



# **Examiners' Report**

## **June 2023**

**GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 3G**

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## Introduction

This paper focuses on Sikhism and the following four sections: Sikh beliefs, philosophy of religion, living the Sikh life and equality. The details of the assessment content is provided in the specification. Centres are advised to use this rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

Section 1: Questions relating to the topic of Sikh beliefs were on the whole answered well by candidates, with sound knowledge displayed and key Sikh terms used throughout, especially in the AO1 questions. The AO2 questions were not answered in as much depth as required, although candidates appeared to have the necessary knowledge. Candidates are beginning to critically analyse the statement using various techniques; although there needs to be more strands of reasoning and a justified conclusion in order for candidates to gain the higher levels. Candidates should compare and contrast ethical issues within Sikhism and also consider non-religious views when prompted. Additionally, candidates should look at divergent views within Sikhism, in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Section 2: Philosophy of religion questions tended to be answered in a generic way. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge in order to gain the higher marks; although there was some improvement in the knowledge and terms used compared to previous series.

Section 3: Living the Sikh life questions were on the whole answered successfully, with sound knowledge expressed and key Sikh terms used throughout.

Section 4: The equality questions were answered quite well in relation to A01, however, candidates again did not reference the source of wisdom/authority sufficiently and lacked Sikh knowledge. Candidates struggled with the A02 question, lacking knowledge on key issues including prejudice and discrimination in relation to Sikh teachings as well as other ethical arguments.

Sources of wisdom must be used where prompted and should be related to the question asked.

## Question 1 (a)

Candidates are asked to 'outline' on (a) items and therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark. Any further development is not required.

Candidates are advised to write three different points, in three different sentences. One mark is awarded for each sentence identifying one correct piece of information.

The question was well answered with very few getting less than full marks.

The candidate achieved three marks.

**1 (a) Outline three characteristics of God shown in the Mool Mantra.**

(3)

In the mool mantra it states that God is one. (Ik Onkar)

In the mool mantra it states that God is the creator/doer. (Karta Purkh)

In the mool mantra it states that God is beyond birth and death.



God is one (1)

God is creator/doer (1)

God is beyond birth and death (1)



Candidates should separate the reasons, as it then makes it clear that three reasons are given.

## Question 1 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' ways, reasons, etc, on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote, or examples. The development must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

The question was well answered with sound knowledge of ways a Sikh can become gurmukh.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways that a Sikh can become gurmukh.

(4)

one way that a sikh can be gurmukh is by taking amrit so they can follow the 5 k's and become part of the khalsa.

Another a sikh can become gurmukh is by doing seva and showing compassion to all allowing a sikh to show their true devotion to God.



The candidate gave two developed ways.

By taking amrit (1) so they can follow the 5 K's and become part of the khalsa (1)

Doing sewa (1) showing compassion to all (1)

## Question 1 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'explain two' ways, reasons, etc, on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be fully developed for four marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information and must be relevant to the reason given and the question being asked.

Reasons 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.

The following is advice for centres as to what constitutes a source of wisdom: 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 will gain the mark and the bracketed reference will be 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.

This was well answered with some excellent knowledge on why Sikhs will try to unite with God.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why a Sikh will try to unite with God.

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

(5)

One reason why a Sikh will try to unite with God is because Sikhs believe life ~~is~~ is a gift given to humans. <sup>It is also a test</sup> to prove their devotion <sup>to</sup> God by following the Guru's teachings, and achieve mukti ~~because~~ because one who "achieves mukti will ~~unite~~ <sup>unite with</sup> God."

Another reason why Sikhs try to unite with God is to break the cycle of samsara - cycle of birth and death - so that they can receive eternal freedom.



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Examiner Comments

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

Life is a gift given to humans as a test (1) so they can prove their devotion and achieve mukti (1) 'one who achieves mukti will unite with God' (1) a paraphrase.

To break the cycle of samsara (1) so they can achieve eternal freedom (1)

## Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. Candidates are being assessed on AO2, analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion, therefore, there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against, but then did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, which then restricted candidates' progression to the higher levels. We mark using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

This response is a fairly good example of a Level 3 answer.

