

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 - Hinduism

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

Explain two ways in which belief in the Tri-murti influences Hindus today.

[4 marks]

Answer A

The Tri-murti influences a belief in samsara as each part of the Tri-murti is the creator, the sustainer, and the destroyer and allows Hindus to believe that time is cyclical and the natural world is temporary and so we must break away from the cycle of samsara.

In addition the Tri-murti shows Hindus that everybody has a role in life (as Vishnu is sustainer and Shiva is destroyer) and that they should follow their dharma by doing their role.

Answer B

Brahma is the creator of the universe and Vishnu is the sustainer. Vishnu teaches humans to be caring and loving towards everything and everyone. Vishnu influences humans to be sustainable and caring of the world, brahma teaches humans to use knowledge as a power to care for one another.

Answer A

The two ways given in this response clearly explain the influence of the beliefs so the response is fully focussed on the aim of the question. Both points are well-developed and so each is awarded two marks.

4 marks

Answer B

The sentence structure here lacks clarity, but as the deities are correctly identified the corresponding development can be seen. The first mark is awarded for the second sentence, that as sustainer (previously stated in the first sentence) Vishnu teaches people to be caring. This point is then developed in the following sentence by the explanation that this influences people to be sustainable in their lifestyle. The final point about Brahma is simple and so is awarded one mark.

3 marks

Five mark questions (A01.1)

0 | 2 | . | 4

Explain two ways in which cows receive protection in Hindu society. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Hindu belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

Firstly as the Bhagavad Gita 'Be a kind friend' shows Hindus follow an ideology of compassion and non-violence. Thus they are vegetarian and so cows are safe from slaughter.

Furthermore, there are goshallas in Hindu society where cows can retire to after they are old and receive care and treatment because Krishna was a cowherd so Hindus protect cows.

Answer B

Cows are places in special camps to not be harmed. This evokes the Hindu scriptures value of ahimsa. Non-violence against cows.

Answer C

Cows should be protected because they are animals. The cow is a spiritual animal, a sacred animal in Hindu society and it must be protected. The cow represents peace between Hindu people and animals and they have to respect them.

Answer A

The first point is well-explained with the idea that belief in compassion and ahimsa result in vegetarianism. There is a clear reference to sacred writings in the first sentence. The second point about goshallas is also well-explained and developed with the example of Lord Krishna.

5 marks

Answer B

This response is brief and lacks the explanation required to go beyond the marks awarded for simple points. The first sentence makes a simple point, as does the last sentence. The reference to the core belief of ahimsa as being from the scriptures meets the criteria for a relevant and accurate teaching from the mark scheme.

3 marks.

Answer C

This response tells us why cows are important (so receive protection) in a developed way. Whilst this does not directly meet the demands of the question, which is seeking practical ways they receive protection, up to two marks can be awarded for explaining why that is the case.

2 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 questions (A02)

0 | 1 | . | 5

'Human free will makes liberation (moksha) hard to achieve.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you should:

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

Answer A

The statement 'Human free will makes liberation (moksha) hard to achieve.' Free will can be an advantage to achieve moksha but it can also be a disadvantage. Free will lets have the free to achieve anything but it is up to the person If to use it wisely. Free will does not limit your potential.

On the other hand have free will can be a issue because it is harder to manage and control which could result in liberation harder to achieve.

Overall I think that this statement is right because Free will is hard to control so there it is hard to achieve moksha.

Answer A

This response is limited in breadth and depth, for example in the second paragraph there could be exemplification of how free will is hard to manage and so on. However, the response does address two points of view with slight development of each and so reaches the criteria for Level 2.

Level 2, 4 marks

SPaG 1 – threshold performance. The response is short and there are several grammatical mistakes, however meaning is not generally obstructed therefore best fit is threshold.

