

**Religious Studies B  
(Philosophy and Applied Ethics)**

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Unit **B601**: Philosophy of Religion 1

**Mark Scheme for June 2011**

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**Section A: Belief about Deity**

If you choose one question from this section you must answer all parts (a – e) of the question.

**1 Buddhism****(a) What is a bodhisattva? [1]**

Responses might include:

- a person who has attained enlightenment and comes back to earth to help others
- enlightened one.

1 mark for response.

**(b) Give two ways that bodhisattvas could be helpful to Buddhists. [2]**

Responses might include:

- object of meditation
- deliver teachings
- mediate on behalf of people.

1 mark for each response.

**(c) Describe what some Buddhists believe about gods reaching nibbana. [3]**

Responses might include:

- gods or deities are trapped within the cycle of samsara and cannot reach nibbana for a long time
- gods have a false sense of security so don't feel the need to make progress towards enlightenment
- it takes the gods longer to get to nibbana because of rebirth in a godly realm. Eventually consequences of kamma wear off and they get reborn into another realm within the wheel of samsara
- buddhists do not believe the godly realm is the best one to be reborn into; a human rebirth is more desirable
- the gods have limited status since they have not reached nibbana.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks.

**(d) Explain why some Buddhists do not believe in the existence of gods. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Because the Buddha taught that the question about the existence of God or gods could not be answered, some Buddhists do not think it matters too much about whether God or gods exist or not. Some do believe they exist and others do not. It is an irrelevant question as it does not help a Buddhist find a way to enlightenment. The Buddha refused to answer the question when asked if God exists so followers of Buddhism follow in his footsteps. There is no proof one way or the other to show the existence of God.

- (e) **“It is important for Buddhists to believe in miracles”.**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Buddhists and that they should believe in them. They could argue that miracles have happened. Events beyond natural explanation have occurred so they should believe in them. Examples may be given.

In Mahayana traditions Buddhists believe that Buddhas and Bodhisatvas can intervene to help people on their way to enlightenment and perform miracles. So they will ask for help and for a miracle to happen.

Theravada Buddhists believe it is possible for miracles to happen once in nibbana but believe miracles are discouraged because they could prevent a person progress their own path to enlightenment.

The Buddha discouraged the use of miracles so it is not so important to believe in them.

For those who have experienced a miracle they are very important.

Candidates may explain the greatest miracle, ie the Miracle of the Dharma, the Teaching that destroys all sufferings and argue the importance of this teaching to Buddhists.

The Buddhist scriptures speak of many miracles associated with the Buddha's life that may help Buddhists believe in miracles.

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no God and so miracles are impossible.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**2 Christianity****(a) What does monotheism mean? [1]**

- Belief in one God
- 1 mark for response.

**(b) (i) Give one word that describes the nature of God. [2]****(ii) State what it means.**

Responses might include:

- Trinitarian / Father or Son
- omniscient
- judge
- creator
- omnipotent
- omnibenevolent
- loving
- merciful
- transcendent
- immanent
- jealous

1 mark for a response and 1 mark for the meaning.

Credit synonyms, not repetition of the same word, eg creator – creates.

**(c) Describe how the Holy Spirit affects Christians. [3]**

Responses might include:

- events around the Day of Pentecost when the disciples received the Holy Spirit
- charismatic services, speaking in tongues, trance like behaviours
- healings by the power of the Holy Spirit
- inspires and guides Christians everyday.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Christians believe God exists. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Existence of the Bible is evidence of God's existence, as is the revelation of God the Father through the person of Jesus Christ.

The work of the Holy Spirit past, present and the future shows the changing power of God upon individuals. Conversion is a form of evidence because of some spiritual experience.

The traditions of the Church and Christian beliefs passed down from generation to generation may be evidence in that two thousand years on people still believe in God and his Son Jesus Christ.

The world seems designed, not an accident or other philosophical arguments for the existence of God may convince people.

For some the evidence of conscience is proof and explains why they believe in God

**(e) “It is important for Christians to believe in miracles.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**  
**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Christians and that they should believe in them.

Miracles are a significant part of Christ’s work and ministry. They were a sign to his followers and the masses of his authority. The miracle of the resurrection is the basis of the Christian faith and so is very important. The idea of redemption, salvation and the promise of eternal life because of the resurrection of Christ are fundamental to this faith. So belief in this miracle is paramount.

People are still experiencing miracles today because of faith. Claims of miracles in various locations around the world show how important it is to believe in miracles. Examples from healings in Lourdes may be cited as evidence that they still happen and therefore are very important.

In the Bible the references to miracles are small compared to Jesus’ teaching and other work. Jesus even asked his followers to not tell everyone about the miracles so would suggest they are not too important compared to his teaching of love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Expecting or wanting all the time a miracle from God is not the way to conduct ones life. Following Christ’s example shows how important He regarded the miracles and therefore should be a sign for Christians today about how important or not they should be for them.

Many have faith and believe in Christ without believing or experiencing a miracle. There are Christians who do not believe in miracles. For example the Bishop of Durham (David Jenkins), some years ago, denied the importance of the resurrection to the faith and action of Christianity.

Some may argue about the definition of a miracle. What once was described as miraculous can be explained away, so miracles are not that important.

Some may argue that because miracles can’t be proved they are not relevant. Others may deny any real evidence to prove miracles happen and so are dismissive of them

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no God and so miracles are impossible.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**3 Hinduism**

**(a) What does polytheism mean? [1]**

- Belief in many gods
- 1 mark for response

**(b) (i) Give one word that describes the nature of the gods.**

**(ii) State what it means. [2]**

Responses might include:

- destroyer
- sustainer
- creator
- omnipresent
- supreme spirit
- omnipotent
- omniscient
- infinite
- transcendent
- personal.

1 mark for a response and 1 mark for the meaning.

Credit synonyms, not repetition of the same word, eg creator – creates.