\* (d) "Achieving good karma is the most important focus of Sikh life today."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

One reason why attaining ~~good~~ good karma <sup>(15)</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>should be</sup> the centre focus of Sikhs is that by doing so, a Sikh is free from the 5 vices / 5 thieves. This ~~will~~ will then allow for a Sikh to live a sinless life whilst attaining good karma and become a Gurmukh. Therefore a Sikh can unite with God after their physical demise ~~and~~ in the Sach Khand - true realm. However, one reason why achieving good karma doesn't have to be the centre focus of a Sikh's life is that a Sikh can still live a good life ~~and~~ by taking amrit. This means by doing so, a Sikh is baptised and has submitted themselves to live a ~~god~~ God ~~centered~~ centered life. As a result a Sikh can still achieve mukti without the need for solely focusing on collecting ~~good~~ good karma.

Another reason why Sikhs should focus on achieving good karma is that the 3

values established by Guru Nanak Dev Ji to living a good Sikh life ~~shows~~ stress the importance of good karma. The values of 'Naam Japna, Kirt karna and vand beh shakna' show that these values of meditation, ~~living~~ earning an honest living and sharing with others are how to live a good Sikh life where these actions help a Sikh achieve good karma. Therefore achieving good karma should be the ~~focus~~ <sup>most</sup> important focus for a Sikh as these values help a Sikh to attain mukhti. However, one reason why achieving good karma isn't the most important focus for a Sikh is because they can still live a good Sikh life individually rather than committing acts to attain good karma. This can be seen where a Sikh can still live a good life just by taking amrit and living a gurmukh life. This will then allow a Sikh to live a god centred life and attain mukhti.

In conclusion, ~~the~~ achieving good karma should be the main focus of a Sikh life. This is because the values and teachings of the Guru's all stress the equality of mankind and serving others. Therefore by attaining good karma, a Sikh's bodily soul can be freed from the cycle of life and death.

Total for Question 1 = 27 marks)



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 partially-justified conclusion.

The candidate is awarded a mark at the bottom of the mark range for Level 3 because the candidate meets the demands of the level descriptors for Level 2 and attempts to evaluate but this is very basic.

Level 3-7

Spag – 3

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.

Total: 10 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)

Most candidates could think of two miracles but many did not achieve the full marks due to lack of knowledge on Sikh miracles. Some randomly wrote a miracle that may have been reported in a newspaper but was not related to a specific Sikh miracle.

The candidate achieved 3 marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** examples of Sikh miracles.

(3)

One example would be Guru Nanak Dev Ji's River Bain experience. Another example would be Guru Nanak Dev Ji stopping the boulder rolling down the mountain with his hand. A third example would be ~~Guru~~ Baba ~~Akbar~~ <sup>Bahadur</sup> Singh Ji fighting in war with his head in his ~~own~~ hand.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined three appropriate miracles.

Guru Nanak's river experience (1)

Guru Nanak stopping a boulder with his hand (1)

Guru Gobind Singh continuing fighting with his head in his hand (1)

## Question 2 (b)

The question was well answered with many achieving full marks.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Sikh upbringing may provide a basis for belief in God.

(4)

One ~~re~~ way is that <sup>children</sup> ~~people~~ are encouraged to take Amrit. This means that they can be introduced into the khalsa and learn more about God.

Another way is that children can learn about their religion from elders. This means that they have more knowledge and information about God.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways.

Taking amrit (1) this means they are introduced to the khalsa and learn about God (1)

Learn about the religion from their elders (1) as they have more knowledge and information about God (1)

## **Question 2 (c)**

Candidates did not answer this question well and found it difficult to find a relevant source of wisdom that related to religious experience. Candidates needed to respond using the key words related to religious experience and check the relevant source of wisdom in the specification.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** Sikh beliefs about religious experience.

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

(5)

One Sikh belief about religious experience is that some people may experience seeing God. This can be seen in the quote "blessed by the inner vision to see God". This means that some Sikhs are blessed with an appearance of God, which may strengthen their belief. It will make the

Another Sikh belief is that it may make a Sikh fully believe in God. By seeing God for the first time, a Sikh may feel honoured and show their gratitude by devoting themselves to God. This helps them attain Mukhti faster.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two relevant beliefs with a source of wisdom.

Some people may experience seeing God (1) 'blessed by the inner vision to see God' (1) this means that some Sikhs are blessed with an appearance of God which may strengthen their belief (1)

By seeing God for the first time a Sikh may feel honoured (1) they will show their gratitude by devoting themselves to God (1)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should clearly understand all of the key concepts in the specification. In this case the Sikh belief of religious experiences.

