source of wisdom.

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word. The source of wisdom can be given as a recognisable paraphrase.

If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and the source.

If the source is attributed to the wrong person/source/ numerical reference it cannot be credited e.g. a Dali Lama quote attributed to the Buddha and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Numerical or generic references on their own are not awarded. The candidate must use the reference correctly ie not just state the name of a sutta.

The candidate is awarded 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about abortion.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One belief about abortion is that it shows metta and karuna to the mother. This is important as one 'should radiate boundless love to the world'. By permitting abortion, it prevents mother from having an unwanted pregnancy which would be painful emotionally and physically.

Another belief is that abortion should not be permitted as it breaks first precept: 'I undertake to refrain from harming living being'. This is significant as abortion will kill the foetus and therefore break ethical laws of Buddhism which could cause a negative rebirth.



The candidate gives two developed teachings, using a source of wisdom and authority to extend their development.

Teaching One – It shows Metta and Karuna to the mother. (1)

Source – This is important, as one should radiate boundless love to the world. (1)

Development One – By permitting abortion, it prevents mother from having an unwanted pregnancy which would be painful emotionally and physically. (1)

Teaching Two – Abortion should not be permitted as it breaks the first precept. (1)

Development Two – I undertake to refrain from harming living beings. (1)



Teachings should ideally be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the teaching given and cannot be awarded twice.

Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d items. As explained in the specification this means:

Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used / appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but failed to evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting student's progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to follow this up with genuine evaluation.

(d) items are marked using levels and awarding is carried out using 'best fit' according to the level descriptors.

Candidates were able to give knowledge and understanding of the differing views on euthanasia. Some were able to expand answers with appraisal, but many were not analytical in their approach and limited themselves to level 2 as a best fit. Some candidates focused too much on the second bullet point, allowing ethical arguments to be a dominant feature of their response at the expense of the other two elements of the question. All three elements of the question did however need to be addressed in order to move into level 3.

This question does not have SPaG marks – it is out of 12.

The candidate reached level 2 and was awarded 6 marks.

(d) "The use of euthanasia is wrong."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I think that the use of euthanasia is wrong as it is taking a life and violating the dharma.

One may disagree and argue that euthanasia can be acceptable because it ends dukkha. The Buddha says "I teach one thing and one thing only that is suffering and the cessation of suffering" and in a silent vow when gaining enlightenment "I will not leave this place until I have found a way to end all sorrow". Through euthanasia you are eradicating the suffering of a patient with extreme pain so one can say it is a moral choice. However, the suffering is not terminated and instead transferred to the loved ones of the deceased who now have to deal with the trauma (and dukkha) from their death. This also ^{goes against} ~~is~~ utilitarianism "greatest good for the ~~to~~ greatest number" as now more people are suffering and euthanasia is not doing its intended purpose. One may also argue that euthanasia is acceptable because ~~it is the patient's~~ ^{of metta and ~~low~~ karuna} ~~most~~ ^{most} loving thing. Situation ethics "do the most loving thing". It may be ~~the~~ the kindest thing to

do to stop their suffering. However, this is not convincing because they may still suffer in their next life.

One could argue that euthanasia is ~~the~~ most wrong as it violates the key teachings of the dharma. Pancha sila "I undertake to refrain from harming all living things". This is convincing because it questions one's faith as if they are willing to violate the dharma are they still good Buddhists. One can also argue that euthanasia is wrong because it goes against the principle of ahimsa (no harm). Although it is the patient's choice, it is still by the hands of another who would accumulate bad karma and perhaps decrease their chance of reaching nibbana and have a negative rebirth.

In conclusion, euthanasia is always wrong as it does not do its intended purpose (end dukkha) and accumulates bad karma.



The candidate gained level 2 because...

The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and shows a limited understanding of religion and belief.

A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded 6 marks at the top of the mark range for level 2 because the demands of the level descriptor are met.



Candidates should be familiar with the requirements in the levels mark schemes.

This question does not have SPaG marks – it is out of 12.

The candidate gains 5 marks.

(d) "The use of euthanasia is wrong."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I believe that it is more convincing to argue that "The cure of euthanasia is not wrong" as although many Buddhists believe it is wrong, there are also many reasons why it is good.

Some may argue that the use of euthanasia is wrong as in the dharma it states that you should "refrain from harming living things" and that "you should not kill" ~~and~~ as it would give you bad karma and it causes dukkha as it is ending someone's life medically.

But I ~~believe~~ believe it is more convincing to argue that ~~and~~ depending on the circumstance, ~~the~~ euthanasia is not wrong as if the person was in a lot of pain before then the euthanasia.

would just be ending their suffering and it would promote metta and karuna. As the Buddha stated "I teach suffering and the cessation of suffering." This suggests to Buddhists that by ending this persons suffering they can still fulfill the ultimate goal of enlightenment in Nibana after they have died as they will be put in the cycle of samsara and may be reborn if they have good karma.

Therefore, overall I believe that it is more convincing to argue that the use of euthanasia is not wrong as it could be ending that persons suffering.



The candidate is reached level 2 and was awarded 4 marks which is at the bottom of the range of marks for Level 2.

The candidate gained level 2 because...

The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and shows a limited understanding of religion and belief.

A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded 4 marks in the bottom of the mark range for level 2 because some but not all the demands of the level descriptor are met.



There are many different ways to answer (d) items and gain marks, however a key skill is to be able to identify and explain the relative significance of the arguments being made.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Answer (a) outline items in full sentences
- Provide 3 sentences for (a) items, each on a separate line
- (b) items should have 2 developed reasons not more than 2. Development may be 1) examples 2) quotes 3) extra relevant material
- Development must link to the reason given and still answer the question set
- (c) items are similar to (b) items but should also use a source as a fifth element
- The source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- The source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- (d) item responses must show AO2 skills to get high marks
- (d) items must show an appraisal of the argument not simply rely on a set format
- Candidates should be used to level descriptors being used to mark d) items, not point marking

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

