

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Religious Studies B

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies: J621

Unit: B602 (Buddhism)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies B specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE Religious Studies B

B602 Philosophy 2 (Good and Evil, Revelation, Science)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

1e) ‘It is the gods who make people suffer.’ Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer. (12)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>In Buddhism, the word ‘suffer’ is known as ‘dukkha.’ Dukkha is a recognised part of a Buddhists everyday life and is also the first of the Four Noble Truths. Buddhists do not believe that the Buddha was a god and would not agree that the Buddha is the cause of suffering; instead they would suggest that the teachings of the Buddha might address the causes of suffering and provide an answer to them.</i></p> <p><i>The Buddha taught that dukkha causes us to feel that life is unsatisfactory, the second Noble Truth suggests that dukkha is caused by craving, the third and fourth Noble Truth suggest ways that craving must cease and that it may be prevented by following the Noble Eightfold Path.</i></p> <p><i>The Buddha gave an example of the</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This candidate has demonstrated a clear understanding of the question by describing the word ‘suffer’ in Buddhist terms and explaining that the Buddhist faith does not portray the Buddha as a God. In this way a there is a clear reference to the religion studied.</p> <p>The candidate gives the Buddhist point of view about suffering and the Buddha’s answer to suffering by describing and explaining the Four Noble Truths.</p>

lessons we can learn about how suffering is part of our everyday lives by telling the story of Kisa Gotami.

Her baby son had died, she asked the Lord Buddha to bring him back to life. The Buddha sends her on a journey that will help her realise that suffering is part of everyone's life and not just her own. He asks her collect a mustard seed from a house where no one had ever died. This was of course impossible as every house she visited in search of the mustard seed told her the same story, they had all lost someone they loved dearly but had learned to accept their loss.

Some Buddhists might suggest that if a person has not lived a good life they will suffer more in the next life because of the rules of rebirth and the saying 'what goes around comes around.' This is referred to by Buddhists as the law of kamma, and presents another Buddhist point of view on the reasons for suffering.

I think that suffering can be caused in many ways and sometimes we cannot avoid it but with this story, the Buddha attempted to explain that life will always contain suffering as death is part of life.

I think this was a way of proving 'annica', which means that everything changes and nothing lasts forever and that once a Buddhist accepts that suffering is part of everyday life and learns to cope with it by adopting the Noble Eightfold Path they might reach enlightenment.

Therefore a Buddhist would not agree with the statement that it is the gods who make people suffer because they do not believe that the Buddha was a god, they also believe that they create their own suffering and happiness by the way they live their lives and that by following the rules of the Buddha they can be freed from rebirth and reach enlightenment.

The candidate supports and justifies this view with the popular story of Kisa Gotami.

The candidate relates the term suffering to the laws of kamma to present a second Buddhist point of view.

The candidate responds with their own personal points of view, linking them to the Buddhist faith.

The information is presented in a clear and organised way with the specialist terms used appropriately. This answer reflects the significance of the issues raised, with few if any errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

1e) 'It is the gods who make people suffer.'

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

(12)

Candidate style answer

A Buddhist calls suffering dukkha which is part of the Four Noble Truths. Buddhists believe that everyone suffers in life so they would not believe that suffering is caused by the gods, it is just part of existing. The Buddha had no idea about what suffering was really like until he left the palace and witnessed the suffering of his people, he saw old age, illness and death. The Buddha said that suffering can be prevented by following the rules of the Noble Eightfold Path because that will help you to reach enlightenment where there is no more suffering. Buddhists would say that it is people themselves who cause suffering because of what they expect from life and the way they treat each other. I think that the Buddha was right when he said that suffering would stop if people lived in a better way, I think that's why he came up with the Noble Eightfold Path.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

The candidate has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the question attempting to describe the word 'suffer' in relation to 'dukkha'. They have therefore made an appropriate reference to the religion studied. The candidate could have improved their understanding of the question by giving more details about suffering, perhaps mentioning the way the Buddha suffered before his enlightenment when he first became a monk. The candidate does make reference to the Four Sights however and in this way there is a clear reference to the religion studied. There are some justified arguments and discussion demonstrating different points of view, they could possibly have developed this further by linking the Noble Eightfold path to the Four Noble Truths to explain the links between suffering, craving and following a way of life that will help this to cease. The candidate has given evidence of a personal response, it is correct but not developed, the candidate could have gone on to give an example of part of the Noble Eightfold path and explained how this might help a Buddhist to stop craving and prevent suffering. The information is presented in a structured format with specialist terms used appropriately and for the most part correctly. The candidate may have summed up his response with a conclusion which readdresses the question to confirm their answer. This answer contains a selection of relevant material with appropriate development with specialist terms used appropriately and for the most part correctly. There may be occasional errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.