

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 International GCSE (9–1)									
Wednesday 21 May 2025									
Afternoon (Time: 1 hour 30 minutes)					Paper reference		4RS1/2A		
Religious Studies PAPER 2: The Religious Community Option 2A – Buddhism									
You do not need any other materials.								Total Marks	

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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(c) "Taking refuge in the sangha is an essential feature of Buddhism."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

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(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)



Section 2: Celebration and Pilgrimage

2 (a) Outline **two** rituals associated with the celebration of Nirvana Day.

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(b) Explain why going on pilgrimage is important for some Buddhists.

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(c) "Celebrating festivals helps the journey to enlightenment."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

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(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)



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(c) "There are no essential design features for a vihara."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

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(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS



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