The candidate achieved three marks.

(c) Explain **two** Sikh beliefs about religious experience.

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

(5)

One Sikh beliefs about religious experience is that it is important for Sikh religious experience as it strengthens the faith of Sikhs. This is because Guru Nanak's river experience taught Sikhs about the oneness of God, this can be seen through the quote "There is no Hindu nor Muslim", now they are all same.

Another Sikh beliefs about religious experience is that it is important to go on a pilgrimage to Harmandir Sahib to experience God as God traveled throughout their lives.



The candidate gave one developed belief with an appropriate source of wisdom.

It strengthens the faith (1) due to Guru Nanak's river experience teaching Sikhs about the oneness of humanity (1) 'There is no Hindu nor Muslim they are all the same' a paraphrase. (1)

The second belief is incorrect and does not relate to the question.

## Question 2 (d)

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion, therefore, there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Candidate responses lacked Sikh teachings. There were a lot of references to Guru Nanak's river experience but candidates failed to analyse why it may prove God's nature and weak alternative views were given. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse it. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information, leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The response should give reasoned judgements and answer the question in full.

Candidates should look how revelations can show God's nature and analysing Guru Nanak's river experience is a good way to show God's nature. Some candidates did write about this but did not make judgements or critically analyse their view.

The candidate achieved a level 1 – 2 marks.

(d) "Revelation fully shows the nature of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Revelation fully shows the nature of God as it shows how powerful and loving God really is. This is because a revelation allows Sikhs to understand God more easily.

However some Sikhs believe revelations don't fully show the nature of God but only a part of God that God ~~etc~~ wants us to know about.

In my opinion I think that revelations fully shows the nature of God and allows us to get closer to God more easily.



The candidate wrote two simple reasons but there were no chains of reasoning or sound Sikh knowledge.

To gain a higher level the candidate must

- show some accurate religious knowledge
- include simply developed points linking one idea to another

The candidate has shown:

- Little knowledge and understanding.
- The arguments for the statement are not underpinned by religious beliefs or teachings.
- There is a simple for and against given.
- There are no judgements made.
- The conclusion is not justified.

The candidate achieved a level 2 - 4 marks.

(d) "Revelation fully shows the nature of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Many Sikhs would agree with the statement stating "Revelations fully show the nature of god." This is because it has been seen in the case of Guru Nanak Dev ji and the river experience. This supports the statement because Guru Nanak Dev ji had met with god off after ~~disappear~~ disappearing for a couple days. He had come back to spread the message of god. This shows the nature of god as Guru Nanak Dev ji spread the message of him being benevolent, omnipotent, etc. However many Sikhs might disagree with the statement. This is because of the design argument, where god is presented as being all-loving and caring. This is because god had perfectly made everything for humans and animals to survive ~~with~~ showing how much ~~the~~ god cares for his creation.

Another reason as to why Sikhs might believe with the statement is

because through etc revelations people can have more of a understanding about the nature of god this is because when people spread the message of god after having a revelation god is always presented in a very positive light this suggests that god has a very good nature.

In conclusion, I believe that statement is more true than false. This is because in most revelations the nature of god is always shown. However there are a lot of other things like the design argument that show the nature of god.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate showed some level 2 response but it lacked judgements and appraisal.

The response had

- some accurate religious knowledge
- both for and against arguments
- a conclusion but it lacked an appraisal of the arguments. It is just a repeat of the views written.

### Question 3 (a)

On the whole this was poorly answered with candidates not giving many events in the history of the langar. There were a few answers who did outline three events, as the sample shows.

The candidate achieved three marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** events in the history of the langar.

(3)

One event is when Guru Nanak Dev ji started langar. Another event is when Mata Khivi ji was given the duty of maintaining the langar. Another event is when Guru Gobind Singh ji said to keep the langar open before dying.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiners Comments

The candidate outlined three specific events in the history of the langar.

Guru Nanak started it (1)

Mata Khivi Ji was given the duty of maintaining it (1)

Guru Gobind Singh said to keep the langar open (1)

### **Question 3 (b)**

The candidates made a reasonable attempt at showing two ways Sikhs remember the martyrdom of Guru Arjan, although simple answers like having a gurburb, and an akhand path were in the minority. However some different answers to the mark scheme were credited such as serving cold drinks.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways the martyrdom of Guru Arjan is remembered.