**(c) Describe what Hindus believe about Brahman. [3]**

Responses might include:

- Brahman is the universal spirit
- source of life in all living things in the universe
- beyond human understanding but revealed by the Trimurti
- is God-present all around us in nature and life forms
- one supreme spirit.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Hindus believe gods exist. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Hindu beliefs about the way the world is and how the aspects of the supreme spirit manifest themselves.

Existence of the sacred texts such as The Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana and traditions and teachings of the Hindu community are believed to be Divine Revelations, convincing people of the existence of the gods.

Spiritual experiences during worship may be cited as a reason why they believe, as could the avatars of Vishnu and others. God interacts with humanity through the avatars. Candidates may provide details such as the example of Lord Krishna.

Examples of miracles in the past in an age called staya yuga, when the human being was much more attuned to the world of the spiritual, may be described. Currently people are more interested in the materialistic side of life.

(e) **“It is important for Hindus to believe in miracles”.**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Hinduism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Hindus and that they should believe in them.

Some will agree with this because of the Hindu beliefs about the universal spirit (Brahma) being all around the world. The beliefs of life, rebirth can be broken and that, through the intervention of the avatars, the gods interact with humanity so miracles are important.

Candidates may discuss the definition of miracles and conclude that everyday aspects of life may be regarded as miraculous, eg birth, and that they are very important as they reflect the life cycle.

Hindus use prayer and meditation to ask for miracles and to keep their faith strong. The fact that the scriptures talk of miracles makes them important for Hindus.

Some may explain the age of darkness Hindus are in so that makes miracles less prevalent and less important. Or they may explain the different definitions in Hinduism of a miracle and that some Hindus do not recognise some events as being supernatural.

It could be argued that miracles are not important because each individual has to find their own way to moksha and that miracles performed by the saints and yogis are to be discouraged.

There are different beliefs between Hindus because of different cultures and so there are varying degrees of importance about miracles.

Many feel miracles do not play an essential part in everyday life and that what is more important is following your dharma and accruing karmic debt.

Some may argue that because miracles can't be proved they are not relevant. Others may deny any real evidence to prove miracles happen and so are dismissive of them.

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no God and so miracles are impossible.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 4 Islam

**(a) What does monotheism mean? [1]**

- Belief in one God
- 1 mark for response

**(b) (i) Give one word that describes the nature of Allah. [2]**

**(ii) State what it means.**

Responses might include:

- merciful
- creator
- omniscient
- omnipotent
- creator
- guide
- teacher
- compassionate
- judge
- one of '99 names' for Allah

1 mark for a response and 1 mark for the meaning.

Credit synonyms, not repetition of the same word, eg creator – creates.

**(c) Describe what the Shahadah says about Allah. [3]**

Responses might include:

- there is no God but Allah
- Allah used a messenger called Muhammad ﷺ to convey his message to the world
- first of the Five Pillars of Islam showing how important it is to believe only in Allah
- the reciting of the Shahadah daily shows how important Allah is in their lives.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Muslims believe Allah exists. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Evidence from the revelation of the Qu'ran to Muhammad ﷺ is most likely to be developed.

Muslims believe it is the exact word of Allah and therefore its existence is evidence of Allah's existence.

The life and work of Muhammad ﷺ could also be developed as evidence that Allah exists.

Candidates may describe the general attributes conveyed in or by the Shahadah and will be credited accordingly e.g. Allah is omnipotent, Allah is almighty.

The worldwide community of Muslims also shows how many are convinced by the teachings and that the faith has not died out over time. This is a form of evidence that could be cited.

The awe and wonder of nature experienced by humans and the design of the created world all convince many that Allah exists.

The prophecies of the prophets such as Ibrahim, Moses and Isa are evidence of Allah.

Prayers are answered.

Muslims can have a personal relationship with Allah through salah.

**(e) “It is important for Muslims to believe in miracles”.**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Muslims and that they should believe in them.

Many will probably cite the revelation of the Qu’ran to Muhammad ﷺ as the greatest miracle according to Muslims. The faith would not exist if this had not happened. The Qu’ran is the basis of the faith and the role that Muhammad ﷺ played in this is very important.

Muslims also believe in other prophets and the miracles they performed, eg Moses and the Red Sea, or Jesus and healing people. This would show how important it is to believe in miracles or one is denying the greatness of Allah.

The miracles or ayahs are signs to Muslims of Allah’s existence and how He intervened through Muhammad ﷺ to reveal His teachings as well as the Qu’ran are testimony to the importance of this person and miracles.

Candidates may use the importance of The Ascent or Night Journey to Jerusalem to argue why it is important to believe in the miracles of Allah. Many believe Allah intervenes continually.

The creation of the world is regarded as a great miracle and reflects the power and omniscience of Allah and hence importance of Muslims to be caliphs.

Some Muslims may argue against the importance to believe in miracles because when people asked Muhammad ﷺ for proof of Allah, Muhammad ﷺ refused and said he could not perform miracles. This showed that miracles were not the most important thing to believe in. Many feel miracles do not play an essential part in everyday life and that what is more important is following the Five Pillars of Islam.

Belief in miracles is not important because Muslims live in a secular and immoral world so miracles do not happen. Submitting ones will to the will of Allah is far more important than arguing whether miracles are real or not.

Some may argue that miracles are very important, especially the revelation of the Qu'ran to Muhammad ﷺ but there are other things that are equally important.

Some may argue that because miracles can't be proved they are not relevant.

Others may deny any real evidence to prove miracles happen and so are dismissive of them.

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no God and so miracles are impossible.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 5 Judaism

**(a) What does monotheism mean? [1]**

- Belief in one G-d
- 1 mark for response

**(b) (i) Give one word that describes the nature of G-d. [2]**

**(ii) State what it means.**

Responses might include:

- omnipresent
- omnipotent
- omniscient
- creator
- judge
- transcendent
- immanent
- personal

1 mark for a response and 1 mark for the meaning.

Credit synonyms, not repetition of the same word eg creator – creates.

**(c) Describe what the Shema says about G-d. [3]**

Responses might include:

- the Lord is the G-d of Israel
- there is only one G-d
- G-d is a personal G-d
- G-d demands love from the Jews with every aspect of their being
- G-d demands Jews to follow His instructions and show this love visibly.