Answer B

I fully agree with this statement. First moksha means liberation from samsara; it is the highest goal (artha) of a Hindu's life. To obtain moksha, a Hindu must renounce all materialistic objects and overcome ignorance and desire. It is a paradox in the sense that to obtain moksha, a Hindu must overcome the desire to obtain moksha. Therefore, moksha is an extremely difficult challenge which cannot be easily approached by all Hindus.

Moreover, human free will gives Hindus the opportunity to reject God. They may perform bad acts against dharma, for instance: murder or rape. This leads to a bad reaction and this concept is called karma. As a result, bad influences can lead to humans losing control of their senses and unable to attain moksha.

Furthermore, human free will has led to suffering and evil in the world. Moral evil can cause some Hindus to go against the rule of ahimsa and influence them to do wrongdoings, like eating meat and not caring for the planet. Therefore, the soul is impure and cannot break away from the cycle of samsara in order to be one with God.

On the other hand, the Bhagavad Gita teaches Hindus to detach from the world. It is a Hindu's dharma to act kindly and stay away from evil. Moreover, Gandhi, a role model for many Hindus said: 'non-cooperation with evil is as much as a duty as is cooperation with good.' Both of these pieces of evidence show that moksha is possible if a Hindu is less inclined to the materialistic world, and more inclined towards spirituality.

Answer B

The first paragraph of this response discusses how moksha is difficult and so does not directly address the question and could have been better linked to the role of free will in the debate. The second and third paragraphs make similar points, but each are well developed arguments. The final paragraph provides an alternative view which is well developed with good insight into key beliefs demonstrated. Given the lack of focus in the first paragraph, and the absence of a conclusion, the best fit for this response is Level 3.

Level 3, 9 marks

SPaG 3 – high performance is the best fit for this response. Spelling and grammar are used with good control and meaning is clear throughout.

Answer C

Free will encourages people do what they want simply because they can. It makes their minds focus on material objects and what that want rather than on God. This weakens the connections with God, making moksha harder to achieve. It is similar to the story and Rama and Sita. Sita becoming obsessed with the deer could be a metaphore for the soul being obsessed with material items. In both cases, Sita gets seperated from Rama so the soul gets seperated from God, the opposite of moksha. It is this free will that allowed Sita to disobey Rama's instruction to stay within the circle so it is free will that seperates the soul from God.

On the other hand, without free will Hindus would be able to choose to focus on God rather than material items. It is this choice that makes it easier to achieve moksha if we focus on God. God wants to be with us, just as Rama wanted to be with Sita so by chosing to be with God, God will happily except our love and we can acheive moksha. It is similar to the story of an evil king being turned into an elephant for his cruelty. One day, he was bathing in a river with other elephants when an angry crocodile bit his leg. It was angry because it didn't want to share his river. The elephant wasn't strong enough to escape but in his panic, he remembered the mantras to Vishnu from when he was human. He chanted these and Vishnu came, saved him and took him to the spiritual world. This story shows that both the king's use of free will to be used to recite his mantras and vishnu's help are needed to achieve moksha. Free will can also redeem sins and help you attain moksha. Without it, you can't get moksha.

Therefore, I disagree with the statement as free will is neccessary to attain moksha. Although it is hard to direct your attention on God because of it, it is even more powerful when we overcome this obstical. It allows us to show God our love and faith in him, helping us to acheive moksha. Therefore, it is not free will but desire and greed that stops us attaining moksha.

Answer C

This response uses two stories from Hinduism to illustrate positive and negative use of free will in achieving moksha. Sita's disobedience in regard to Rama's guidance is demonstrated as negative use of free will is clearly demonstrated as separation from God. The story of Gajendra the Elephant shows positive use of free will to come closer to God (and moksha). This is a very well argued response, although at times it could be more concise, but good detail is given. The final sentence shows real insight into the key concepts debated here and is the conclusion of logical reasoning.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 3 – the response does contain some spelling errors, but overall the writing flows and there is good control of meaning throughout this extended response.

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