

Religious Studies GCSE

Exam skills



Name:

1 and 2 mark questions

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

1 mark

Multiple choice

Testing knowledge

Choose from A, B, C or D

2 marks

The question will ask; Give two...

- ways
- of the
- types
- examples
- reasons
- causes
- religious beliefs

Only need to write a short sentence, no explanations/ detail needed

4 mark questions

AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs

The question will ask; Explain two...

- ways in which
- contrasting
- similar religious beliefs

You will need to state and explain X 2

From the mark scheme:

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

Contemporary British society:

5 mark questions

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

The question will ask; Explain two...

- ways in which
- contrasting
- similar religious beliefs

You will need to state and explain X 2 AND make reference to sacred writing or another source of Christian/Buddhist belief and teaching.

From the mark scheme:

First teaching

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks

Second teaching

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 1 mark

Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching – 2 marks

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

Examples of sacred writing or another source

Christian	Buddhist

12 mark questions

AO2 **Analyse** and **evaluate** aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence.

What does analyse mean?	What does evaluate mean?
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You will be given a statement “____”, highlight it

You will need to evaluate the statement

You will be given guidance on how to respond to the statement:

In paper 1 (Religions):

In your answer you should:

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

In paper 2 (Themes):

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

Make sure you highlight the keywords and plan what you would like to write about

12 mark question mark scheme

Levels	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

Suggested essay structure

<p><u>Paragraph 1</u> Arguments in support of the statement</p> <p><i>Give more than 1 argument</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who supports the statement? Explain why some may agree Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. Refer to religious teachings. Use a quote or paraphrase or a religious authority. Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.
<p><u>Paragraph 2</u> Arguments supporting a different point of view</p> <p><i>Give more than 1 argument</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who supports an alternative view to the statement? Explain why some may disagree Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. Refer to religious teachings. Use a quote or paraphrase or a religious authority. Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.
<p><u>Paragraph 3</u> Conclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a justified conclusion. Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning. Include evaluation. Explain why you think one point of view is stronger than another or why they are equally strong. Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

Sentence starters

- A point of view that agrees with the statement is...
- This point backs up the statement because...
- A _____ might say...
- A teaching to support this statement is...*Include scripture*
- 'this argument/evidence is
robust/strong/weak/inconclusive/insubstantial/convincing because...'
- Overall I agree/ disagree with this statement because...

Things to remember

- You MUST use terms like “some Christians believe...” or “most Buddhists think...”
- Be clear in your meaning, do not say “they” or “it”
- Answer should be around 250 words
- Religious teachings can be paraphrased - direct quotes not needed
- You can discuss any other religious views you know
- No need for an introduction

SPaG

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

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be assessed in the 12-mark questions.

The marks for SPaG are shown below the mark allocation for each question.

The best of these marks will be included in your total for the paper.

Example response 1

Key:
<input type="checkbox"/> Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis/Evaluation

12 mark question (A02)

0	1	.	5
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'The Four Noble Truths are the most important Buddhist teaching.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you should:

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

Answer A

Some Buddhists will agree with this statement because the Four Noble Truths focus on dukkha and its cessation which lead to enlightenment and therefore end the cycle of rebirth. The Four Noble Truths must be understood and accepted in order to achieve enlightenment which is the ultimate goal of Buddhists. Buddhists must understand dukkha and learn that it is caused by the three poisons (greed, ignorance and craving), hence by understanding this and following it as a daily reminder, enlightenment can be achieved, hence Buddha-nature.

However, some will disagree with this statement as in order to attain enlightenment you must follow a lifestyle known as 'The Middle Way' which shows that extrem luxury or extreme poverty does not provide a solution to dukkha nor achieving enlightenment.

The eightfold way should also be followed in order to love a good life which 'cultivates good, create no evil and cleanse one's mind', this shows that good things will result in good karma which leads to a clean mind whilst meditating which makes reaching enlightenment 'easier'.

Overall, I disagree with this statement because Buddhists do not only read the Four Noble Truths to attain enlightenment, but they also must understand the Three Marks of existence, the skandhas and follow the Eightfold path. They should understand and not misbehave to become 'arhats' and hence achieve enlightenment. Additionally, Buddhism does not only include a few methods or teachings; it includes many that must be followed to become the Buddha, therefore Buddhism is known as a lifestyle.