Candidates may describe the general attributes conveyed in or by the Shema and will be credited accordingly e.g. G-d is the creator, G-d is all powerful, G-d gives life. Description should focus upon G-d's nature, not places where Shema may be found e.g. tefillin.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Jews believe G-d exists. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

The existence of the Torah, both written and oral proves the existence of G-d.

Some may talk about the history of the Jews as a covenanted people and that it gives them their identity. The link between G-d and the Jews as the chosen people to reveal to others the ways of G-d is why some believe G-d exists.

G-d intervenes through the prophets and miracles.

Some may believe G-d exists because of personal experiences or miracles that have happened.

Prayers are answered.

The awe and wonder of nature experienced by humans and the design of the created world all convince many that G-d exists.

**(e) “It is important for Jews to believe in miracles”.**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Jews and that they should believe in them.

Candidates may refer to evidence in the sacred writings or in lives of special people, eg Patriarchs and Moses, of miraculous events such as the Burning Bush, The Parting of the Red Sea and so on. Such evidence is proof that G-d exists, can perform miracles and will intervene in history. Therefore miracles are very important.

Some may argue that continuing numbers of Jews in the world, despite anti-Semitism, is a miracle and very important,

Others may argue about the history of the Jews, who they are and how they came to be the Chosen People of G-d is an amazing account and as such is miraculous. Their story gives them their identity and so events celebrated in many of the festivals that have miraculous events incorporated (eg festival of Chanukah, Passover) are essential elements of their history and therefore very important.

Some claim that spiritual experiences and stories of miracles convince people.

Candidates may refer to the different emphases that Jews place upon the above evidence.

Some believe that G-d would not set up laws of nature for them then to be broken. This does not make sense. Why would G-d intervene and break the laws of nature?

Generations of family beliefs and traditions about miracles may be discussed as evidence.

There are Jews who are secular but believe in keeping alive traditions to preserve their identity, not because they believe in G-d. Such Jews are unlikely to believe that the miracles recorded in the Torah are important.

Some may argue that because miracles can't be proved they are not relevant.

Others may deny any real evidence to prove miracles happen and so are dismissive of them.

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no God and so miracles are impossible.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 6 Sikhism

(a) What does monotheism mean? [1]

- Belief in one God
- 1 mark for response

(b) (i) Give one word that describes the nature of Waheguru.

(ii) State what it means. [2]

Responses might include:

- formless
- genderless
- personal
- immanent
- merciful
- forgiving
- omnipotent
- transcendent
- immanent.

1 mark for a response and 1 mark for the meaning.

Credit synonyms, not repetition of the same word eg creator – creates.

(c) Describe what the Mool Mantar says about Waheguru. [3]

Responses might include:

- there is one God
- truthful
- creator
- without form and is timeless
- enlightened one
- without fear and hate
- beyond death.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

(d) Explain why Sikhs believe Waheguru exists. [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Sikhs believe it is possible to have a personal relationship with Waheguru through the hearts of human beings. The difference between the animal world and the world of humans is such that it convinces Sikhs of this special relationship and evidence that Waheguru exists. They believe that the saguna nature of Waheguru intervenes in human nature constantly and convinces them of Waheguru's existence.

Other Sikhs have claimed to experience Waheguru through mystical experiences or through the medium of music.

Prayers are answered.

The existence of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is proof to many of the existence of Waheguru.

The life and teachings of the Gurus will be evidence.

(e) **“It is important for Sikhs to believe in miracles”.**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

What the statement is saying is that miracles are important to Sikhs and that they should believe in them.

There are different views/attitudes towards miracles. Some do believe they are important and others do not. Some believe that there are more important things than arguing about belief in miracles. For example the desire to share their food with all and practice serving all humanity is very important to Sikhs. For them caste is irrelevant and the fact that they teach and practice that all humanity is equal in the eyes of Waheguru is much more important than whether miracles happen.

Some will explain that generally Sikhs are discouraged to expect a miracle or believe in them because this can lead to false expectations and hopes.

Many define a miracle as intervention and so regard Creation of the universe as a miracle and truly amazing. Many do believe that Waheguru will intervene when devotees call in prayer in times of need. However the intervention of Waheguru in their lives happens because of the Grace and Will of Waheguru, not because they have earned it in any way. So if miracles do not happen when they pray it is a matter of accepting their lot. Therefore the place of miracles in the religion is not that important nor is it irrelevant.

Some may argue that because miracles can't be proved they are not relevant.

Others may deny any real evidence to prove miracles happen and so are dismissive of them.

Some may argue from an atheistic point of view that there is no Waheguru and so miracles are impossible and not important.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**Section B: Religious and Spiritual Experience**

If you choose one question from this section you must answer all parts (a – e) of the question.

**7 Buddhism**

- (a) Name a public place of worship for Buddhists. [1]**

Responses might include:

- a Buddhist monastery
- temple.

1 mark for response.

- (b) State two ways Buddhists show respect to the Buddha when worshipping. [2]**

Responses might include:

- hands together in front of the statue of the Buddha
- have a statue of the Buddha or a home shrine
- bow, kneel or prostrate themselves in front of the statue
- have an image of the Buddha
- visit regularly a place/centre with other Buddhists
- make offerings at the shrine such as candles, light joss sticks, flowers.

1 mark for each response

- (c) What do some Buddhists believe about fasting? [3]**

Responses might include:

- Fasting for spiritual enlightenment or discipline
- Fasting does not stop dukkha and that Buddhists should eat enough to stay healthy
- Fast for short periods to remind themselves not to be greedy
- Fasting can cleanse the mind and body of attachments
- Fasting can allow deeper levels of meditation

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

- (d) Explain why some Buddhists worship. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Buddhists worship for a variety of different reasons. Some worship to develop generosity. For others it reminds them that nibbana can be achieved.

It can also be a way of showing respect to the Buddha or remind them to the special qualities and attributes of the Buddha that they hold in esteem and try to emulate.

Worship helps Buddhists to focus upon the important things in life and to remember the Buddhist teachings. It brings Buddhists together into a community and others can identify with them.

