

Examiners' Report

June 2022

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 2D

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Introduction

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict

Option 2D – Buddhism

This paper contributes to 50% of the overall award. The paper includes four questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer all four questions, there is no element of choice on the paper. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The examination is set from the specification. In this year's paper Advance Information was shared for 50% of the paper (Sections 1 and 3): this was aimed at reducing the effects of COVID on candidates' grades.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Buddhism as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about the issues of peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. This unit engages the interest of young people, because it addresses many Buddhist beliefs and teachings in addition to some issues affecting young people's engagement with society and the wider world.

Centres should be familiar with, and prepare candidates for, all parts of the specification.

Centres are advised to refer to the specification, SAMs materials and online support given by the senior examination team.

In d) questions, 'Appraisal' shows:

- the value of the evidence provided
- the strength of the answer
- the validity of the chains in the answer
- a consideration of what is written in order to answer the questions (rather than which side they agree with)
- a measurement of which side is more logical
- an assessment of which is the more compelling argument
- an understanding of which argument is more convincing or rational or cogent

Note:

In some questions marks, are awarded for the candidates' use of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar – SPaG

Assessment Objective is abbreviated to AO.

Question 1 (a)

This section was one of the two for which candidates had Advance Information, and therefore had been informed which bullet points would be used in the examination.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Buddhist Beliefs Bullet point 1.6 – The Fourth Noble Truth.

This question worked well and it showed candidates' understanding of the Eightfold Path. Many took the approach of giving individual teachings. Others approached the question more broadly, focussing on how there are different aspects within the Eightfold Path. The majority of candidates gained all 3 marks.

The question asked was: Outline three Buddhist teachings about the Eightfold Path.

Teachers should refer to the specification for probable questions.

Candidates should make sure they have three distinct sentences, but should not sacrifice time by offering more content than can be credited.

One mark is given for each teaching identified and written in a sentence.

1 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about the Eightfold Path.

(3)

The eight-fold path is the middle way

The eightfold path is what enables Buddhist to reach ~~enlight~~ enlightenment.

The eight-fold path is what enables Buddhists to break cycle of samsara.

The eightfold path is what enable Buddhist to reach ~~nibbana~~ nibanna.

The eightfold path are teachings from the Buddha.



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The candidate writes sentences outlining teachings. The Eightfold Path is:

- the middle way (1)
- what enables Buddhists to reach enlightenment (1)
- what enables Buddhists to break the cycle of samsara (1)

Total: 3 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Write three separate sentences on three separate lines

Candidates should be encouraged to be familiar with the requirements of the different styles of questions, in order to make efficient use of their time in the exam.

1 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about the Eightfold Path.

(3)

Buddhist have to follow the Eightfold Path to achieve enlightenment. ~~then~~ Once Buddhist achieves enlightenment they become a bodhisava.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate writes a sentences outlining a teaching.

- Buddhist have to follow the Eightfold Path to achieve enlightenment (1)

The rest of this candidate's answer is a development of the point they make. This is not required and therefore not credited in a) questions.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Buddhist Beliefs bullet point 1.5 – The Third Noble Truth.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the cycle of samsara.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two beliefs are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the belief given and to the question asked.

This question worked well, with most candidates being able to show their understanding of the cycle of samsara and most gaining full marks. There was a range of approaches, which were generally valid. The majority of answers made specific reference to kamma and escaping samsara.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the cycle of samsara.

(4)

One Buddhist belief about samsara is that once you escape, by reaching enlightenment, * you reach Nirvana. This when you're in the state where you're escaped birth, death and rebirth and you see how things really are.

Another Buddhist belief about Samsara is that greed, ignorance and hatred keeps us trapped within it. The three poisons, doesn't let us escape as they are ~~us~~ unskillful attitudes.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two beliefs and develops each of the beliefs with additional relevant detail, in order to be awarded the development mark.

Total: 4 Marks

Candidates should refer to the specification bullet point and cover all the different parts of it.

The bullet points are the basis of question setting.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the cycle of samsara.

(4)

One Buddhist beliefs about the cycle of Samsara is that by following the cycle of Samsara you can get to Nirvana. Another Buddhist belief about the cycle of Samsara is that the Buddha gained enlightenment by following the cycle of Samsara. They also may say that the cycle of Samsara is broken by living a good Buddhist life. They will then reach Nirvana.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one belief, which is developed.

The candidate does introduce their response with a suggested answer but this is not made clear, describing 'following the cycle'.

The points they attempt to make are presented more clearly when repeated at the end of their response.

- Belief One – ... the cycle of samsara is broken by living a good Buddhist life (1) Development One – ... they will then reach Nirvana (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Question 1 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Buddhist Beliefs bullet point 1.7 – Human Life

The question asked was:

Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the Five Khandas.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain **two**' on (c) items. Therefore, two beliefs were required, and both needed to be developed for 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information: a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must relate to the reason given and to the question asked.

The beliefs should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the belief given and **cannot** be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as a source.

c) items provide marks for five points, 2 for beliefs, 2 for the development of each belief and one for an accurate source that relates to the belief given.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word. The source of wisdom can be given as a recognisable paraphrase

If examiners are unsure they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and the source.