/ 12

Reason for this score=

Answer B

In this evaluation I will give valid reasons to support this statement and valid arguments for against this statement.

"The four Noble truths are the most important Buddhist teaching." One way in which I agree with this statement is that the four Noble truths teach people about suffering and life. Another point which people believe in Buddhism is that these teachings which are very well known and are taught a lot to people who believe in Buddhism.

Another reason to back this statement is that the four Noble truths are what Buddha did to reach Enlightenment.

However, a reason against this statement is that it does not teach people how to live life. Buddhists also have quotes which alot of people follow instad of other teachings and one is, 'Our Religion is Simple, Our Religion is kindness.' This means that there religion is full of kindness and kindness has nothing to do with suffering.

Additonally, another reason to why the four noble truths are not the most important teaching is because Buddhist teach you not to be violent to one another which is more important because then everyone is not hitting each other and living in peace.

In Conclusion I believe that the four Noble truths are not the most important Buddhist teaching because there are other teachings which teach people how to live around each other peaceful which I think is more important.

/ 12

Reason for this score=

Example response 2

Key:
<input type="checkbox"/> Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis/Evaluation

0 2 . 5

'Infant baptism is not as important as believers' baptism.' Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks]

In your answer you should:

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

Answer A

Infant baptism is done just because your guardians want you to follow that religion as you are too young to understand the religious background and meaning it is a pressured Baptism.

Believers baptism is more important as you are being baptised because you believe that religion is right and you also benefit and can benefit others by following that religion.

/ 12

Reason for this score=

Answer B

A christian might go against this statement as christians believe that everyone is born with original sin, so a child should be baptised young because if the child dies young they still have original sin so the child may go to Hell.

on the other hand a christian might agree with this as when youre a child its not really your choice but when you are older you are choosing to go to God and Jesus and become a child of God.

Furthermore a christian will go against this statement because when Jesus was baptised it is believed that he heard from God "you are now my son" so it is better to be baptised as a child as you become a child of God at a young age.

From this I can conclude that it is better to be baptised as a child as you will be free from original sin and you will also become a child of God as a young child.

/ 12

Reason for this score=

Answer E

Many people have differing opinions on whether infant or believer's baptism is more important. However, surely it is different for everyone and are both equally important?

Some people would agree that infant baptism is not as important as believers baptism. This is because when you are an adult you can make your own choice whether you want to enter a religion or not as you have more of an understanding of what you are signing up for than when you are a baby. Furthermore, having a believers' baptism demonstrates your devotion to God a lot more as you are willingly making that decision, not having it forced upon you.

However, there are many people who would disagree with the statement. This is because infant baptism means that you are devoted to God all of your life whereas believers' baptism doesn't have that level of devotion. Moreover, it is taught that infant baptism is to rid the baby of original sin as everyone is born with it. This means if the baby dies young they won't go to hell as their souls have been rid of original sin.

Christians would disagree with the statement. This is because they believe it doesn't matter how long you have been a Christian, as long as you are devoted to God nonetheless. In addition, Jesus taught his followers: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit." This means Jesus just cares about you being baptised, not about when.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. This is because I think that as long as you are baptised, it doesn't matter when. Also, in the Bible it says that if you are baptised you will go to heaven, meaning that no matter when you are baptised you will go to heaven to be with God. This means neither type of baptism is more important than the other.

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Reason for this score=

Example response 3

Key:
<input type="checkbox"/> Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis/Evaluation

12 mark questions (A02)

0	1	.	5
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'For religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.' Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + SPaG 3]

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

Answer A

Sexual relationships are carried out between people. Many people have various different reasons for carrying out sexual acts. Some people could agree with this statement. Muslims believe that sex can only be had within marriage. This is to preserve its sanctity and it allows everyone to fulfil chastity. Jews believe the main reason to have sex is to create children. Their holy scriptures state "Be fruitful and multiply." This emphasises the importance of having children, Jews believe marriage is the natural state of humans so people should only have children within marriage. Christians could also agree with the statement mentioning that a human can only be classes as a Christian if they're conceived within marriage.

