



Examiners' Report

June 2023

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2G

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Introduction

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Sikhism, its beliefs and teachings on life specifically, about the issues of peace and conflict and crime and punishment.

This approach encourages students to reflect upon the links between beliefs and teachings of Sikhism and the topics of peace and conflict and crime and punishment, which are an important part of life today.

There are four sections: Sikh Beliefs and Crime and Punishment, Living the Sikh life and Peace and conflict. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are to use this rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

Section 1, on Sikh beliefs was on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout, especially AO1 questions. The AO2 questions were not answered so much in depth, although the knowledge was there. The candidates are beginning to start to critically analyse the statement using various techniques, although there needs to be more chains of reasoning and a justified conclusion in order for candidates to gain the higher levels.

Candidates should compare and contrast the areas of ethics within Sikhism and non-religious views when asked. Candidates should also look at divergent views within Sikhism in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Section 2, on Crime and Punishment was answered in a generic way, especially relating to justice and the death penalty questions. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge to gain the higher marks, although there was some improvement in Sikh information.

Section 3, on Living the Sikh Life was on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout.

Section 4, on Peace and Conflict was answered quite well in relation to AO1, however the source of wisdom question lacked Sikh knowledge and sources of wisdom. The AO2 question was satisfactorily answered but there needs to be more knowledge on a Sikh view of weapons of mass destruction.

Sources of wisdom must be used that are appropriate to the question and not just 'random quotes' that the candidate had learnt.

Question 1 (a)

On the whole this was not well answered. Candidates did not write about the teachings of God as Creator in Sikhism but generally wrote about the Mool Mantar. The candidates that connected God with creation, for example – creation was God's will, God sustains creation etc achieved marks.

An example. Outline 3 characteristics of God:

God is creator (1 mark)

God is creator, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)

God is creator, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Busy, distant and God is creator, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)

Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)

The candidate achieved 0 marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** teachings about God as Creator in Sikhism.

(3)

One teaching about God as a creator is that he is timeless.
• Another teaching about God as a creator is that he has no fear and no hate.
• One teaching about God is that his name is truth.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate does not answer the question but outlines three teachings from the Mool Mantar.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Read the question thoroughly so it is fully understood.

The candidate achieved 0 marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** teachings about God as Creator in Sikhism.

(3)

He is omnipotent
He is omniscient
He is omnipresent



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate's response does not answer the question but shows the nature of God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should write three sentences containing one piece of information in each. There is no need for development: it will not receive credit.

The candidate achieved two marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** teachings about God as Creator in Sikhism.

(3)

Sikhs believe that God created the universe and everything in it.
Sikhs believe that God is present in his creation.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined two correct responses.

God created the universe and everything in it (1)

God is present in his creation (1)

Question 1 (b)

This was answered quite well. Candidates had knowledge of the purposes of sewa especially if they gave reasons why Sikhs partake in sewa, for example, to worship God, to unite with God and to promote equality.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) 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 as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** purposes of sewa for Sikhs.

(4)

One purpose is to become more gurmukh and have a more gurmukh personality. This will allow sikhs to gain good karma. By doing this they can get closer to breaking the cycle of reincarnation and achieving mukti.

Another purpose is that while ~~per~~ performing these selfless deeds, it reminds you of Waheguru. This distracts you from the five vices (Kenes) to allow you to become a better sikh and achieve mukti.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed purposes.

One purpose is to become gurmukh (1) so they can get close to God and break the cycle of reincarnation (1)

While performing these selfless deeds it reminds you of Waheguru (1) which distracts you from the five vices (1)

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** purposes of sewa for Sikhs.

(4)

One purpose of sewa is to help the poor through the langar hall, showing selfless service, as Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru, established the langar hall.

Another purpose of sewa is to teach young Sikhs in the gurdwara, as it is a form of selfless service, and it will help to achieve Mukti through good karma.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two alternative purposes, which were credited.

One purpose is to help the poor through the langar hall (1) showing selfless service as Guru Nanak established the langar hall (1)

Another purpose is to teach young Sikhs (1) to help them achieve mukti through good karma (1)

Question 1 (c)

When candidates connected the question to equality and God being within all, they gained marks. This question was a challenge for some candidates who found it difficult to gain full marks.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of (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 as 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 for the source.