(4)

One way the martyrdom is remembered is through Akhand paths, so ~~the~~ the Guru Granth Sahib is read ~~at~~ start to finish in ~~2~~ two days, making Sikhs remember the martyrdom of Guru Arjan.

Another way is by going a Nagar Kirtan, so a procession in the street to remember the sacrifice Guru Arjan made.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways.

The Akhand path (1) as it is read the Sikhs remember the martyrdom of Guru Arjan (1)

Nagar kirtan (1) a procession in the street to remember the sacrifice Guru Arjan made. (1)



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Examiner Tip

Candidates must understand the difference between a reason/way and development.

### **Question 3 (c)**

The focus of this question was for individual Sikhs. If candidates wrote about why the akhand path is important for individual Sikhs they would gain the marks.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why the akhand path is important for individual Sikhs.

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

(5)

One reason the akhand path is important for individual Sikhs is because it allows Sikhs to invite the Guru to bless them and ~~share~~<sup>be involved</sup> in what the festivity taking place such as a birthday or a funeral. A second reason ~~is~~ The Rehat Maryada ~~also~~ states that "Akhand Path should take place in times of joy and times of hardship". Another reason the akhand path is important for individual Sikhs is because it provides an opportunity to do sewa for others and of the Guru as ~~they will~~ whoever has the akhand path will organise <sup>and help cook</sup> langar ~~and~~



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Examiner Comments

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

Allows Sikhs to invite the Guru to bless them (1) such a birthday or funeral (1) 'Akhand path should take place in times of joy and times of hardship.(1) source is from the Rehat Maryada which is mentioned in the specification.

Provides an opportunity to do sewa for others (1) as they will organise and help cook langar (1)

### Question 3 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. Candidates are being assessed on AO2, analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion, therefore, there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

There was a mix of answers from some candidates showing analysis of the statement and others writing a simple for and against the statement.

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

Most candidates achieved level 2 or level 3. There was a good use of Sikh terminology and a solid understanding of the statement. Those who achieved the higher level 2, level 3 analysed the importance of meditating on the name of God and compared it to other beliefs that are just as important such as sewa and truthful living. Candidates need to offer sufficient analysis and logical chains of reasoning throughout in order to attain the higher levels.

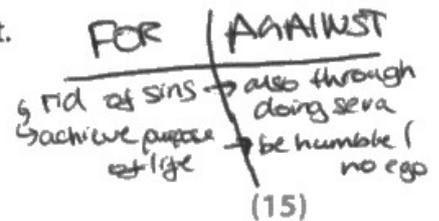
The candidate achieved a level 3 – 7 marks and 3 for spag.

\* (d) "Meditating on the name of God is the most important thing a Sikh must do."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.



One may agree with the statement that meditating on God's name is the most important thing a Sikh must do as it is clearly ordered and said by the Guru. The 4th Guru states 'One who calls himself a Sikh of the true Guru, should rise in the early hours and chant God's name', therefore a Sikh may argue that it is the most important, since the Guru has directly stated we should chant God's name and only by following the Guru's teachings can one become gurmukh. However another Sikh may disagree with the statement and argue that by doing doing sangat i.e. going into the <sup>true</sup> congregation is the most important a Sikh must do. The Guru states in Sukhmani Sahib that 'By joining the company of the holy, one realises God', therefore a Sikh may argue that sangat is the most important thing a Sikh must do to achieve mukti and 'realise God'.

Another reason why a Sikh may agree with the statement is because by chanting God's name, ~~you~~ you start to become cleansed of sins. By becoming cleansed of sins, it is easier to connect and unite with God. This is evident when the Guru states 'Chant the name every second

and all fifth is removed', therefore a Sikh can argue that chanting meditating on God's name is the most important as we can be cleansed of sins and connect with God. However, one may disagree and argue that doing seva also cleanses sins, therefore a Sikh should do seva is the most important thing a Sikh must do. The Guru states 'serve others and you will achieve humility. Only then will you be able to ~~reach~~ experience the divine when false pride and all sins are washed away', therefore a Sikh may argue that Seva is the most important as it washes away sins but also helps a Sikh become humble.

