



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 21 May 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies

J625/09 Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a Buddhist perspective

Time allowed: 2 hours



No extra materials are needed.



Please write clearly in black ink. **Do not write in the barcodes.**

Centre number

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Candidate number

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First name(s)

Last name

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If you need extra space use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Answer **all** the questions.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **126**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) and the use of specialist terminology will be assessed in questions marked with a pencil (✎).
- This document has **20** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

1 Relationships and families

(a) Outline **one** Buddhist belief about sexuality.

..... [3]

(b) Describe how the rules for Buddhist nuns are different to the rules for Buddhist monks.

[6]

- (c)** Explain why Buddhists might have different attitudes towards discrimination on the basis of gender.

You should refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer.

[6]

(d) 'Pre-marital sex is always wrong.'

Discuss this statement. In your answer, you should:

- draw on your learning from across your course of study, including reference to beliefs, teachings and practices within Buddhism
- explain and evaluate the importance of points of view from the perspective of Buddhism.

[15]

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar [3]

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2 The existence of Ultimate Reality

(a) Outline what is meant by taking the Refuges.

..... [3]

(b) Describe the role of the human realm according to Buddhist beliefs about the purpose of the world.

[6]

- (c) Explain why a Buddhist might believe that the experience of suffering does not prove the existence of evil.

You should refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer.

..... [6

(d) 'Not all questions about the world need to be answered.'

Discuss this statement. In your answer, you should:

- draw on your learning from across your course of study, including reference to beliefs, teachings and practices within Buddhism
- explain and evaluate the importance of points of view from the perspective of Buddhism.

[15]

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar [3]

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3 Religion, peace and conflict

(a) Outline what is meant by **absolute pacifism**.

..... [3]

(b) Describe Buddhist beliefs about forgiveness.

..... [6]

- (c)** Explain how the ideal of the Middle Way might be used to justify war.

You should refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer.

[6]

(d)* 'Violence will never lead to peace.'

Discuss this statement. In your answer, you should:

- draw on your learning from across your course of study, including reference to beliefs, teachings and practices within Buddhism
- explain and evaluate the importance of points of view from the perspective of Buddhism.

[15]

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4 Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

(a) Outline the difference between forced and arranged marriage.

..... [3]

(b) Describe the role of Christianity in public holidays and key events in Britain today.

In your response you must consider that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse, but mainly Christian.

[6]

- (c)** Explain why different Buddhists might have different attitudes towards humanism.

You should refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer.

..... [6

(d)* 'Buddhism teaches that secular laws are always right.'

Discuss this statement. In your answer, you should:

- draw on your learning from across your course of study, including reference to beliefs, teachings and practices within Buddhism
- explain and evaluate the importance of points of view from the perspective of Buddhism.

[15]

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