Some people could also disagree with the statement. Some people may have other reasons to have sexual relationships than having children. People may have sexual relationships for fun or even for money. Additionally, people could state that it doesn't truly matter whether sexual relationships are had within or outside marriage because it is just a piece of paper.

Furthermore, one could state that a child who's born as part of a family where the parents aren't married has just as high value in society as a child who has married parents. Some Christians could also rebuttle that Jesus was born outside marriage, proving that marriage doesn't affect the child's life.

In conclusion I believe that marriage doesn't affect sexual relationships. Those who have children from sexual relationships still look after their children as well as a married couple would.

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Reason for this score=

Answer B

'For religious believers, sex should only take place inside of marriage' is a statement that many religions differ on. Roman Catholics believe this is true, as the point of marriage is to 'be fruitful' and procreate, bringing more young Catholics into the world who can spread the religion. Muslims share this view to a degree. The overall idea is that sex is a tool given to us by God so that we may procreate, and sex should only take place inside of marriage. In parts of the east, Muslim women are executed for having sex outside of marriage.

However, there are reasons why this should not be the case. Quakers are often ok with sex outside of marriage, as they believe that the sex is more about the loving relationship shared by the people involved than about God. Buddhists also generally don't have a problem with it. They believe that all sex should be moral and loving, but that is all. The fact that so many religions have differing views on the topic should show that its less about God, and more about the people.

In conclusion, however, I think that this statement is correct, especially for Christians. Marriage is sacred in Christianity (one of the sacraments) and should be respected, as should sex. Those who have sex outside of marriage are labelled fornicators and are considered grave sinners. Even the Pope said all sex should have the chance for life.

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Reason for this score=

Example response 4

Key:
<input type="checkbox"/> Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis/Evaluation

0	4	.	5
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'War is the best way to solve problems between countries.'
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

Answer A

War is when two countries fight, usually over land or power. For centuries, war has been the solution for conflicts between countries, something that has been around so long must be effective in dealing with problems.

War is a fair way of deciding on a winner. It has to be approved by the UN which then allows the countries to settle the problems in a test of each country's strength and determination.

Jesus said that he approved of war by telling his followers that if they didn't "own a sword, then sell your cloak and buy one." There have also been many Holy Wars in the name of God, for example the Crusades. However, war often forces people to leave their homes and families to fight, and maybe die for their country. Although civilians aren't killed thousands of innocent soldiers die.

Before starting a war, the countries have to prove that there is no other way of solving the conflict. If they could negotiate their terms and avoid starting a war, it would be better for both countries. Finally, Gandhi told Hindus "an eye for an eye and the whole world would be blind" meaning that if everyone tried to inflict pain on anyone who had wronged them we would all be in pain.

To conclude, I think that war is not the best solution as there are others that can be effective. As John F Kennedy said "mankind must put an end to war before puts an end to mankind."

Answer B

War is the best way to solve problems between countries. Whether it be regular war, Holy War, or Just War, it always has the most impact and makes sure there is no messing about. War can be moral in the case of Holy War and Just War, where the point is not to take as many lives as possible, but rather to achieve some sort of goal. For example, God approved Muhammad going to war to take back Makkah, showing that it can be religiously acceptable. The alternatives are often slow, and open to political abuse.

However, Christians would argue that war will never be the best way to solve problems between countries. Jesus taught us the idea of reconciliation, which is very important in christianity (as it is one of the sacraments). They would always try to reconcile broken relations between two bodies, for example Corymeela in Northern Ireland. The least violent way is the best way. This is an idea shared by Buddhists, who believe in Ahimsa – pacifism and peaceful protest at all costs.

I do not believe that War is the best way to solve problems between countries. I agree with the idea that there are many suitable alternatives which cause far less loss of life and are much more morally acceptable. I also know that war is often overdone, and that there are never any real winners to it. I believe that the lives of the public should always be put first.

