
GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (SHORT COURSE) 8061/4

Section 4: Judaism

Mark scheme

June 2024

Version 1.0 Final



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject examiners. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all examiners participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each examiner analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

No student should be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender identity and/or how they refer to the gender identity of others in their exam responses.

A consistent use of 'they/them' as a singular and pronouns beyond 'she/her' or 'he/him' will be credited in exam responses in line with existing mark scheme criteria.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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Mark Schemes for GCSE Religious Studies

This paper requires expert markers who have wide knowledge and understanding of the particular subject content of the Specification. With the exception of the multiple-choice question, many of the questions asked have many different creditable answers and students are able to bring to their answers their own knowledge, understanding and background. They will offer details, arguments and evidence which the examiner, with the help of the mark scheme, will need to judge as creditable or not. It is therefore important that the examiner has a good understanding of the principles and spirit of the mark scheme in order to be fair and consistent when marking students' answers. The Content included is designed to be as helpful as possible but in many cases is not exhaustive. So Content sections are introduced by the sentence:

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

this is to remind examiners that there may well be additional correct answers which, with their expertise, they will be able to allow. With all questions if an examiner has any doubt about answers being creditworthy they should consult their team leader.

Structure

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the question; Each question is printed in full before its target and mark scheme. It is always important that examiners remind themselves of the exact question being asked. In particular, they will need to do this in instances where the answer appears to be 'straying' from the question set or perhaps offers a valid alternative not included in the mark scheme
- target; The target provides the specific assessment objective which the question is testing. It reminds examiners of the skills the question is designed to test, eg knowledge and understanding, evaluation
- the total marks available for the question and if Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar is assessed
- the typical answer(s) or content which are expected
- generic instructions related to the question target of how to award marks (ie levels of response grid).

Themes papers guidance (Specification A and Short Course)

In questions where students may choose religions from which to illustrate their answer, there may be some general Content, ie credible comments which students will make which could be applied to any religion or perhaps to a secular viewpoint as well. Where these are appropriate they are usually given first. The mark scheme will also include, under separate headings, Content sections for each of the six religions allowed within the Specifications.

General Guidance

.../. means that these are acceptable alternative answers in the mark scheme, eg Guru Har Krishan / Guru Tegh Bahadur / Guru Gobind Singh.

Answers may include specialist terms, in Hebrew or Arabic for example. If this is the case, the mark scheme will usually indicate this by providing in brackets the English as well, eg 'Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement)'. In such questions, answers will be credited whether provided in the original language or in English.

Some mark schemes use bullet points to separate content. Each bullet point refers to a different possible 'belief' or 'teaching' or 'way', depending on the question. Obliques (.../.) used within the bullet point indicate different ways in which the point may be expressed and points which may be made to give the further detail or development needed for the second mark.

Where a student has crossed out a complete answer, it should be marked if it remains legible, unless an alternative is provided in which case only the alternative should be marked. When part of an answer is crossed out, then only what remains should be considered.

In questions where credit can be given to the development of a point, those developments can take the form of:

- example or evidence
- reference to different views
- detailed information.

1-mark multiple-choice questions

Such questions have four alternatives and the one correct answer will be given together with the correct letter, eg 'Answer: D Trinity'.

2-mark short-answer questions

The principle here is provided in the mark scheme: 'One mark for each of two correct points.' Students may give **more than** the two answers required by the question. In such instances:

- **award for the first two answers only, wherever they appear**
- if a student gives more than one answer on the first line and another answer/other answers on the second line, the 'first two answers' will be the **first two** on the first line and **only these two** should be considered for marks. Other answers must be ignored
- if on the first line the first two answers given are correct, award two marks, regardless of what is written elsewhere in the answer
- if the first two answers can only be awarded one mark yet there is a third answer that is correct, this correct third answer must be ignored and no mark given for it
- however, if the student gives some **elaboration after the first answer**, which is clearly developing their first answer, (which they are not required to do), do not consider this elaboration to be their second answer (unless the elaboration happens to contain a second correct answer to the question asked), regardless of whether there are other answers provided. In this case, the second answer also, if correct, may be credited for the second mark.