(e) “It doesn’t matter where you worship.”

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

In Buddhism this statement is true. Candidates may explain that there are no set rules about time, place, day or practices about worship. There are varying practices around the world. Buddhists are free to express worship according to their cultures more than any demands made by the religion.

Candidates may elaborate on some of the temples, shrines, stupas and monasteries that exist in the world where Buddhists can go, eg in Thailand or in Tibet. They seem like centres of pilgrimage. They could explain their significance and show that such places are important places for some Buddhists to go to and worship.

Others will explain the worship in the homes and how that happens.

Some Buddhists will feel it is important to go to a central place so that the community can be built up and identified to non Buddhists. Celebrations such as Wesak may want to be celebrated together in a temple.

For others what is far more important than worshipping together in a building is the individual journey a human makes to prevent dukkha. It is a life of challenge to rid oneself of craving and desires. It is a personal journey, one not necessary to share with others. So the question of where to worship is irrelevant or unimportant. However, such an individual approach to one’s religion may mean that one’s faith does not get strengthened as it might by being with others in a temple or at a shrine.

Some Buddhists may argue that having a place with a statue of the Buddha is a good idea because it focuses the mind and reminds followers of the teachings of the Buddha. To not have somewhere could lead to people falling away from the religion and a failure to become enlightened.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**8 Christianity**

- (a) Name a public place of worship for Christians. [1]**

Responses might include:

- church
- cathedral
- chapel
- meeting house.

1 mark for response

- (b) State two ways Christians show respect to Jesus when worshipping. [2]**

Responses might include:

- attending Eucharist, Mass etc.
- kneeling for prayer
- bowing in front of altar or statue
- use of symbols, eg Chi-Rho, Ichthys and Alpha and Omega symbols
- regular use of the Lord's Prayer.

1 mark for each response

- (c) Describe the use of food in festivals. [3]**

Responses might include:

- specialist foods used for key festivals such as mince pies at Christmas, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday
- there are no strict rules about food and fasting
- symbolic meaning of the bread and wine at Holy Communion
- eggs at Easter symbolising new life
- harvest festivals.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

- (d) Explain why Christians worship God. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Christians worship to show their love of God and to follow the example set by Christ. One of the two great commandments is "to Love God" and worship is one way to show that.

Jesus commanded his followers to meet and pray regularly. The Last Supper has become a memorial feast for Christians on Jesus instructions and an important act of worship.

Many feel they want to worship because the Holy Spirit drives them to express their love, awe and wonder to God. Others want to thank God for the redemption of mankind or the sacrifice Christ made for the sins of the whole world.

Worshipping together strengthens belief and the faith of a community.

Through worship Christians learn more about their faith through the hymns, sermons, songs, readings and prayers said at services.

**(e) “It doesn’t matter where you worship.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**  
**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

It is likely that candidates will argue from various viewpoints as the variety of ways in which Christian denominations worship is extensive.

For some Christians there are some sacraments that can only take place in a church with a priest, eg baptism, marriage, therefore it does matter where one worships. The absolution of sins can only be carried out by a priest and therefore generally Christians go to a church for the forgiveness of their sins.

Not all places are sanctified so some Christians would feel they could not worship anywhere but need to go to a place that is hallowed. For others worship in a front room of someone’s house is equally possible.

The coming together to worship Jesus Christ and God the Father through the Holy Spirit is more important than where Christians worship. Early Christians met in one another’s homes, shared their belongings and food and worshipped together. Coming together through the year for major festivals means that non-Christians can identify the Christian religion, and consider whether they want to be part of it. It is an evangelistic religion so worshipping together in a building is important.

Candidates may talk about the difference between private and personal worship as opposed to communal worship. Examples may be cited. Christians go on retreats and that this is important to many.

Others may talk about what is worship. Reading the Bible is a form of worship as much as attending a service so that can happen anywhere with or without people.

Because Christians believe God is omnipresent God can be worshipped anywhere and at any time.

Some candidates make talk about the importance of going to church as part of the social fabric of society and that decline in religion, decline in going to church, has resulted in a secular society with very different values. So again coming together as a group, showing solidarity in faith is a witness to others and important.

Denominational differences may be explored as a response to this question.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**9 Hinduism**

**(a) Name a public place of worship for Hindus. [1]**

- Hindu temple – mandir
- 1 mark for response

**(b) State two ways Hindus show respect to the gods when worshipping. [2]**

Responses might include:

- celebrating festivals
- offerings to the gods at the shrines
- creating home shrines
- lighting candles
- prayer and meditation
- communal worship.

1 mark for each response

**(c) Describe how food is used to worship the gods. [3]**

Responses might include some of the following:

- a puja may be described
- sharing of prashad
- offerings of food to the gods
- individual offerings/items may be described
- festival foods.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Hindus worship gods. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

They believe it is a route to moksha, escaping the cycle of samsara.

Through yoga and meditation as a form of worship one can move nearer to being absorbed by the Supreme Spirit.

Hindus believe it is important to show gratefulness to the gods for their possessions and food etc.

Through worship it makes Hindus stop and reflect upon the important things in life. It is a form of control of carnal instincts.

By worshipping either in the home or at a mandir Hindus learn more and understand their religion.

(e) “It doesn’t matter where you worship.”

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Hinduism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

For Hindus worship can take place at the home or in a mandir. They are encouraged to worship in both. Also some worship individually and others in a community. For many Hindus they have their own particular god that they worship and some mandirs have several shrines to different gods but it may be that the god the particular family worships can only take place in their home.

Some Hindus follow a path of ascetics and do not need a place to worship at all.

A mandir is a place to learn about one’s religion and join in with the community to celebrate great festivals together. This enriches the life of the community and strengthens faith. So it is important that Hindus have somewhere to go and worship their different gods.