The Guru Granth Sahib Jee also states 'Each second without remembering the Lord's name is like wasting hundreds of thousands of years'; therefore a Sikh may argue that we should not waste our human life since it known to be 'amolak' which means precious, therefore by meditating on the ~~God~~ name of God, we can achieve the purpose of human life and not waste our time. However, one may argue that reading Gurbani is just as important since the Guru states 'The word of the Guru is like a priceless diamond'.

As a conclusion, I agree with the statement because in Gurbani, the ~~one~~ name of God is given <sup>only</sup> the highest level of importance. Only by chanting the name of God can one attain mukti and achieve the purpose of life, however there <sup>are</sup> also other factors and acts a Sikh should do i.e read bani;



The candidate showed all the elements for a level 2 and just gave a little judgement at the end to push it into a level 3.

The religious knowledge was good with chains of reasoning and a some analysis.

It was well written with good spelling punctuation and grammar.

level 3 – 7

Spag – 3

Total – 10 marks

Spelling, punctuation and grammar was awarded 3 marks in this example because:

The candidate spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy.

The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.

The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms as appropriately.

The candidate has achieved a level 1 – 3 marks and 3 for spag.

\*(d) "Meditating on the name of God is the most important thing a Sikh must do."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

One may argue that ~~the~~ meditating on the name of God is the most important thing a Sikh must do. This is because by ~~the~~ meditating on the name of God, you ~~are~~ are always thinking about God, therefore it is the most important thing a Sikh must do as it allows them to get closer to God so that they can gain Mukti and get a place in God's palace. However, one may argue that ~~the~~ doing the Mool Manter is the most important thing a Sikh must do. This is because by doing the Mool Manter, you ~~are~~ are praising the ~~character~~ characteristics of God, ~~therefore~~ you ~~will be~~ This means it

allows a sikh to get closer to  
god so that they can gain  
mukti and get a place in  
god's palace.



The candidate has shown basic information which is underdeveloped.

Given two simple views

Given no conclusion

It is the top of the level 1 criteria.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar was awarded 3 marks in this example because:

The candidate spells and punctuates with considerable accuracy.

The candidate uses rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall.

The candidate uses a good range of specialist terms as appropriately.



Prepare candidates not to argue that the statement is true or false but instead evaluate why the reasons given can be disputed by the alternative opinion.

## Question 4 (a)

The question was well answered with sound knowledge of ways Sikhs will try to end inequality. Practical responses were given.

The candidate achieved three marks.

4 (a) Outline **three** ways Sikhs try to end inequality.

(3)

One way Sikh try to end inequality is that everyone sits on the floor in the langar hall. Second way sikh try to end inequality is that any gender can read the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Final way is that any gender can take Amrit and become gurmukh.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlines three ways.

Everyone sits on the floor in the langar hall (1)

Any gender can read the Guru Granth Sahib (1)

Any gender can take amrit (1)

## Question 4 (b)

On the whole this was well answered with candidates showing good knowledge of the Sikh belief in why prejudice is wrong. Good Sikh technical terms were used such as haumai, mukti etc.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about why prejudice is wrong.

(4)

One teaching is that prejudice is wrong because it shows inequality, which is against Sikhism. By thinking negatively of a certain group of people, one is showing inequality, which is wrong. Another teaching is that prejudice is wrong because it displays "haumai" or "ego". This stops Sikhs from attaining Mukhti as it does not show humbleness.



The candidate gave two developed teachings.

It shows inequality (1) as you are thinking negatively about the other person which is wrong (1)

It displays haumai or ego (1) this stops Sikhs attaining mukti (1)

## **Question 4 (c)**

As long as the candidates understood the question was asking about racial harmony and not racial discrimination they achieved good marks. A third of the entries achieved full marks but there was a lack of sources of wisdom and two developed teachings.

The candidate achieved 5 marks.

(c) Explain two teachings about racial harmony in Sikhism.

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

Sikhi teaches us that ~~everyone~~ <sup>everyone should</sup> <sup>(5)</sup> be treated the same regardless of race, religion or gender. This is because Sikhs believe we all have God inside us and that we are a part of God, ~~therefore~~ our race doesn't matter as we are all equal. The Guru Granth Sahib states 'There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim'; which emphasises how everyone should be treated equally.