4 and 5-mark answer questions

Examiners should take care to note the target of the question. Clear information is provided for these types of question on how to award marking points. Examiners should carefully read the additional instructions provided for each type of question (eg for influence questions the final sentence in the general guidance box reminds the examiner that the second mark (detailed explanation) awarded in each case must show clear 'influence').

12-mark answer questions

The 12-mark questions test Evaluation skills (AO2). The mark scheme for these answers is based on Levels of Response marking in which the examiner is required to make a judgement on the completed answer taken as a whole.

Level of response marking instructions

In GCSE Religious Studies, differentiation is largely achieved by outcome on the basis of students' responses. To facilitate this, level of response marking has been devised for many questions.

Level of response marking requires a quite different approach from the examiner than the traditional 'point for point' marking. It is essential that the **whole response is read** and then **allocated to the level** it best fits.

If a student demonstrates knowledge, understanding and/or evaluation at a certain level, he/she must be credited at that level. **Length** of response or **literary ability** should **not be confused with genuine religious studies skills**. For example, a short answer which shows a high level of conceptual ability must be credited at that level. (If there is a band of marks allocated to a level, discrimination should be made with reference to the development of the answer.)

Examiners should **refer to the stated assessment target** objective of a question (see mark scheme) when there is any doubt as to the relevance of a student's response.

Level of response mark schemes include either **examples** of possible students' responses or **material** which they might use. These are intended as a **guide** only. It is anticipated that students will produce a wide range of responses to each question.

It is a feature of levels of response mark schemes that examiners are prepared to reward fully responses which are obviously valid and of high ability but do not conform exactly to the requirements of a particular level. If examiners have any doubt about what level to award a response, they should consult their team leader.

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before examiners apply the mark scheme to a student's answer they should read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. They should then apply the mark scheme. It may be necessary to read the answer more than once to be sure of assigning the correct Level.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in 12-mark questions.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be assessed against the following criteria:

Level	Performance descriptor	Marks awarded
High performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. Learners use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate. 	3
Intermediate performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall. Learners use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate. 	2
Threshold performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall. Learners use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate. 	1
No marks awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The learner writes nothing. The learner's response does not relate to the question. The learner's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, for example errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning. 	0

0 1 . 1 Which one of the following describes God's role in making the Earth?

[1 mark]

- A** **Creator**
- B** **Judge**
- C** **Law-Giver**
- D** **Merciful**

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

Answer: **A: Creator**

0 1 . 2 Give two ways in which Jews follow the key moral principle of justice.

[2 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief: including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

One mark for each of two correct points.

If students provide more than two responses only the first two responses should be considered for marking.

Students may include two of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

Volunteer to help those who are poor / tzedakah / giving to charity, eg by regular donations, sponsorships etc / promote and join Jewish organisations eg Jews United for Justice / Tzedek who work for social justice globally / punish fairly / have a job that fights for justice / or is within a charitable organisation / help to end conflicts / petitions / peacemakers / regain rights for victims of conflict / campaign for peace / protest against injustices, unfair political systems / take part in a just war / by following the law / obeying the Ten Commandments / being honest, etc.

0 1 . 3 Explain two ways in which belief in God's covenant with Abraham influences Jews today.

[4 marks]

Target: AO1:2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief: influence on individuals, communities and societies.

First way

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

Second way

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

To be a 'detailed explanation' the 'influence' of the way must be included.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

- Jews will only worship one God / monotheism / 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.' (Genesis 17:1) observance of mitzvot to ensure ritual purity.
- The Promised Land influences Jews to regard Israel as their homeland / the Pesach toast of 'next year in Jerusalem'.
- The promise of descendants to Abraham / the Jews see him as their spiritual father / his trust in God's promises against all the odds encourages Jews to trust in God's faithfulness.
- Abraham as a source of blessing to humanity / a reminder to Jews that being God's Chosen people is a responsibility rather than a privilege / they are called to make the world a better place / influences Jews to do good deeds.
- Requirement that Abraham and his household be circumcised / as a sign of the covenant / ceremony of Brit Milah, etc.

0 1 . 4 Explain two Jewish beliefs about the divine presence (Shekhinah).

