

Religious Studies A: (World Religion(s))

General Certificate of Secondary Education **B581**

Sikhism 1 (Beliefs, Special Days, Divisions and Interpretations)

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by Examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINERS

General points

It is important to remember that we are rewarding candidates' attempts at grappling with challenging concepts and skills. Reward candidates for what they know, understand and can do. Be positive. Concentrate on what candidates can do, not on what they cannot do.

For all parts of each response your first task is to match the response to the appropriate level of response according to the generic levels of response given below. Only when you have done this should you start to think about the mark to be awarded.

There are different ways of reaching a high level. Some candidates will go straight to the higher levels. Other candidates will gradually climb their way there by working their way through lower levels first.

The mark scheme for each paper will list responses which a candidate might offer. The list will not be exhaustive and where a candidate offers a response which is not listed, examiners will be expected to use their knowledge and discretion as to whether the response is valid. Examiners who are in any doubt should contact their Team Leader immediately.

Specific points

Half marks must never be used.

Do not transfer marks from one part of a question to another. All questions, and sub-questions, are marked separately.

Mark what the candidate has written, do not assume that the candidate knows something unless they have written it.

Depending on the objective being assessed the levels of response start with one from the following list of flag words:

AO1 Weak, Satisfactory, Good

AO2 Weak, Limited, Competent, Good

During the standardisation process, examples of work at each level will be used to define the meaning of these flag words for the examination. In particular the word good must not be interpreted as the best possible response. It will be what is judged to be although better responses could be offered.

Remember that we are trying to achieve two things in the marking of the scripts:

- (i) to place all the candidates in the correct rank order
- (ii) to use the full range of marks available – right up to the top of the range; 'Good' means a good response *from a GCSE candidate* and can therefore be awarded the highest marks.

This means that it is imperative you mark to the agreed standard.

Written communication

Written communication covers: clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation and spelling.

In the marking of these questions the quality of the candidate's written communication will be one factor (other factors include the relevance and amount of supporting detail) that influences whether an answer is placed at the bottom, the middle, or the top, of a level.

The following points should be remembered:

- answers are placed in the appropriate level according to the RS assessment objectives, i.e. no reference is made at this stage to the quality of the written communication;
- when answers have been placed into the appropriate level, examiners should then consider quality of written communication in the placing of the answer towards the top or bottom of the level;
- the quality of written communication must **never** be used to move an answer from the mark band of one level to another.

AO1 part (d) question

Level 0 0	No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.
Level 1 1-2	<p>A weak attempt to answer the question. Candidates will demonstrate little understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small amount of relevant information may be included • Answers may be in the form of a list with little or no description/explanation/analysis • There will be little or no use of specialist terms • Answers may be ambiguous or disorganised • Errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling may be intrusive
Level 2 3-4	<p>A satisfactory answer to the question. Candidates will demonstrate some understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information will be relevant but may lack specific detail • There will be some description/explanation/analysis although this may not be fully developed • The information will be presented for the most part in a structured format • Some use of specialist terms, although these may not always be used appropriately • There may be errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation
Level 3 5-6	<p>A good answer to the question. Candidates will demonstrate a clear understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fairly complete and full description/explanation/analysis • A comprehensive account of the range and depth of relevant material. • The information will be presented in a structured format • There will be significant, appropriate and correct use of specialist terms. • There will be few if any errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation

AO2 part (e) question

Level 0 0	No evidence submitted or response does not address the question.
Level 1 1-3	<p>A weak attempt to answer the question. Candidates will demonstrate little understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers may be simplistic with little or no relevant information • Viewpoints may not be supported or appropriate • Answers may be ambiguous or disorganised • There will be little or no use of specialist terms • Errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling may be intrusive
Level 2 4-6	<p>A limited answer to the question. Candidates will demonstrate some understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some information will be relevant, although may lack specific detail. • Only one view might be offered and developed • Viewpoints might be stated and supported with limited argument/discussion • The information will show some organisation • Reference to the religion studied may be vague • Some use of specialist terms, although these may not always be used appropriately • There may be errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation
Level 3 7-9	<p>A competent answer to the question. Candidates will demonstrate a sound understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of relevant material with appropriate development • Evidence of appropriate personal response • Justified arguments/different points of view supported by some discussion • The information will be presented in a structured format • Some appropriate reference to the religion studied • Specialist terms will be used appropriately and for the most part correctly • There may be occasional errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation
Level 4 10-12	<p>A good answer to the question. Candidates will demonstrate a clear understanding of the question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers will reflect the significance of the issue(s) raised • Clear evidence of an appropriate personal response, fully supported • A range of points of view supported by justified arguments/discussion • The information will be presented in a clear and organised way • Clear reference to the religion studied • Specialist terms will be used appropriately and correctly • Few, if any errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation

		Mark Scheme	Mark	Rationale/Additional Guidance
Answer any two questions, you must answer all parts (a-e) of the questions you choose.				
1	a	<p>What is the meaning of Waheguru?</p> <p><i>Wonderful Guru/ Lord/ teacher</i></p> <p>1 mark for response.</p>	1	
1	b	<p>What is the practice of nam japo?</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reciting the name of god</i> • <i>Repeating sacred verses</i> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	2	Meditation
1	c	<p>Explain how the practice of nam simran might help Sikhs to follow their faith.</p> <p>Responses might include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meditation might bring them closer to understanding god</i> • <i>May become closer to god who created the world by meditating on the creation</i> • <i>Can include praise and singing in worship which may unite followers and encourage them in their faith</i> <p>1 mark for each response</p>	3	
1	d	<p>Explain the importance of balancing the practice of nam simran against that of sewa.</p> <p><i>Meditation enables a Sikh to form a closer link with god. Meditation is an accepted practice. Seva is also an accepted practice. Both</i></p>	6	

		<i>demonstrate a commitment to the faith Both enable a Sikh to fulfil their obligations. Sikhs believe that practical and spiritual practice should be a part of their religious actions. To spend all their time in meditation or in service would not enable them to fulfil their religious obligations.</i>		
1	e	<p>'What you do is more important than what you believe'</p> <p>Discuss this statement. You should include different supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may consider some of the following:</p> <p><i>Candidates might suggest that the main forms of service also support other people, which are important for a Sikh, whereas what you believe may reflect a personal desire to progress within a faith. However, this does not necessarily mean that the two are mutually exclusive, or that one is more important than the other.</i></p> <p><i>Candidates might suggest that what you do is a way of demonstrating what you believe and so is important They might refer to the Sikh practice of sewa and explain how the three aspects are seen as an important way to demonstrate faith in a practical manner</i></p>	12	

2	a	<p>How many human Gurus were there?</p> <p>10.</p> <p>1 mark for response.</p>	1	
2	b	<p>Why is Guru Hargobind Dev Ji remembered during the festival of Divali?</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Released from prison</i> • <i>Saved 52 Hindu prisoners</i> • <i>Returned to Amritsar</i> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	2	Langar prepared and served to all
2	c	<p>State three events which take place during Divali.</p> <p>Responses might include any three from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Illumination using lamps and lights</i> • <i>Firework displays</i> • <i>Akhand Path completed</i> • <i>Visits to Golden Temple</i> • <i>Attendance at Gurdwara</i> <p>1 mark for each response</p>	3	
2	d	<p>Explain how the life of Guru Nanak Dev Ji might be an example to a Sikh.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may consider some of the following:</p>	6	

		<p><i>That he cared for the poor (example of when he gave money to the needy as a child, rather than using it for trade) and that this provides an example for Sikhs. He was honest and devout.</i></p> <p><i>He showed tolerance to those of other faiths, wanted to learn from them, which has led to the belief in equality for Sikhs.</i></p> <p><i>He was keen to teach others and to help them, which has encouraged believers to value teaching and learning.</i></p>		
2	e	<p>'Festivals do not help a believer to follow their faith'</p> <p>Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may consider some of the following:</p> <p><i>Candidates may respond with the perspective of the learning that can take place during the celebration of a festival. Sikh festivals often incorporate an Akhand Path and ceremonies in the Gurdwara which will also act as an aid to following the religion. References might be made to specific festivals to illustrate this. The fact that believers meet together will reinforce the learning that takes place for younger members of the community and will also demonstrate to others what it means to be a follower of the faith.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand there may be a view that celebration and fun activities detract and distract from the more serious aspects of the faith and therefore do not help a believer.</i></p>	12	

3	a	<p>What is the Rahit Maryada?</p> <p><i>the Sikh code of conduct</i></p> <p>1 mark for response.</p>	1	
3	b	<p>State how the Rahit Maryada is important for Sikhs?</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It provides a basic guide for Sikhs</i> <i>It has helped Sikhs to agree on religious practices</i> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	2	
3	c	<p>Give three examples of issues covered in the Rahit Maryada.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Worship</i> <i>Lifestyle</i> <i>Community cohesion – how Sikhs should support each other</i> <p>1 mark for each response</p>	3	
3	d	<p>Explain the importance of the end of human Gurus for the Sikh faith.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may consider some of the following:</p> <p><i>Emphasis changed from personal leadership to the authority of scripture and the community –with implication of this</i></p>	6	<i>Reference to Guru Granth Sahib (GGS) being seen as a living Guru with implications – there is less pressure on selecting future Gurus and more emphasis on the written teachings GGS.</i>

		<i>led to influence of the Jat majority which was not an issue with a personal leader. Sikhism became more military as a result.</i>		
3	e	<p>'Rules are an essential part of all religions'.</p> <p>Discuss this statement. You should include different supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Sikhism in your answer.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may consider some of the following:</p> <p><i>Candidates may discuss from the perspective of most religions having a code or set of rules which form the basis of religious practice and ethics. If most faiths have this surely it must be essential? They might give examples from the rules for the Sikh faith to support their answer.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand candidates might want to pursue the idea that faith is enough to enable a religion to be practiced according to individuals. Sikhs do have a code of practice and candidates might also cite the rules for the khalsa as being even more rigorous than for the uninitiated</i></p>	12	
			Total	[48]

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