Advice for centres on what constitutes a source of wisdom.

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.

If examiners are unsure, they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and 'Guru Granth Sahib' or 'Sikh teaching'.

If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Guru Granth Sahib 15) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.

If a candidate quotes Guru Nanak and it was Guru Gobind Singh or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

The candidate achieved three marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the **oneness of humanity** is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

One reason ~~why~~ the oneness of humanity is important is because we ~~are~~ ~~all~~ divine (part of God). all have a ~~spark~~ spark

Another reason its important is because ~~the~~ the "oneness" shows male's and female's are both equal and can join the khalsa.

The oneness of humanity can be found for Sikhs from the 'Sangat'. The 'Sangat' is a community where Sikhs pray and discuss issues or actions being taken place.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave one simple reason and one developed reason but there was no source of wisdom.

Divine spark within all (1)

Oneness shows males and females are equal (1) and can be part of the khalsa (1)

The last paragraph could gain marks but the candidate has already given two reasons.



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Examiner Tip

Set out the answer carefully, showing two distinct reasons or teachings.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the oneness of humanity is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

The oneness of humanity is important for Sikhs as it is a teaching of Guru Nanak. This is because he said, "There is no Hindu and no Muslim". This implies equality of all people and should all be together in peace and harmony. Another reason why the oneness of humanity is important is that Sikhs believe in equality. We see this in the Gurdwara as during the langar, everyone sits on the floor at the same level showing that they are all equal.



The candidate gave two developed reasons with a source of wisdom.

It is important as it is the teaching of Guru Nanak (1) 'There is neither Hindu nor Muslim' (1) implies we should all be in peace and harmony (1)

Sikhs believe in equality (1) an example is everyone sits on the same level in the langar hall (1)



There are examples of sources of wisdom in the specification for each bullet point.

Question 1 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraising the arguments which will help to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Some candidates used formulas and writing frames which restricted the flow of the arguments thus restricting the candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

Candidates overall achieved Level 2 and some candidates achieved Level 3. They failed to deconstruct religious information and critically analyse the statement throughout. Generic answers were given, and Sikh key words were limited. Those who achieved the higher Level 2 or at times Level 3 analysed why the purpose of life was to unite with God and why other aspects of a Sikh life was just as valid. This however was quite limited and logical chains of reasoning throughout would benefit the candidates to achieve higher levels.

The candidate receives Level 2 – 5 marks plus 3 SPaG mark.

*(d) "The only purpose of human life is to unite with God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Many Sikhs believe that humanity is the highest form of life before God himself. Within the cycle of life and rebirth, you are able to be reborn as any form of life; even a wasp. This means Sikhs are taught that you can only break free from this cycle of life and rebirth as a human as you must become gurmukh to achieve mukti and are only able to do that through human actions. This point is very strong as it directly agrees with the statement by posing the ~~single~~ one's aim, once human is to achieve mukti and unite with God.

A contrasting opinion is based upon the notion that if you, as a human, only work to break yourself free from the cycle of life and rebirth, you are proving yourself to be selfish and so manmukh. Mukti is not the ~~ultimate~~ sole aim or purpose of a human life. The gift of human life is enables people to help each other and aid the community. This is an excellent point as it is supported by the teaching, "One cannot survive on food and drink alone." Meaning that one can't live with the sole focus on themselves and achieve liberation; they must focus on humanity as a whole to develop the world to be a better, more equal and fair place.

Overall, I believe that it is not the only purpose of human life to get closer to God but rather a ^{goal} ~~aim~~ which some people; Christians, Sikhs, and Muslims alike all strive to achieve. The purpose of life, I believe is to enjoy ^{and indulge} ~~oneself~~ in kindness and ^{form a world} ~~pleasure~~ which could be considered fair and pleasant. However, just like ^{many} ~~the~~ Sikh's purpose of life, my idea of purpose appears to be a goal set to better the world.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two sides of the argument that are developed, demonstrating an understanding of the different viewpoints within Sikhism.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure the argument presented should give 'chains of reasoning'. A 'chain of reasoning' occurs when a candidate makes a point and then develops it several times. They can do this by providing examples, extra information, or sources of wisdom.

