

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Buddhism

See a range of responses and how different levels are achieved and understand how to interpret the mark scheme.

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EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Whilst every attempt has been made to show a range of student responses, the following responses and examiner comments provide teachers with the best opportunity to understand the application of the mark scheme. They are not intended to be viewed as 'model' answers, although they are genuine student responses from the summer 2018 examinations and have all been marked by senior examiners.

Four mark questions (A01.2)

0	1	.	3
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Explain two ways in which the Four Sights influenced the Buddha's teachings.

[4 marks]

Answer

By seeing the dead body, Siddhartha realised that death is inevitable regardless of your wealth hence anatta. Seeing the holy man inspired him to reject his extreme luxurious life and find a solution for dukkha. He began to meditate and live an ascetic life which eventually resulted in a 'middle way' lifestyle.

The answer is well focused on the question and demonstrates a clear understanding of the content required. Both points are developed and explain how the sights influenced the Buddha's life.

4 marks

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0 | 2 | . | 4

Explain **two** reasons why Wesak is important for Buddhists. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Buddhist belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

The wesak celebration is important to Buddhists because it celebrates the life and death of the buddha, Buddhists show their respects by cleaning the Buddha's statues and praying towards the buddha.

Answer B

Wesak is important because it recalls the birth and enlightenment of the Buddha. By recalling this key events the Buddhists are able to "cultivate good and purify one's mind" (Dhammapada). This means they are able to focus on their spiritual path to attain enlightenment which is the key goal in Buddhism. The birth of Buddha is what triggers Buddhists to become leaders and for Boddhisattvas to help others attain enlightenment.

Answer A

The first sentence makes a simple point, which is developed with the idea of respect shown by cleaning shrines. Although some Buddhists pray to the Buddha, it is not a main part of the practiced performed as part of the Wesak celebration.

2 marks

Answer B

Well-constructed response and clear knowledge shown through reasons given, both points are developed. The reference to the Dhammapada is used in relation to the points made.

5 marks

12 mark questions

Levels of response

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>References to religion applied to the issue.</p>	10-12
3	<p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>Clear reference to religion.</p>	7-9
2	<p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.</p> <p>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.</p>	4-6
1	<p>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</p>	1-3
0	<p>Nothing worthy of credit.</p>	0

12 mark question (A02)

0	1	.	5
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'The Four Noble Truths are the most important Buddhist teaching.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you should:

- refer to Buddhist teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

Answer A

Some Buddhists will agree with this statement because the Four Noble Truths focus on dukkha and its cessation which lead to enlightenment and therefore end the cycle of rebirth. The Four Noble Truths must be understood and accepted in order to achieve enlightenment which is the ultimate goal of Buddhists. Buddhists must understand dukkha and learn that it is caused by the three poisons (greed, ignorance and craving), hence by understanding this and following it as a daily reminder, enlightenment can be achieved, hence Buddha-nature.

However, some will disagree with this statement as in order to attain enlightenment you must follow a lifestyle known as 'The Middle Way' which shows that extreme luxury or extreme poverty does not provide a solution to dukkha nor achieving enlightenment.

The eightfold way should also be followed in order to live a good life which 'cultivates good, create no evil and cleanse one's mind', this shows that good things will result in good karma which leads to a clean mind whilst meditating which makes reaching enlightenment 'easier'.

Overall, I disagree with this statement because Buddhists do not only read the Four Noble Truths to attain enlightenment, but they also must understand the Three Marks of existence, the skandhas and follow the Eightfold path. They should understand and not misbehave to become 'arhats' and hence achieve enlightenment. Additionally, Buddhism does not only include a few methods or teachings; it includes many that must be followed to become the Buddha, therefore Buddhism is known as a lifestyle.

Answer A

In the second paragraph the student discusses the fourth Noble Truth as a 'however' point (as opposed to continuing the discussion as the Middle Way is the fourth Noble Truth). However, in the fourth paragraph, a second viewpoint is discussed. There is overall a reasonable discussion of different points of view, demonstration of understanding of key concepts and a fairly logical chain of reasoning. The answer also ends with judgements directly related to the statement, so this response meets the criteria for Level 4.

Level 4, 10 marks (251 words)

SPaG 3 – despite misspelling of 'enlightenment' throughout, other technical terms are correctly spelt. Grammar used with effective control of meaning overall, therefore meets the criteria for 'high performance'.

Answer B

In this evaluation I will give valid reasons to support this statement and valid arguments for against this statement.

"The four Noble truths are the most important Buddhist teaching." One way in which I agree with this statement is that the four Noble truths teach people about suffering and life. Another point which people believe in Buddhism is that these teachings which are very well known and are taught a lot to people who believe in Buddhism.

Another reason to back this statement is that the four Noble truths are what Buddha did to reach Enlightenment.

However, a reason against this statement is that it does not teach people how to live life. Buddhists also have quotes which alot of people follow instad of other teachings and one is, 'Our Religion is Simple, Our Religion is kindness.' This means that there religion is full of kindness and kindness has nothing to do with suffering.

Additonally, another reason to why the four noble truths are not the most important teaching is because Buddhist teach you not to be violent to one another which is more important because then everyone is not hitting each other and living in peace.

In Conclusion I believe that the four Noble truths are not the most important Buddhist teaching because there are other teachings which teach people how to live around each other peaceful which I think is more important.

Answer B

The first paragraph is redundant as it does not add anything to the response, furthermore the student did not need to copy out the statement in their second paragraph. There is limited evaluation here, and some reasoned consideration of two points of view but the response is too generalised to meet the criteria for Level 3. There is some use of relevant teachings, and a good attempt at application of the chain of reasoning in the fifth and sixth paragraphs.

Level 2, 6 marks

SPaG – 2 marks. The answer is about the expected length (234 words) but there are several spelling mistakes and misuse of capital letters. Subject terms spelled correctly 'Buddha' and 'enlightenment' which could help push this to 3 marks. However, overall style and grammar means best fit is 2 marks.

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/8062

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