/ 12

Reason for this score=

GCSE Religious Studies: All past exam questions

One mark questions

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

Buddhist beliefs

- Which one of the following is the book which contains stories from the life of the Buddha? A Jataka Tales. B Dhammapada. C Tipitaka. D Pali Canon.
- Which one of the following is one of the Three Marks of Existence? A Anatta. B Dhamma (dharma). C Nibbana (nirvana). D Sunyata.
- Which one of the following means impermanence in Buddhism? A Anatta B Dharma C Dukkha D Anicca

Buddhist practices

- Which one of the following is a Buddhist festival? A Parinirvana. B Holi. C Anicca. D Dukkha
- Which one of the following is a Buddhist festival? A Samatha. B Theravada. C Vipassana. D Wesak.
- Which one of the following is a Buddhist monastery? A Mala B Vihara C Rupa D Mandala

Christian beliefs

- Which one of the following is the book in the Bible in which the story of Creation can be found? A Exodus. B Genesis. C Proverbs. D Revelation.
- Which one of the following is the idea that God is three-in-one? A Atonement. B Incarnation. C Salvation. D Trinity.
- Which one of the following describes the meaning of the word 'omnipotent'? A All-loving B All-powerful C Just D Creator

Christian practices

- Which one of the following is the sacrament that commemorates Jesus' last supper? A Marriage. B Baptism. C Eucharist. D Sunday.
- Which one of the following is not a way that Christians celebrate the festival of Easter? A A nativity play. B A sunrise service. C Lighting the Paschal candle. D Painting eggs.
- Which one of the following is not part of the celebration of Christmas? A Nativity play B Midnight Mass C Lighting the Paschal candle D Exchanging gifts

Theme A: relationships and families

- Which one of the following best expresses the religious view that one purpose of marriage is to have children? A Procreation. B Contraception. C Stability. D Polygamy.
- Which one of the following describes the practice of having more than one wife? A Sanctity. B Stability. C Monogamy. D Polygamy.
- Some religious believers may use methods to prevent a pregnancy taking place. Which one of the following describes that practice? A Conception B Procreation C Contraception D Monogamy

Theme B: religion and life

- Which one of the following is a religious theory about how the universe began? A The big cloud. B Creation. C Collision theory. D Atomic theory.
- Which one of the following means being gently and painlessly put to death? A Stewardship. B Euthanasia. C Evolution. D Dominion.
- Which one of the following means that human life is precious and sacred? A Quality of life B Meaning of life C Length of life D Sanctity of life

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

- Which one of the following best expresses the religious ideal that there should be no violence in the world? A Defence. B Justice. C Peace. D Terrorism
- Which one of the following is not a reason for war? A Self-defence. B Greed. C Retaliation. D Forgiveness.
- Religions teach that people should live together in peace and harmony. Which one of the following means to become friends again after a relationship has broken down? A To reform B To be reconciled C To have justice D To retaliate

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

- Which one of the following expresses the religious idea that one aim of punishment should be to encourage people not to commit any more crimes? A Reformation. B Protection. C Deterrence. D Reparation.
- Which one of the following is not a reason for crime? A Poverty. B Sanctity of life. C Mental illness. D Greed.
- Religious believers accept the idea of punishment. Which one of the following is not an aim of punishment? A Forgiveness B Reformation C Retribution D Deterrence

Two mark questions

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

Buddhist beliefs

Give two reasons why Buddha rejected his life of wealth.

Give two of the four signs that the Buddha saw.

Give two reasons why Siddhartha Gautama rejected his ascetic life

Buddhist practices

Give two of the five moral precepts.

Give two types of Buddhist meditation.

Give two of the six perfections in the Mahayanan tradition.

Christian beliefs

Give two qualities which Christians believe describe the nature of God.

Give two reasons why the disciples believed Jesus was alive after his resurrection.

Give two Christian teachings about original sin.

Christian practices

Give two examples of the work of the Church in the local community.

Give two ways in which Christian churches respond to persecution.

Give two ways in which Christians might show their commitment to Church growth.

Theme A: relationships and families

Give two religious beliefs about the nature of the family.

Give two religious beliefs about the use of contraception.