Some may describe worship in the home and then contrast this with worship in the mandir emphasising that it does not matter where you worship as long as you do worship the gods.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 10 Islam

**(a) Name a public place of worship for Muslims. [1]**

- A mosque
- 1 mark for response

**(b) State two ways Muslims show respect to Allah when worshipping. [2]**

Responses might include:

- observance of The Five Pillars of Islam
- ritual washing (wudu)
- dress modestly
- clean place to worship
- prostration positions during prayer
- shoes removed on entering mosque
- no images of Allah.

1 mark for each response

**(c) Describe the way Muslims use food during Ramadan. [3]**

Responses might include:

- no food or drink consumed between sunrise and sunset
- at the end of the day Muslims break their fast with a light meal
- some eat a date according to tradition by Muhammad ﷺ
- groups who are exempt from fasting eg children, pregnant women etc.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain why Muslims worship Allah. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

It is part of their daily life to worship Allah as spelt out in the Five Pillars of Islam. Daily prayer, fasting and pilgrimage are all ways to worship Allah. Ibadah is an act of obedience to Allah.

Worship shows submission and total dedication to Allah.

Worship links other Muslims across the globe, especially the Friday Congregational prayers.

Daily prayers and the festivals unite Muslims everywhere and this is important to Muslims and praying is the most important form of worship.

Through worship Muslims can learn more about their faith.

After services it is a time to socialise and come together as a community and strengthen bonds between fellow Muslims.

(e) **“It doesn’t matter where you worship.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

Candidates are likely to explain that Muslims can worship anywhere. It does not have to be in a mosque. Mosque just means ‘place of prostration’. All they need is a bit of ground that is clean, somewhere where they prepare wudu and face towards Makkah. Many carry a prayer mat so that they can worship wherever they are at the set times for prayer.

Muslims are encouraged to come together for worship in a mosque for the Friday Jumu’ah Prayers and festivals such as Eid. At such services there will be sermons that help Muslims understand their faith more and deepen their faith.

However, some candidates may argue how important it is for Muslims to have places to worship and practise their religion in foreign lands. The migration of many people world wide has resulted in many mosques being built in lands that they did not originate from. The fundraising for such buildings is impressive and shows how important a place of worship is for Muslims.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 11 Judaism

- (a) Name a public place of worship for Jews. [1]

Responses might include:

- Synagogue
- Temple in Jerusalem.

1 mark for response

- (b) State two ways Jews show respect to G-d when worshipping. [2]

Responses might include:

- reciting the Shema or the reading of the Torah
- saying blessings before food
- welcoming in Shabbat by Mother
- Kaddish
- festival prayers, eg at Yom Kippur
- daily personal prayers
- importance of the Torah and its position in the Synagogue
- obedience to the mitzvot.

1 mark for each response

- (c) Describe what is meant by kosher food. [3]

Responses might include:

- food that is permitted to be eaten according to the food laws as stated in the Torah
- food that meets the requirements and laws as stated in the Torah
- specific examples may be cited, eg blood drained from all meat in a ritualistic manner or milk and meat products not mixed together in a meal
- foods that have been passed by the Council of Jews as fit to eat according to the food laws.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

- (d) Explain why Jews worship G-d. [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Jews worship G-d to show respect and thankfulness to G-d for their many blessings they have received. It is part of the covenant relationship.

Through worship at key events, such as their festivals, important historical events are remembered and help the Jewish community link with the past, as well as the future. Worship reminds the Jews of the covenant and the promise they made to follow the Torah at their Bar Mitzvah.

When Jews come together, they have to have a minyan but believe they can pray and ask G-d to help in various situations. Worship varies between different groups of Jews so worship is a way of preserving traditions as well as various differing beliefs.

Friday night and Saturday, known as Shabbat are particularly important times for worship. Not only does it strengthen the world wide family of Jews through the worship but also family relationships.

**(e) “It doesn’t matter where you worship.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

Although Jews can worship anywhere because they believe G-d is omnipresent certain rites and festivals can only happen in a synagogue where the Torah is housed and there is a minyan present. Candidates may cite examples such as Bar Mitvahs and Simchat Torah.

Some may argue that Jews worship at the home and that a Jewish home is a place of worship as much as the synagogue. Therefore both are important. Details about the way a woman keeps a kosher home may be given.

Some may talk about the different roles of worship between men and women and how these are related to a synagogue or the family home.

There may be discussion about the differences in worship between men/women and the different sects, ie Orthodox and Reform Jews, reflecting different views about importance of where one should worship.

For some Jews the keeping of tradition is very important but worshipping G-d is irrelevant. They are known as secular Jews and so they would support this statement but for a different reason than already stated. It preserves their identity.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 12 Sikhism

- (a) Name a public place of worship for Sikhs. [1]

Responses might include:

- A place where the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is housed
- A Gurdwara.

1 mark for response

- (b) State two ways Sikhs show respect to Waheguru when worshipping. [2]

Responses might include:

- clean floor
- elevated position of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji
- waving of the chauri
- bowing in front of the scriptures
- shoes removed
- heads covered
- reciting Mool Mantar
- no images of Waheguru in the gurdwara
- use of symbols portrayed, eg Ik Onkar and The Khanda.

1 mark for each response

- (c) Describe the use of food in the langar. [3]

Responses might include:

- following a service Sikhs meet to share in a meal together
- all bring food and share together as a sign of equality
- preparing and serving food in the langar is seen as a form of sewa.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

- (d) Explain why Sikhs worship Waheguru. [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Sikhs want to show their devotion to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji and to ask God for forgiveness.

They are also required to pray regularly. Through prayer and meditation on the name of Waheguru they develop a loving personal relationship with Waheguru.

Through worship Sikhs continue building up their relationship with Waheguru. The various outward symbols such as the Five Ks are a form of worship and reflect the immanence of God.

The reciting of nam simran strengthens their belief and faith.

(e) “It doesn’t matter where you worship.”

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is about whether it is important or not that one worships in one particular place with people or whether it does not matter where one worships and with whom.

It is the only place they can hear the sacred scriptures read.

Because Sikhs believe Waheguru is immanent they can worship anywhere. As long as the ground is clean a Sikh can worship.

