



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Religious Studies (8RS0)
Paper 4: Study of Religion
Option 4C: Hinduism

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Paper 8RS0 4C: Study of Religion – Hinduism
Mark scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	8 marks AO1 AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question. Candidates may refer to the following. • Street plans and building excavations demonstrate the quality of life in the Indus Valley culture. • Stone seals discovered at Harrapa and Mohenjo-Daro show figures of various deities. • The figures of goddesses and illustrations of bathing rituals demonstrate customs at that time. • Important trade links and influences such as Vedic traditions contributed to the key features of the Indus Valley culture. • The original language has not been deciphered.	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).
Level 3	6–8	• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Answer	Mark
2	3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2 AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting the AO2 descriptors described below. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1 • The Ramayana is a smriti text. • This epic poem narrates the struggle of the divine prince Rama to rescue his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana. • The Ramayana includes details of Rama and of his exploits as an avatar of Vishnu. AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. • The relationship between Rama and Sita as indicated in the Ramayana is significant because of their continuing influence upon Hindu marriage traditions. • The poem is important because it illustrates the value of upholding dharma, even under difficult circumstances. • The Ramayana illustrates various virtues of female and male avatars because the poem illustrates the ideal woman and ideal king. • The significance of the scripture is seen in its various adaptations across a range of religious traditions and cultures because it highlights the importance of the righteous path for all peoples. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues are identified (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).

		Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2)
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Question number	Indicative content
3	3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2 AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1. - There is an emphasis on fulfilling one's duty within dharma. - Sanatana Dharma emphasises duties within Hindu society. - Dharma is linked to various duties in the ashramas. AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. - It is important to interpret the principles of dharma within its complex range of beliefs because this shows the link between Hindu theology and implications for practical morality. - Rta is an underlying fundamental belief within Hindu thought because it underpins theology and dharma with its stress on correct ritual and the impact of karma. - Dharma is epitomised in the Laws of Manu because these provide divine sanction and are binding on moral and legal matters. - The implications of the principles of dharma are contentious because of the different interpretations of dharma across diverse Hindu traditions such as Samkhya with its rejection of God and emphasis on dharma as a way of life. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	- A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). - Information/issues are identified (AO2). - Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	- A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). - Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2). - Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	- A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). - Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	8 marks AO1 AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question. Candidates may refer to the following. • Samsara is believed to be the cycle of births and death. • Reincarnation is the transmigration of unchanging souls from one being to another. • This process of transmigration is governed by karmic principles. • The range of transmigration covers all types of existences and not merely human. • Samsara has implications for moral and social beliefs.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).
Level 2	3–5	• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).
Level 3	6–8	• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1). • Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).

Question number	Indicative content
4(b)	5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2 AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1. • Samsara explains that the self is in a state of change. • Samsara may be seen in the context of hope for liberation. • Samsara has implications for moral life styles and moksha. AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding. Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2. • Atman, as the unchanging soul, has important implications for human beings because it presents a rare opportunity (being born as human) to break the sequence of samsara and become released. • Atman never reincarnates, but the body and personality change and these beliefs are important because they display the impact of karma on good or ill. • Karma along with devotion and knowledge develops virtue for the Atman and this is significant because of release from reincarnation. • The significance of moksha is based on the aim of attaining the blissful state of freedom from samsara because this represents the overall aim of the self. • Alternative interpretations of moksha are significant because some Hindu traditions see moksha as attainable by one's own effort whilst others believe it results from the intervention of a deity. • The interrelationships between samsara and the atman are significant because they illustrate the interconnections within Sanatana Dharma for belief and practice. Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1). • Information/issues may be selected (AO2). • Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2). • Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 2	6–10	• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2). • Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 3	11–15	• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1). • Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2). • Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2). • Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).
Level 4	16–20	• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1). • Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2). • Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2). • Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).