The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy and use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 5 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 8 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Always read the bullet points so you refer to the requested points of view.

The candidate achieved level 2 – 6 marks and 3 for spag.

*d) "The only purpose of human life is to unite with God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some people who follow the teachings of Sikhism may agree with this statement. This is because it is our aim to reach mukti so our soul can be with ~~the~~ Waheguru forever.

I disagree with the statement "The only purpose of human life is to unite with God". This is because in Sikhism the Guru Granth Sahib states "The body reincarnates 8.4 million times". This shows us that it is a Sikh's job to be on earth and do selfless service and help those in need. In order ~~to~~ ~~get~~ for your soul to reach Waheguru, you have to reach mukti. This is why I disagree with the statement.

Another reason why I disagree with the statement is because Sikhs believe that in order to unite with God you have

to be the perfect Sikh. This is shown when Guru Gobind Singh says "who is willing to take upon my sword". This quote shows Sikhs in order to reach mukti you have to be ready to die for your religion and sacrifice everything. This is another reason why I disagree with the statement.

However some people may agree with the statement "The only purpose of human life is to unite with God". This is because Guru Nanak had ordered Sikhs to do "Selfless Service". This shows Sikhs that to live a good life and stay away from the 5 thieves a Sikh's goal should be to be gurmukh and reach mukti in order for their soul to be with Waheguru forever. This is why some people may agree with the statement.

All together I disagree with the statement as not all Sikhs are amritdhari. This can show that a Sikh's main job is to help the poor and do sewa.



This candidate has tried very hard to give reasons why it is important to unite with God and reasons in disagreement with the statement . The reasoning behind each is a little superficial. They have shown some chains of reasoning with sources of wisdom but failed to critically analyse and reach a justified conclusion in detail. This candidate wrote well, but lacked the depth of knowledge that is expected to go beyond level 2.

The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy and use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks



One way of appraising is to explain a viewpoint, then evaluate its validity and why other Sikhs may not accept this as a valid point.

Question 2 (a)

The question was answered well with most candidates understanding the Sikh teaching about the death penalty is wrong, and should not be allowed.

The candidate achieved 1 mark.

2 (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about the death penalty.

(3)

death penalty is not allowed as it is a form of deterrence, which ~~doesn't~~ allows an individual to instill fear, which is discouraged by many Sikhs as it is not a form which can improve anyone or show compassion.



The candidate gave one detailed sentence.



The candidate must write three separate teachings, no development is needed in an outline question.

The candidate achieved three marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about the death penalty.

(3)

Sikhs believe that everyone has a divine light within them so you can't murder anyone. They also believe that the punishment is in God's hand and no one is superior to God hence they have no right to kill someone. Another thing they believe in is that the criminal should get another chance to change their ways.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined three teachings.

Everyone has a divine light so you can't murder (1)

Punishment is in God's hands (1)

Criminals should get another chance to change (1)

The candidate achieved three marks.

2^a (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about the death penalty.

(3)

One Sikh teaching is that it is not permitted. Another teaching is that it leaves no room for the offender to gain reform. The last teaching is that only God has the power to take lives.



It is not permitted (1)

Leaves no room for the offender to reform (1)

Only God has the power to take lives (1)

Question 2 (b)

This question was well answered with the candidates showing sound knowledge on the aims of punishment. Although those that wrote about retribution as an aim of punishment was not credited as it is not a Sikh attitude.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) 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 as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh attitudes towards the aims of punishment.

(4)

One Sikh attitudes towards the aims of punishment is that punishment should lead to reformation. This means a person will ~~be~~ become a better person by understanding ~~what he did~~ why he did the Sikh values to lead a gurmukh life.

Another Sikh attitude towards the aim of punishment is that it should ~~reflect~~ reflect the severity of the crime. This means criminal punishments will reflect the type of crime and be also respected as a human being.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed attitudes.