However, if they want to hear the words from the sacred scriptures of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji they have to go to the gurdwara. Candidates may explain the importance of the gurdwara and its connections to the Holy Scriptures. The ‘royal status’ of the Holy Scriptures should be talked about to explain why Sikhs have to go to the gurdwara if they want to hear the words of Waheguru through the teachings of the Gurus.

A central feature of worship is reciting the nam simram, meditation or praying which can happen anywhere. The fact that they can worship anywhere at any time, not with lots of people together, means that they can develop their personal relationship with Waheguru.

However worshipping at the gurdwara unites Sikhs but not in the same way as Friday prayers do for Muslims or Christians at Easter for example.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**Section C: End of Life**

If you choose one question from this section you must answer all parts (a – e) of the question.

**13 Buddhism****(a) What is 'kamma'?** [1]

Responses might include:

- intentional actions that affect ones circumstances in this and the next life
- consequences of actions that affect your next life.

1 mark for response

**(b) State two ways Buddhists seek enlightenment.** [2]

Responses might include:

- self discipline
- worship and meditation
- live according to the teachings of The Buddha
- follow the Noble Eightfold Path
- become a bhikkhu.

1 mark for each response

**(c) Describe one Buddhist idea about the 'soul'.** [3]

Responses might include:

- do not believe in an eternal, unchanging soul – anatman
- there is nothing in a person that remains the same throughout life
- there is no soul but a collection of changing parts called the five khandhas, all dependent upon each other
- teach concept of anatta – no self.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Buddhist beliefs about nibbana might support the bereaved.** [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Attaining nibbana, freedom from the cycle of samsara and the three poisons (greed, hatred and delusion), means that when the person dies they will not be reborn. The fact that a Buddhist can achieve this state whilst living on earth, like The Buddha, means that this gives solace to the bereaved, knowing that their loved ones will not only not be reborn but the cravings that hurt people will not happen any more. Although Buddhists do not specify what this final nibbana is like however it is a relief to believe that the body/form will not experience rebirths and be free from dukkha.

Some might not feel it gives comfort or solace because the concept is too hard to achieve or impossible to comprehend. Because of that it does not affect them greatly when someone dies. What would be more important is aiming for a better rebirth in the next life rather than the bereaved reflecting upon whether the person has achieved nibbana.

(e) “It’s my life so I can do what I want.”

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

Candidates are most likely to explain that Buddhists believe in kamma, ie that every intentional action has a consequence that can affect themselves and others. So good actions will lead to good consequences and bad actions will lead to bad consequences. It is not right to heap bad consequences on others because of one’s actions. Candidates are likely to explain how building up good kamma will affect/determine the next realm they are reborn into when they die. Therefore, because of this belief it does matter to a Buddhist how one behaves and acts through one’s life. They do accept that humans have freewill but also have control over their desires and can make choices and change them.

Candidates may argue that as Buddhists want to get free from the cycle of samsara they are obligated to avoid actions and words that lead to gaining bad kamma.

Reaching nibbana is the goal and that can be achieved whilst on earth. When a person can look at the world in a detached way, not crave for things any more and naturally act morally without thinking, one then has reached nibbana. As this is the desire of Buddhists it will motivate them to think how they act and speak.

The feeling of being trapped in the cycle could be also explained as to why it matters to Buddhists how they behave. What they could be reborn into affects their actions and words. So whilst they are free to choose how to act and behave there are consequences that have to be recognised.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one’s behaviour, believing that this is from God or gods and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

**14 Christianity****(a) What is purgatory? [1]**

Responses might include:

- a place where souls go between heaven and hell
- intermediary place where souls go that are not ready to go to heaven
- a mainly Roman Catholic belief where souls go to be 'cleansed'.

1 mark for response

**(b) State two things that happen in a Christian funeral service. [2]**

Responses might include:

- mass conducted
- eulogy
- prayers/readings/ hymns
- burial
- cremation
- committal
- wearing of black clothing
- priests generally wear white clothing to reflect belief in the resurrection.

1 mark for each response.

**(c) Describe one Christian belief about the soul. [3]**

Responses might include:

- soul is separate from the physical body
- soul is what makes us uniquely human, distinct from the animal kingdom
- it is the part of God in human beings, a divine spark
- soul is in conflict with the body throughout life
- at death the soul lives on
- aim of the soul is to be united with God
- ensoulment.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Christian funerals might support the bereaved. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

A funeral service is a time to celebrate and remember the life of the deceased. The words of the service that emphasise the belief about the resurrection may give hope to those who are worried what has happened to their loved one.

For many Christians the service gives closure and a peace, especially if their loved one has been in pain for some time. There might be some comfort in the beliefs expressed that their loved one has joined the souls of previous family members and the idea of them together now gives comfort and solace.

Because a Christian funeral stresses the life and work of Christ it gives comfort and hope that their loved one is now in the kingdom of heaven or on the way to heaven.

It is a chance to say good bye formally and can be a very positive day of thanksgiving and bringing families together if they are scattered all over the country.

It can take away their fears of death when they hear the words of the service and reinforce beliefs.

**(e) “It’s my life so I can do what I want.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**  
**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

It is likely that candidates will explain Christian ideas about the Day of Judgement and the second coming of Christ and how those beliefs impact upon one’s conduct whilst living on earth. They might cite teachings such as ‘the parable of the sheep and the goats’ or teachings from the book of Revelations.

They may explain how God gives humans freewill to make choices because he is a loving God who wants his created human beings to freely engage in a personal relationship with Him not be a robot or feel fearful that they have to do what God wants them to do. Some candidates may explain what it means to be ‘born again’ and why some Christian communities believe this is a must in order to get to heaven. Therefore it is the person’s choice whether this happens or not.

Some may point out that some people believe if they have been forgiven of their sins all they need to do is to admit them and they can carry on what they are doing.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to. Predestination may be expounded.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one’s behaviour, believing that this is from God or gods and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded or the sociological benefits of acting morally may be explained as to why humans cannot just do what they want even if they are free to do so.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 15 Hinduism

**(a) What is 'dharma'?** [1]

Responses might include:

- duty
- righteous activity
- doing what one ought to do depending upon one's caste and stage in life.