Give two religious beliefs about same-sex marriage.

Theme B: religion and life

Give two examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship.

Give two religious beliefs about pollution.

Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Give two ways in which religious believers help victims of war.

Give two religious beliefs that show that violence is wrong

Give two reasons why many religious believers are against violent protest

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

Give two examples of religious moral laws which some criminals break.

Give two religious beliefs about forgiveness.

Give two causes of crime.

Four mark questions

Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs

Buddhist beliefs

Explain two ways in which learning about the life of the Buddha influences Buddhists today.
Explain two ways in which the Buddha's ascetic life influenced his later teaching.
Explain two ways in which the Four Sights influenced the Buddha's teachings.

Buddhist practices

Explain two contrasting Buddhist rituals associated with death and mourning.
Explain two contrasting aims of Buddhist meditation
Explain two contrasting Buddhist meditation practices.

Christian beliefs

Explain two ways in which belief in the resurrection of Jesus influences Christians today.
Explain two ways in which the belief that God is just influences Christians today.
Explain two ways in which Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today.

Christian practices

Explain two contrasting ways in which the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated in Christianity.
Explain two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage.
Explain two contrasting examples of Christian worship

Theme A: relationships and families

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the use of artificial contraception within marriage.
Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about same-sex parents
Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the roles of men and women.

Theme B: religion and life

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about abortion
Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food.
Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about weapons of mass destruction.
Explain two similar religious beliefs about pacifism.
Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about nuclear weapons.

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the death penalty for murder.
Explain two similar religious beliefs about people who break the law
Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of community service as a punishment.

Five mark questions

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

Buddhist beliefs

Explain two Buddhist teachings about nibbana/nirvana.

Explain two Buddhist teachings about the causes of suffering.

Explain two stages of the Eightfold Path.

Buddhist practices

Explain two ways in which shrines are important in Buddhist worship.

Explain two ways in which death ceremonies are important to Buddhists in Tibet.

Explain two reasons why Wesak is important for Buddhists.

Christian beliefs

Explain two Christian teachings about judgement.

Explain two Christian teachings about the means of salvation.

Explain two Christian teachings about the incarnation.

Christian practices

Explain two ways in which Christian street pastors carry out their Christian duty.

Explain two ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas.

Explain two ways in which the worldwide Church works for reconciliation.

Theme A: relationships and families

Explain two religious beliefs about the role of parents in a religious family.

Explain two religious beliefs about sexual relationships outside of marriage (adultery).

Explain two religious beliefs about divorce.

Theme B: religion and life

Explain two religious beliefs about animal experimentation.

Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife.

Explain two religious beliefs about how peoples' actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness

Explain two religious beliefs about justice.

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all acts of terrorism are wrong.

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

Explain two religious beliefs about breaking the law in order to get a bad law changed.

Explain two religious beliefs about the death penalty.

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all hate crimes are wrong.

12 mark questions

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

Buddhist beliefs

'For Buddhists, 'impermanence (anicca) is the most important of the Three Marks of Existence.'

'It is better to be a Bodhisattva than an Arhat (a perfected person).'

'The Four Noble Truths are the most important Buddhist teaching.'

Buddhist practices

'The best way to understand the Buddha's teachings about the Three Marks of Existence is by meditating.'

'The five precepts are impossible to live by.'

'It is impossible for Buddhists to always act with compassion (karuna).'

Christian beliefs

'If God were loving, there would be no suffering in the world.'

'The Bible tells Christians all they need to know about God's creation.'

'A loving God would not send anyone to hell.'

Christian practices

'The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is by practising prayer.'

'Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.'

'Infant baptism is not as important as believers' baptism.'

Theme A: relationships and families

'Divorce is never right.'

'Men and women should not have equal rights.'

'For religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.'

Theme B: religion and life

'It is not reasonable to believe in life after death.'

'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.'

'Abuse of the environment is impossible to stop.'

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

'War is never right.'

'There are no good reasons for countries to possess nuclear weapons.'

'War is the best way to solve problems between countries.'

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

'Corporal punishment can never be justified.'

'Reformation is the best aim of punishment.'

'The death penalty should never be used.'