Punishment should lead to reformation (1) which means a person will become a better person by understanding the Sikh values to a gurmukh life (1)

Punishment should reflect the severity of the crime (1) as you should respect the person as a human being (1)

Question 2 (c)

This question is from spec reference 2.1 – why justice is important for Sikhs. It is not about social justice and justice as a form of revenge. It is about God wanting Sikhs to promote justice, Sikhs being encouraged to find justice and the belief that God is within all promoting equality and that people have a chance to see God. This, on the whole, was not answered well as some candidates wrote about the aim of punishment or social justice and war, these were not credited.

The candidate has achieved 0 marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why justice is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

Justice is important to Sikhs, especially when defending their faith. One of the Gurus said "When all methods fail, it is right to take up the sword in hand." This means that it is highly important for Sikhs to defend their faith.

Another reason why justice is important is because it promotes gurmukh ideas, as Sikhs believe that combating social injustice is very important in order to achieve liberation from the world.



The candidate has failed to answer the question correctly in accordance to the specification. The candidate has written about defending their faith and social justice.



The candidate has failed to answer the question correctly in accordance to the specification.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why justice is important for Sikhs.

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

(5)

One reason justice is important to Sikhs is because Sikhs believe God created the world to be a peaceful and joyful place where his creations could hopefully achieve mukti and reunite with God. Sikhs believe through a world full of justice everyone is being treated equally. This is a good thing as in the Guru Granth Sahib it says "do not strike those who strike you - kiss their feet". This shows that God ~~is~~ wants humans to treat everyone with the same respect back.

Another reason justice is important to Sikhs is because Sikhs believe without justice and peace then one cannot find God. This emphasises that many people who live in a society of being ~~very~~ unequal to one another will make you gain bad karma as your not doing as God wants you to do.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed reasons with a source of wisdom.

Sikhs believe through a world full of justice everyone will be treated equally (1) Do not strike those who strike you, kiss their feet (1) which means God wants everyone to treat each other with the same respect (1)

Without justice and peace you cannot find God (1) which means anyone who lives in a society of being unequal to one another it may bring bad karma (1)

Question 2 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraised arguments will help candidates gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments thus restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

The answers gave a lack of Sikh teachings. Few candidates were not able to reach above Level 2. There was little depth in most answers, many of which relied on a general Sikh attitude to forgiving the criminal and why they shouldn't forgive the person who commits the crime. The better answers were able to comprehend the actual beliefs, but still failed to fully explore and evaluate the issues sufficiently. Some candidates gave excellent answers citing reasons for and against but not considering the value of them or analysing/evaluating them.

Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

The candidate achieved a level 2 – 6 marks.

(d) "Those who commit crimes should always be forgiven."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

against
- criminals who are a danger to people
- God's light is in all of us.
- people should be kept away from society (12)

Some Sikhs may agree with this statement as ~~for~~ they are taught that forgiveness is part of being gurmukhs. ~~and~~ in the Guru Granth Sahib it says 'God's light is in all of us', this implies how criminals are also part of God's creation therefore they should be treated like humans and be given a second ~~change~~ chance. This is a valid point because it shows ~~us~~ how criminals ~~are~~ should be forgiven since they are also human who has made a mistake.

Other Sikhs may disagree with this statement as depending on the severity of the crime that's been committed. Sikhs are taught that criminals who are dangerous, should be kept far away from society. This means that prison

could be used ~~to~~ to help reform criminals into becoming better people. Despite prison being used as a punishment, Sikhs are taught that criminals should ~~not~~ still uphold to basic human rights. This is also a valid point since it shows that criminals who commit major crimes should receive some sort of reformation/punishment to make them less of a threat to society. ~~But~~ they should not just be forgiven as this will benefit no one.

Although Sikhs are taught to be just to others, poverty, addiction and mental health are all attributes which need to be taken account when deciding the punishment given to the criminal. This is a good point since the background and health the criminal is in, can reflect the crime they have committed.

In conclusion, Sikhs are taught to only forgive criminals if they are not a danger to society.



This candidate has written a response which is knowledgeable and shows understanding of both sides of the argument.

The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points.

They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints as required in the question.