Sikhs are ~~taught~~ taught to support racial harmony as all Sikhs are taught to have compassion and love for others. The Guru states 'We are not good, and no one is bad'; which shows how all races are equal and should not be discriminated against.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate achieved 5 marks gave two teachings and a source of wisdom.

Everyone should be treated the same regardless of race (1) as we all have God inside us as we are all equal (1)

Sikhs are taught to support racial harmony (1) with compassion and love for others (1) 'we are not good, and no one is bad' (1)

The first source of wisdom is more linked to religious harmony so is not credited in this context.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(c) Explain **two** teachings about racial harmony in Sikhism.

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

(5)

One teaching about racial harmony in Sikhism is that it should be promoted and it should be the normality. This could be seen in the langar system and how everyone <sup>is from</sup> any background is allowed to receive the langar bounty. This shows that Sikhs believe that everyone is equal and how everyone should be treated with the ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> respect. Another teaching about racial harmony is that people should be kind to ~~each other~~ <sup>each other</sup> and how things such as ~~is~~ race and gender ~~shouldn't~~ <sup>shouldn't</sup> allow us to judge one another.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed teachings.

Racial harmony should be promoted (1) this can be seen in the langar how everyone from any background can receive the langar bounty (1)

Everyone should be kind to one another (1) and race or gender should not allow us to judge one another (1) a generic answer but credited as it is what Sikhs believe.

## Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on part (d) questions. Candidates are being assessed on AO2, analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion, therefore, there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

There were no level 3 answers in the main cohort of papers. The answers were very generic and lacked Sikh teachings. Social justice is an area of the specification that is not fully understood by most of the candidates. The answers did not link to wealth and opportunity and the distribution of wealth and care in society. There was very little ethical input especially in connection with situation ethics so candidates could not reach higher than a level 2.

The candidate achieved a level 1 – 3 marks.

(d) "Sikhs should always work for social justice."

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)

Sikhs should always work for social justice. As our gurus have taught us ~~this~~ <sup>for example</sup> GURU HARGOBIND TEGH BHAIDUR JI stood up for the Kashmiri Hindu pandits who were being tortured by the Mughal emperor.

Guru Hargobind Ji helped the 52 prisoners who were imprisoned with him.

As taught by our gurus, Sikhs should always stand up to injustice. ~~as God~~ <sup>As this helps them</sup> become a better person and human being.

Moreover, Nanak Guru taught us to be kind and compassionate towards others and treat everyone equally. We all believe in Ik Oankar (One God). Guru Ji said "Recognise the Lord's light within all".

Sikhs should work for social justice as it'll help them receive good karma and help eliminate naumai (ego). It'll help them reach Sachkand.

However, Sikhs shouldn't always work for social

justice, as there's other bigger problems in the world. Such as world hunger, ~~the~~ poverty and many more should also be dealt with.\*

To conclude, Sikhs should always work for social justice as it'll help them become a better person and reach sachkand, receiving mukh.

\* Moreover, when Guru Arjan Dev Ji stood up against the Mughal Emperor Jahangir doing social injustice. Guru Ji said "recognise the human race as one."



The answer lacked knowledge on social justice. The first paragraph was about how Guru Tegh Bahadur stood up for the Kashmir pandits which superficially links to equality which could be credited.

The answer lacked any analysis. A few superficial points were given hence it achieved the top level 1.

More chains of reasoning that should be linked back to the question and a full understanding of social justice are needed to gain higher levels.



There are many ways a candidate can successfully match the level descriptors.

It was clear in this year's marking that many centres are using writing frames. Unfortunately, many of the candidates were so intent on 'filling the gaps' on the frame or completing sentence starters, they did not answer the question. The starters of: for, against, moreover, furthermore, this is a strong argument because, this is a weak argument because, often undermined the information candidates tried to present and prevented the appraisal being robust enough.

## 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 booklet pages using the blank spaces.
- When answering the (a) questions use three full sentences.
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) questions must be relevant to the question and support the reasons given.
- The (d) questions ask for an evaluation after considering the evidence. Higher marks are achieved if the evidence/reasons given, is/are 'considered' or appraised for their value as an argument.
- On (d) questions the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that will be credited in the answer, so candidates must respond to all aspects of the question.
- Candidates should read the questions carefully in order to ensure that their answer fully responds to the question being asked.

## **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>