1 mark for response

**(b) State two things that happen in a Hindu funeral service.** [2]

Responses might include:

- Hindus cremate bodies, except holy men and babies
- body is washed and dressed by the relatives
- skull cracked to release the atman
- eldest son walks around the body three times, pours water over the body and puts a flame to the wood
- ashes of the body put into water or river as soon as possible
- diva lamp lit and put into river
- food and flowers offered as a sign of respect
- prayers, songs and readings from Bhagavad Gita.

1 mark for each example.

**(c) Describe one Hindu belief about the atman.** [3]

Responses might include some of the following:

- Atman is housed in the physical body
- Atman is formless and eternal
- The atman is the real person and the body is just the means to express the soul
- The atman desires to reach moksha – freedom from re-birth
- The atman will continue to be reborn until it reaches moksha, a state where care for the world and a love of God are just natural ways to 'be'
- The atman will be identical to God.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Hindu funerals might support the bereaved.** [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Because of the Hindu beliefs about the need for the soul to be released as soon as possible to move onto another rebirth the funeral will be a positive experience. The eldest son usually has the responsibility to release the atman by cracking the skull.

Some might see it as a formal way of saying goodbye.

For some Hindus there are no funeral ceremonies because of the belief that the body is like a shell and has no use once the soul is released, so many donate bodies for research.

For others funerals are times to hold memorial services and celebrate the life of their loved ones.

The rituals associated with Hindu funerals not only give closure but give a tangible way to deal with the feelings of grief.

They also reinforce traditions and cultures for family members and for the next generation to follow.

**(e) “It’s my life so I can do what I want.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Hinduism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

Candidates are most likely to discuss the Hindu beliefs about moksha, karmic debt and samsara and the way such beliefs impact upon ones conduct and actions whilst living on earth.

The motives behind the actions could be explained. Just to behave correctly because one wants to reach moksha is not the right motive.

Hindus believe that all Hindus should want to behave correctly because of love of Braman and a care for the whole world.

Some candidates may explain the world of the ascetics and their beliefs, citing examples such as the Nagas. They may explain why they act the way they do and do not just do as they please.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded or the sociological benefits of acting morally may be explained as to why humans cannot just do what they want even if they are free to do so.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next, or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one's behaviour, believing that this is from God or gods and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 16 Islam

**(a) What is hell? [1]**

Responses might include:

- a place where all the damned people will go after the Day of Judgement
- Jahannam, a place with seven gates and a cauldron of boiling pitch and fire.

1 mark for response

**(b) State two things that happen in a Muslim funeral service. [2]**

Responses might include:

- body is washed in scented water
- body is dressed in a white robe and perfumed
- women attend to the dressing of a female body and men to a male body
- body taken to the mosque or an open place for mourners to pray
- body is buried within 24 hours
- prayers led by family members or imam
- body is taken in procession to be buried in a cemetery
- body is buried but not in a coffin, in a hole facing Makkah and the ka'aba where possible
- prayers are said eg Du'a al Mayyit (prayer for mercy on the deceased)
- men only attend the funeral
- recite Salat ul Janazah (special funeral prayer).

1 mark for each response.

**(c) Describe one Islamic belief about the soul. [3]**

Responses might include:

- soul enters into a baby's body soon after it develops in the womb
- the soul desires to aspire to be perfect to the will of Allah
- both the soul and the body will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement
- life is a test for the body and the soul
- the soul is the master and the body the servant but must work together
- following Judgement Day, if judged favourably the soul will live on for ever, with the body
- Generic teachings credited

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Muslim funerals might support the bereaved. [6]**

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Funerals are seen as the completion of the brief journey a person has on earth before moving on. So funerals re-affirm a Muslim's beliefs and practices. They also allow people to express their grief.

Because family members pray for Allah to have mercy on the soul of the departed it gives them a focus for their grief and a positive action for them to do.

Some might see it as a formal way of saying goodbye.

The way the body is treated with simplicity but great respect reflects the importance of the body to Muslims and again helps them deal with the emotions associated with grieving. The fact that the coffin is very plain and the body dressed in white to signify that in death all are equal in the eyes of Allah is a very important teaching and gives comfort to the relatives left behind.

The way families rally round the family of the deceased and help with the funeral rituals brings families closer together and are a support for one another.

**(e) “It’s my life so I can do what I want.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

Candidates are likely to discuss the links between Muslim beliefs about obedience to the will of Allah, the afterlife, the Day of Judgement, the resurrection of the body and soul and how one lives ones life on earth.

Muslims do believe Allah gave humans free will and so have a choice whether they obey Allah or not. So they are free to do what they want as it is their life. However, such behaviour will lead to a bad judgment. Muslims believe that Allah wants all people to submit to His will and that involves a complete submission of one’s life. There are very strict laws, eg over drinking and foods that should be obeyed to be a good Muslim.

Candidates may talk about the tensions that exist between Muslims living in Western countries with those from Muslim States/ Shariah Law and how that affects Muslims’ actions and conduct.

There are varying degrees of obedience to the rules of the Qu’ran and many are mixed with cultural roots rather than religious roots. Candidates may elaborate upon this and explain how this can impact upon the way they conduct themselves, eg differences between Muslim women wearing the hijab.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded or the sociological benefits of acting morally may be explained as to why humans cannot just do what they want even if they are free to do so.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one's behaviour, believing that this is from Allah and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 17 Judaism

**(a) What is 'Sheol'?** [1]

Responses might include:

- place where in the past it was believed everyone goes after physical death
- dark place underground where people stay for eternity
- scriptures describe this place where souls wait for the coming of the Messiah.

1 mark for response

**(b) State two things that happen in a Jewish funeral service.** [2]

Responses might include:

- buried within 24 hours if possible
- people remain with the deceased until burial
- traditional rites observed such as sitting on low chairs or making a small tear in garment
- eulogy, psalms and the Kaddish
- some Jews making a tear in the dead person's garment
- women attend to the dressing of a female body and men to a male body
- body dressed in their tallit
- body cremated or buried though Orthodox Jews prohibit cremation
- Orthodox Jews make tears in the immediate families clothes
- Chevera Kaddisha: Men wash men and women wash women.