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

The candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements and appraises evidence, some of which is superficial. They write a simple conclusion.



Answer every question – you might receive a mark.

If you leave a question blank, you will receive zero.

Question 3 (a)

This was well answered with candidates mainly outlining three distinct purposes of the akhand path. Candidates need to fully understand what the question was asking, which was a purpose and not what the akhand path is.

The candidate achieved three marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** purposes of the akhand path.

(3)

One purpose of akhand path is that it is read at times of sadness, like funerals. Another purpose of akhand path is that it is read in times of joy, like weddings. Another purpose of akhand path is that it is a 48 hour reading of the Guru Granth Sahib to remind people to Sikhs to be gurmukh (god-centred).



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Examiner Comments

Read at times of sadness (1)

Read in times of joy (1)

Remind Sikhs to be gurmukh (1)

Question 3 (b)

This question was well answered with candidates clearly understanding the importance of the birth and naming rituals.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why it is important for Sikhs to have a birth and naming ritual.

(4)

One reason it is important for ~~the~~ sikhs to have a birth and naming ritual is to raise the baby as a sikh through Gods word. The baby is blessed with amrit water to help it live a ^{gurmukh} pure life and is gently tapped on the mouth and forehead with a sword for strength.

Another reason it is important for sikhs to have a birth and naming ritual is so its name is given by God and is therefore holy and theres reasoning behind it. Using Gods word makes the decision easier and more meaningful.



The candidate gave two developed reasons.

To raise the baby as a Sikh through God's word (1) This is blessed with amrit water (1)

Is a name given by God (1) so is therefore holy and there is reasoning behind it (1)

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why it is important for Sikhs to have a birth and naming ritual.

(4)

One reason it is important for Sikhs ~~to~~ to have a birth and naming ritual is it's a tradition, ~~and~~ giving birth also allows for another life to reach mukti and build up good karma.

Another reason Sikhs believe it's important for Sikhs to have a naming ritual is because it shows respect and also that it's like God is naming that child as the G.G.S is ~~opened~~ propped up and whatever page it lands on that will be the child's name.



The candidate gave two alternative reasons worthy of credit.

It is a tradition (1) allows another life to reach mukti and build up good karma (1)

Shows respect (1) as God is naming the child through the Guru Granth Sahib (1)

Question 3 (c)

The question was well answered with sound knowledge on the activities that take place in the gurdwara.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** activities that take place within the gurdwara.

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

One activity that takes place in a gurdwara is sewa. This can take place in the langar hall where people, no matter who they are, can come and eat. The Guru Granth Sahib says 'through selfless service, eternal peace is obtained'. This reflects the importance of sewa as it shows a Sikh's compassion and brings them closer to achieving mukti.

Another activity that takes place within the gurdwara is the reading of the Guru Granth Sahib for akhand path. A granthi Granthi's will alternate reading the Guru Granth Sahib for 72 hours until it is complete.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two activities found in the gurdwara with a relevant source of wisdom.

One activity is sewa (1) where people no matter what race come to eat (1) 'Through selfless service eternal peace is found' (1)

Akhand path (1) this is where the granthi will alternate reading the Guru Granth Sahib (1)

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

(c) Explain **two** activities that take place within the gurdwara.

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

(5)

One activity that may take place within the gurdwara is the Amrit Sanskar ceremony, where a Sikh initiates into the Khalsa, by drinking amrit water which consists of sugar crystals and water, mixed with a Khanda.

Another activity that may take place within the gurdwara is performing kirtan in the sangat. The quote "Through the sat sangat, the mind is calmed", shows that being in a sangat is essential for a Sikh, as the Gurus were in a sangat.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed activities with a source of wisdom.

Amrit Sanskar (1) where a Sikh initiates into the khalsa by drinking amrit (1)

Performing Kirtan in the sangat (1) 'Through the sat sangat the mind is calmed' (1) shows that being in the sangat is following the Gurus (1)

Question 3 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraised arguments will help candidates gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments thus restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

There were some very simplistic responses along the lines of for/against/conclusion. No students were able to 'logically deconstruct the religious information leading to logical chains of reasoning' in the part (d) questions and so even very well-informed answers were given few marks. Little evidence of critical engagement with the statements in the part (d) questions.