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Jewish belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

First belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Second belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writing or another source of Jewish belief and teaching – 1 mark

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

- Shekhinah is the Jewish belief that refers to God's presence on earth / means 'God's manifested glory' or 'God's divine presence' / the tabernacle referred to as an early dwelling place for God / God was present in the Garden of Eden / during the Exodus Jewish scriptures state they were led by a pillar of fire or a cloud, possible manifestations of the Shekhinah / God's presence guided Moses through the wilderness to the Promised Land.
- Shekhinah seen as a sign of the power and glory of God / God's presence among his people / God is active within the world.
- Some of the prophets made reference to the presence of God in Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem which replaced the tabernacle / dwelling in the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem / Shekhinah is a dwelling or settling of divine presence.
- Some Orthodox Jews believe God's presence can be felt when praying at the Western Wall.
- Some Reform Jews believe Shekhinah refers to the feminine presence of God being loving and caring / in Hebrew Shekhinah is a feminine word, etc.

Sources of authority might include:

Genesis 3:8 "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

Exodus 13:21 "By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night."

Exodus 25:8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."

Exodus 33:14 "The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest"."

Exodus 40:35 “Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”

Leviticus 10:2 “So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them...”

Ezekiel 43:2 “The earth shone with His glory.”

Talmud Berachot 6a “The Shekhinah dwells over the headside of the sick man’s bed.”

Mishnah Avot 3:3 “When two sit together and words of Torah pass between them, the Shekhinah dwells between them.”

Accept all other sources of authority that correctly support the beliefs given.

0 1 . 5 'For Jews, it is important to obey all 613 mitzvot.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Jewish teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 3 marks]

Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

Arguments in support

- There are 613 mitzvot for Jews to follow / God commands Jews to follow all of the mitzvot / God has clear expectations of the Jews / why would God make so many rules if Jews were not supposed to follow them?
- The Torah states that all the mitzvot are equally sacred and binding / Torah is believed to be the Word of God so Jews have to obey the mitzvot contained in it / Torah mitzvot are God given and part of the Covenant with Moses / God would be God of the Jews and protect them if they obeyed his laws in return.
- Adam and Eve showed the consequences of disobeying God's Commands / Genesis 3 teaches Jews that God has allowed them the free will to choose how to live their lives / following the mitzvot carefully

makes it impossible to disobey God / to find favour with God on the Day of Judgement, Jews must obey all the mitzvot / Torah teaches that God has given Jews a choice as to whether they keep the 613 mitzvot or not but the consequences of the wrong choice are clear / “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

- Obeying all of God’s laws is a core part of Jewish identity / mitzvot instruct Jews on issues of worship and festivals / family matters / maintaining an orderly society / morality / Orthodox Jews would argue this is the case / Jews are expected to be an example to other nations as God’s Chosen People / obeying all mitzvot helps Jews to strengthen their bond with God / 248 positive mitzvot (mitzvot aseh) thought to correspond to the number of bones and organs in the human body / 365 negative Mitzvot (Mitzvot Lo Ta’aseh) or things you should not do / number corresponds to the number of days in a solar year.

Arguments in support of other views

- 613 could be seen as too many / free will allows different groups of Jews the choice of which 613 mitzvot they follow / Jews can no longer follow all of the mitzvot because the Temple no longer exists / women are exempt from time bound mitzvot / some can only be obeyed in Israel, etc.
- Jews have free will to choose not to obey mitzvot if a life is in danger / “Everything is foreseen, yet freedom is given to choose.” (Pirkei Avot 3:19, the Talmud) / Pikuach Nefesh / saving a life is more important than any other mitzvot except murder, idolatry and adultery.
- Many mitzvot are considered old fashioned and dated / the law was written thousands of years ago, and society has moved on / different Rabbinical interpretations of the mitzvot make it difficult to follow them all / some Reform and Liberal Jews do not necessarily follow mitzvot on clothing / Shabbat / Kashrut.
- God believed to be merciful and just / God’s judgement will take into account other actions, “Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” (Psalm 34:14) / some may believe focus on key moral principles to be more important / taking care of the planet / etc.