1 mark for each response

**(c) Describe one Jewish belief about the soul.** [3]

Responses might include:

- Jews are not concerned with trying to explain the soul or the difference between the body and the soul
- soul comes from G-d when Adam received the "breath of life" into him from G-d
- the Soul gives life to human beings
- when asleep the soul leaves the body and is refreshed in heaven
- body and soul need each other. They cannot survive without the other.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Jewish funerals might support the bereaved.** [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

There are many rituals and actions that Jewish families observe and help Jews deal with the loss of a loved one. The fact that Jews are encouraged to have the funeral ceremony as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of death, means that they can deal with death better.

Candidates could explain various rituals and how they support the bereaved, eg family members tear their lapels.

Funerals are a time for the family to be supported by family and friends and this can be most helpful as it allows the family to deal with their feelings and emotions associated with grieving.

Funerals allow for the family to celebrate the life of the deceased and remember the positive things about that person.

Some might see it as a formal way of saying goodbye.

The saying of the Shema and the Kaddish re-affirm to Jews the importance of their G-d and the desire for peace in heaven.

**(e) “It’s my life so I can do what I want.”**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

Candidates are likely to explain that in Judaism there is not a strong emphasis on the life after death as there is no clear teaching about the afterlife as there is with other religions.

According to the Torah, Jews will be punished for the sins of their parents and grandparents suggesting that there is a link between behaviour and the future generations. However, views have changed over time about the connection between this life and the next life.

Jews do believe it is more important to live their lives according to the 613 mitzvot as their part of the covenant relationship rather than considering whether they are going to be rewarded or punished by G-d in the next life. The Jewish laws are for the good of humanity as well as to love G-d. These are important for Jews to obey.

Candidates may explain the covenant relationship and how this impacts upon their behaviour.

Some may explain the Jewish concept of Sheol and how later prophets taught that at the end of time G-d will judge everyone and all people and souls will be judged for their actions. Hence it matters how one behaves.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded or the sociological benefits of acting morally may be explained as to why humans cannot just do what they want even if they are free to do so.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one's behaviour, believing that this is from G-d and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

## 18 Sikhism

**(a) What is 'karma'?** [1]

- Actions of a previous life that affect the position and condition of the next life  
1 mark for response

**(b) State two things that happen in a Sikh funeral service.** [2]

Responses might include:

- mourners wear white as a symbol of purity
- relatives wash the body of the dead and then dress it in the five ks or in clean clothes
- body taken in a procession
- bodies are cremated and often the eldest son is responsible for lighting the pyre
- the hymn, the Sohila, is sung which expresses what Sikhs feel and believe about life after death
- 48 hours after death there is the continual reading (Akhand path) of the whole of the Guru Granth Sahib with all adult relatives taking part
- close relatives say prayers for the dead person for ten days in the gurdwara or at home.

1 mark for each response

**(c) Describe one Sikh belief about the soul.** [3]

Responses might include:

- the soul is a minute part of the Eternal Soul or God
- the soul has existed since the time of creation but it has separate existences through a succession of births, deaths and rebirths until it achieves reunion with God
- the soul is immortal
- living for ever as part of God is the soul's reward for good deeds done in this life, through God's grace
- the body is like a snake's skin to be discarded at death and the soul moves on to another body
- the soul is reborn into a human or animal body depending upon actions of the previous life
- it is the responsibility of God and His will whether to unite the soul with God.

A statement = 1 mark, a statement with development 2 marks and exemplification/amplification 3 marks

**(d) Explain how Sikh funerals might support the bereaved.** [6]

Examiners should mark according to AO1 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

Coming together for a funeral is a comfort for the relatives of the deceased. A funeral ceremony brings closure for the families and they can come to terms with their loss. It is a time to show sadness and grief. Often scattering of the ashes on a river or the sea by family members helps them as they believe the body is not needed in the next life but the soul moves on and this again brings a form of closure for the family.

For many Sikhs death is seen as a step to the next stage of the journey and so is not feared and a funeral will be viewed as the family's way of supporting the soul on their journey to the next stage.

Some might see it as a formal way of saying goodbye.

The funeral service provides an opportunity for Sikhs to wish the soul well on its next journey.

Being buried complete with the 5 Ks reminds them of their beliefs and unites them as a community. The saying of the Sohila prayer comforts both the soul of the deceased and the mourners.

**(e) "It's my life so I can do what I want."**

**Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.**

**[12]**

Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.

Candidates might consider some of the following:

This statement is raising the idea that any one person is free to do what they want in life because it is their life. It is raising a question as to whether that is true or acceptable.

Candidates are likely to explain Sikh beliefs about samsara, reincarnation, karma and attaining mukti – no more rebirths, and the link with conduct whilst living on earth.

Candidates may explain the anomaly between the importances for a Sikh to conduct themselves properly but also they cannot win their way to mukti. Rather it is by the grace and will of Waheguru that the soul gains liberation from samsara. It is to be encouraged that Sikhs work towards being a 'God-orientated person but that Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught that the supremacy of God will decide whether the soul attains mukti.

Some candidates may discuss ideas about fate and whether our lives are all mapped out and so we are not free to act how we want to.

Some may argue that there is no evidence for these beliefs or that they are just beliefs, not certainties. They may feel that what is important is to act and speak morally whilst here on earth for the good of oneself and fellow human beings. The philosophy of humanism may be expounded or the sociological benefits of acting morally may be explained as to why humans cannot just do what they want even if they are free to do so.

On the other hand some people believe there is no connection between this life or the next or are very selfish and believe we only get one life so should seize the moment, enjoy, be happy because tomorrow one could be dead. Therefore some people would agree with the statement and think one should be able to do as one wants as it is their life.

Some may discuss what conscience is and how it impacts upon one's behaviour, believing that this is from God or gods and causes humans to feel happy or guilty because of certain actions.

Some candidates may discuss their feelings about other arguments that are different to their own.

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