The candidate achieved a level 2 – 6 marks 3 marks for spag.

*d) "It is important for Sikhs to celebrate all of the gurburbs."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

beginning
prides
superficial
@ here honor
app → began
based
app → less meaningful (15)

Some Sikhs may agree with this statement as the gurburbs bring Sikhs together to celebrate the history of the faith. The Guru Granth Sahib says "God resides in the Gurburbs", so such a large community of Sikhs celebrating together is beneficial and holy. Gurburbs also allow Sikhs to show pride and remembrance for their past such as celebrating Guru Nanak's birthdays and the martyrdom of Tegh Behadur. They also teach others about the faith, for example educating Sikh children so they feel a deeper connection and understanding to Sikhism. However, it could be argued that the Gurburbs are superficial, and do not really give Sikhs a good concept of the faith as they are distracted by the activities, such as fireworks, instead of the spiritual elements. Remembering the history and celebrating is done better at home or in smaller settings, as it is more meaningful.

Others will disagree with the statement as the gurbans hold no real value in a Sikh's life. They are not important to celebrate, and Sikhs should instead prioritise naam japna and sewa. The Guru Granth Sahib says "repenting the naam, sin is banished from the body", yet gurbans offer no such benefits. Sewa brings Sikhs closer to God through good karma, which is much more important than attending what is said to be just a party. This argument is strong, as achieving mukti is the main goal of all Sikhs, and the gurbans do not offer this. They make no difference to a Sikh's life if they are not celebrated.

In conclusion, a Sikh should celebrate the gurbans, but it is not important to their lives. It is a good opportunity to show pride as a community and recognise the history of Sikhism, but other elements of the faith, such as prayer and doing gurmukh actions like sewa is much more important and should be prioritised over the gurbans.



This candidate has written a response which is knowledgeable and shows understanding.

They have shown:

- some accurate religious knowledge
- included simple developed points
- include both for and against
- fail to provide supporting evidence which limits it to a level 2.
- the conclusion is a summary of the points raised.



Always read the bullet points so you refer to the requested points of view.

Question 4 (a)

This question on the whole was well answered with good knowledge of how Sikhs work for peace.

The candidate achieved three marks.

4 (a) Outline **three** ways Sikhs work for peace.

(3)

a way Sikhs work for peace is making Langar available for everyone this allows members of the community to come together and learn more about the Sikh faith and maintain ~~peace~~ ^{Peace}
Another way Sikhs work for peace is committing *sewa* which are acts of selfless service this is where *Sikhs* put the needs of others before their own needs. Another way Sikhs work for peace is through prayer many *Sikhs* pray for protection and peace in hope *Waheguru* hears and answers their prayers.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined three ways that Sikhs work for peace.

Through the langar (1)

Through acts of selfless service (1)

Through prayer (1)

Question 4 (b)

Most candidates gave two developed teachings on Sikh beliefs about war. In general it was well answered.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about war.

(4)

One sikh teaching about war is that it is only permitted when you are defending your faith against injustice.

Another teaching is that it is only permitted as a means of last resort. A Guru stated that "When all methods have been tried and failed, then it is right to ~~to~~ take up the sword in hand."



The candidate gave two developed teachings.

War is permitted in defending your faith (1) against injustices – simple but credit worthy

War is permitted as a last resort (1) 'When all other methods fail then it is right to take up the sword in hand' (1)

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about war.

(4)

One Sikh teaching^s about war is that all men + women should be able to fight. This is shown as Mai Bhago had fought a war herself.

Another Sikh teachings about war is that only pick up the sword when necessary. This is because peace should always come first.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed teachings.

All men and women can fight (1) as Mai Bhago fought in a war (1)
alternative view but acceptable

Only pick up a sword when necessary (1) Peace should always come first (1)

Question 4 (c)

The question asked candidates about the nature of conflict. Some candidates wrote about the different types of conflict which was not what the question was asking.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about the nature of conflict.

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

(5)

One Sikh teaching about the nature of conflict is that it leads to more destruction. This is seen as wrong for Sikhs because God created the world and by fighting, this would destroy his creation for both nature and innocent lives.

