

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

(8062)

Marked Responses
Summer 2018 -Sikhism

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

Version 1.1 January 2021

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 the Sikh virtues influence Sikhs today.

[4 marks]

Answer A

Sikh virtues influence Sikhs today by reminding them to always use the virtues in their day to day lives because it leads to good karma. It also influences them to avoid the five evils. This allows them to keep good karma and brings them closer to mukti.

Answer B

Sikh virtues influence Sikhs today because it gives Sikhs the ambition and drive to receive mukti after death.

Answer A

A clear explanation that is well focused on influences and so fully meets the demands of the question. The first point of using the virtues in in their daily lives is developed with the concept of karma. The second point, avoidance of the five evils, is then developed with being closer to mukti.

4 marks

Answer B

This response is brief, but does make a valid point regarding the influence of the virtues. The idea of being more motivated to work towards mukti can be credited as a simple point.

1 mark

Four mark question (A01.3)

0	2	.	3
---	---	---	---

Explain two contrasting ways in which a Sikh's life is affected by becoming a member of the Khalsa.

[4 marks]

Answer A

When Sikhs become a member of the khalsa they are required to uphold the 5Ks (kara, kesh, kirpan, kachera, kanga) this is to highlight equality within the Sikh faith. Sikhs are also required to perform acts of sewa which is selfless service in order to ensure they are not manmukh and developing the qualities of being gurmukh.

Answer A

This response gives two different ways that Sikh life is affected when they become a member of the khalsa. The first point is the 5Ks which is developed with the idea of all being equal in this duty; the Punjabi terms for each of the Ks were not required. The second point of sewa is developed with the explanation of gurmukh qualities.

4 marks

Five mark question (A01.1)

0	2	.	4
---	---	---	---

Explain two religious practices that happen during Sikh worship. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Sikh belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Answer A

The sangat is Sikhs coming together in the Gurdwara to pray as a group. Guru Nanak taught that you should pray together and sing hymns as a group.

The karah parshad is also distributed. It symbolises equality because everyone is welcome and gets given it. It is prepared during the prayer and given out after.

Answer A

Both practices identified here are explained clearly. The first has reference to teaching of Guru Nanak regarding worship so gains the final mark.

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 questions (A02)

0	1	.	5
---	---	---	---

'The most important teachings of Sikhism are about equality.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + SPaG 3]

In your answer you should:

- refer to Sikh 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 tells us that teaching about equality is the most important because it shows us that no one person is better than another and that everyone has an equal chance of achieving mukti.

On the one hand, I think that Sikhism teachings about equality are the most important teachings because some sikhs and atheist will agree that due to current affairs surrounding equality, for example, rasism and gender discrimination, sikh teachings about everyone being equal in Gods eyes is the most relevant and helpful towards the young generation so they do not repeat human actions. The quote "manmukh in Gods are very foolish as they regret and repeat" shows the actions of older human generations.

On the other hand, other Sikhs may disagree with this statement as they believe that helping others in order to complete sewa is more important due to that helping them achive mukti quicker and allowing them to get closer to God. Due to the fact that all Sikhs want to achieve mukti may help them to believe that following the 5 virtues and avoiding the 5 vices are more important than their views on equality.

To conclude, I think that I disagree with this statement as I believe that due to the fact that Sikhs would rather try to achive mukti as fast as possible, there are other aspects like sewa, vices, virtues and liberation which matter alot more than equality.

Answer A

This response presents two points of view, each with some development. The response is repetitive at times but does apply some beliefs and teachings of Sikhism to the statement. As such, the response meets the criteria for Level 3, although more detailed developments may have moved it further up within the band.

Level 3, 7 marks

SPaG 2 – some use of specialist terms and generally clarity of meaning. The best fit here given some inaccuracies is intermediate performance.

Answer B

The teachings about equality in Sikhism can be recognised as the most important as mukti, which is the final stage where Sikhs are with God, is a place where no castes exist, so everybody is equal. A teaching from the GGS says 'Recognise the Lord's light within all, and do not consider caste or colour, as there are no castes in the world hereafter.' Sikhs may believe this is one of the most important teachings because mukti is the ultimate goal in a sikh's life, so preparing for it is very important.

Another sikh teaching about equality is written in the GGS saying "without women there would be no one at all" this quote talks about gender equality, and that women are key to our existence, so treating them with equality is very important, as it gives back to where everybody came from, so this teaching about equality can be seen as one of the most important as equality is needed for our lives, which ultimately lead onto mukti.

However, other sikh teachings may be seen as more important than teachings about equality as equality isn't the only step for reaching mukti. A teaching about God says that "He possesses all qualities, and transcends all qualities" and it is also said that God created the three worlds. In Mukti, everyone will be reunited with God, so sikh's may believe it is more important to learn about the power of God and to understand him first, before heading on the path towards Him.

Sikhs also believe in karma, and it is said in the GGS that "Your body is a field of karma – what you plant is what you will harvest and Sikhs may believe this is one of the most important teachings as karma is something you must act in accordance with for the rest of your life.

Overall, the most important teachings of Sikhism are not about equality, because the ultimate stage of life is mukti, which is with God, so it is more important to learn about the qualities God possesses for when one is reunited with God.

Answer B

This is a high level response, which takes a similar line of argument to the previous but adds far more details on both sides. The answer is tightly focussed on the statement and makes good use of Sikh beliefs and teachings which are applied effectively. The chains of reasoning here lead to a sound concluding judgement.

Level 4, 12 marks

SPaG 3 – despite occasional errors such as the lack of capitalisation of 'Sikh' there is good use of specialist terms and meaning is clear throughout. Sentence structure could be tighter, for example in paragraph 2 which is one long sentence, however meaning is not obscured.

Get help and support

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

You can talk directly to the religious studies subject team

E: religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk

T: 0161 957 3881