Another Sikh teaching about the nature of conflict is that it is allowed as long as it follows the dharam yudh. This also aligns with the Guru's teachings of "If all other methods fail, it is proper to hold the sword". This shows that ~~it~~ conflict can be allowed along the right circumstances.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed teachings with a source of wisdom.

Leads to more destruction (1) as fighting destroys God's creation (1) an alternative view of what conflict produces

Conflict is acceptable (1) 'if all other methods fail it is proper to hold the sword' (1) which shows that conflict can be allowed under the right circumstances (1)

Question 4 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraised arguments will help candidates gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers for and against but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments thus restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Some answers were along the right lines, but mainly descriptive rather than evaluative or analytical. A sizeable number of candidates concentrated solely on Sikhism and failed to include relevant ethical teachings. There were one or two excellent responses where candidates had a detailed knowledge of the Sikh view of weapons of mass destruction that they analysed through reference to a range of Sikh teachings and other ethical arguments.

The candidate achieved a level 1 – 2 marks.

(d) "Weapons of mass destruction should never be used."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Weapons of mass destruction should never be used, people would agree with this because violence is always a last resort but also could kill innocent people, even children

But people may disagree because killing the enemy would bring peace even though it's a brutal way



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate's response was very simplistic and lacked detail and knowledge. It simply had two reasons why weapons of mass destruction are acceptable or not acceptable. There was very little Sikh belief.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Weaker candidates may benefit from writing frames or structures but often stronger candidates are hindered by them. Encourage candidates to answer the question, rather than write a for and against what some Sikhs believe or think.

The candidate achieved a level 2 - 5 marks.

(d) "Weapons of mass destruction should never be used."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

- antiterrorism

(12)

I partially agree with this statement because if weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are used, then this can result in the harm and death of innocent people. This is important because our ~~harm~~ actions should only affect us and not others, therefore the use of WMD can never be justified. ~~Also, the~~ "what you plant is what you harvest" which is found in the ~~text~~ Guru Granth Sahib. This quote could suggest that the use of WMD's is a consequence of our own actions, therefore whatever harm these weapons may cause, will be reflected in our own karma and because this is murder, it is not gurmukh therefore we cannot be liberated.

In contrast some ethical arguments may argue that ~~the~~ it is the best and most loving thing to do for the majority of the people and this is also known as utilitarianism ~~this means~~. This is because if the WOMP is used and it saves many more of innocent people from getting harmed or dying, then it is the most loving thing to do, justifying the use of these weapons.

However in agreement with this statement, some Sikhs may argue that because the use of WOMP's lead to death, then it should never be allowed because the only person who should have the power to take away life is God, therefore it is never okay and the use of them can never be justified. This is shown when the Guru Granth Sahib states that God is the only one with the power to give and take away life.



The candidate has shown and for and against response with some Sikh teachings.

It lacks judgement and analysis but has some sound religious belief to gain it a level 2 mid range.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure the argument presented should give 'chains of reasoning'. A 'chain of reasoning' occurs when a candidate makes a point and then develops it several times. They can do this by providing examples, extra information, or sources of wisdom.

Paper Summary

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

- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper; write within the scannable pages using the blank spaces.
- When answering the (a) questions use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in question (c) must be relevant to the question and support the reason given.
- The (d) items need an understanding of religion and belief, as well as the ability to evaluate the arguments to reach a conclusion. Centres may wish to consider encouraging students to concentrate on learning the information needed before embarking on the evaluation. To get a level 4, candidates need to have a wide range of teachings and beliefs and to be able to analyse, appraise and evaluate.
- Candidates should be directed to read the bullet points in the (d) question and understand that they guide them to which viewpoints they should be providing. Centres may wish to consider identifying on the specification the different traditions/viewpoints within Sikhism identified that could be used to answer these questions. The diversity within the religion is the key factor in appraising the arguments. Why do they not all agree?

Examiner advice: Candidates should be familiar with and prepare all parts of the specification. Centres are advised to refer to the specification, SAMS materials and online support given by the senior examination team.

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>