If the source is attributed to the wrong person/source/numerical reference it cannot be credited eg a Dali Lama quote attributed to the Buddha and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Numerical or generic references on their own are not awarded. The candidate must use the reference correctly ie not just state the name of a sutta.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the Five Khandas.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One belief about the Five Khandas is that these 5 aggregates are what makes up a person. A Buddhist needs to understand that all the 5 khandas need to be in ~~sync~~ sync and work together to have a peace of mind.

Another belief about the Five Khandas is that ~~it is~~ our body is not made up of permanent stuff which is known as ~~atta~~ anatta. This is shown in the Dhammapadam from the story of Nagasena and the Chariot. Nagasena said that the chariot is made up of many different materials like wood and steel that all make up the chariot and can be changed. This suggests how ~~parts~~ there is no permanent self.



Marks are awarded for:

- Belief One – these 5 aggregates are what make up a person (1)
Development One – A Buddhist needs to understand that all the 5 Khandas need to be in sync and work together to have peace of mind (1)
- Belief Two – Our body is not made up of permanent stuff which is shown as anatta (1) Source – the story of Nagasena and the chariot. Nagasena said that the chariot was made up of many different materials...and can be changed (1) Development Two – This suggests how there is no permanent self (1)

Total: 5 Marks

Candidates should be encouraged to present their answers to b) and c) questions in two separate paragraphs.

This will help them to organise their thoughts and responses in such a way that they gain full access to the marks available.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist beliefs about the Five Khandas.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Buddhists believe (5)
The Five Khandas are an effective way of portraying the idea of annata which means that there is no permanent self because it teaches that humans or beings consist of form, sensation, perception, impulses and consciousness are everchanging therefore meaning that humans are everchanging so there is no self.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one accurate belief and offers development of this belief.

- Belief One – Buddhists believe that the five Khandas are an effective way of portraying the idea of anatta (1) Development One – which means there is no permanent self (1)

The candidate goes on to offer further development of the same belief, which cannot be credited because a second, different belief is required.

Total: 2 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Use separate paragraphs for your answer

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d) items.

The candidates are being assessed on AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but did not evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to support this with genuine evaluation.

d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Buddhist Beliefs bullet point 1.3 – The First Noble Truth

The question asked was:

"Buddhists should work to overcome suffering."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

Please note that, neither in the bullet point, nor on the question, were candidates required to give a non-religious response.

Candidates were aware of the discussion around the concept of suffering, discussing ideas around the view that overcoming it is either impossible or rare but worthy and achievable.

More-able candidates made specific reference to the First Noble Truth, whilst less-able candidates commented more generally. Many made reference to the Eightfold Path as a means of overcoming suffering. There were attempts at appraisal, but often a suggestion of either strength or weakness was not supported with a valid argument.

Candidates should not refer to material that is not asked for.

If a question does not ask for a non-religious response and the candidate provides it, this part of the answer will not gain any credit.

*(d) "Buddhists should work to overcome suffering."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Dukkha
compassion
Bodhisattva
Maggā
State of no self.

Arhat (selfish)
no loving-kindness

(15)

Buddhists should work to overcome suffering because this ~~was~~ is the main goal of Buddhism. It is why Buddha left the palace and Dukkha is extremely important. This is a strong argument because Dukkha is one of the 4 noble truths and the three marks of existence which is what Buddha taught: 'I teach suffering, and the path to the cessation of suffering' - Buddha (Mahijima Nikaya)

Buddhists should overcome suffering in order to achieve enlightenment (Nirvana) which is the ultimate goal. They should also overcome suffering because it will help others. This is the strongest argument because in Mahayana Buddhism becoming a Bodhisattva (an enlightened one) helps others become enlightened too which ends/reduces suffering. This is further strengthened by the fact that Mahayana

Buddhists ~~also~~ practice the teaching of compassion (Karuna) ^(one of the 4 sublime) ~~when~~ ^{states} helping others ~~for~~ which Buddha taught was important so overcoming suffering in order to help others (bodhicitta) is crucial. Tenzin Gyatso said 'The key to a happier more successful world is the growth of compassion.'

~~However others do~~ Others do believe overcoming suffering is important but prioritise other teachings like wisdom and the

eightfold path. ~~W~~ This is a strong argument because wisdom will help understand the basic forces of the world like the 3 marks of existence but it is easily undermined because by developing wisdom + the teachings of the eightfold path you reduce suffering. ~~And~~ However, Arhats in Theravada Buddhism believe overcoming suffering is important but not for reducing overall suffering. This is a stronger argument as Arhat's believe they are 'perfect people' understanding the eightfold path and the five aggregates but do not help others. This suggests that overcoming all suffering is not that vital however is weakened by the argument that ~~many~~ Arhats ~~Buddhists~~ don't show loving-kindness so this selfish enlightenment is wrong. ~~Then~~ The Buddha in Sutta Nipita said 'loving-kindness' must be developed 'for all the world'

I believe that Buddhists should work to overcome suffering as it is extremely important + central path of Buddhist ethics. The Dhamma of Buddha is also important but it helps reduce suffering so the ultimate goal for Buddhists is to ~~work~~ to overcome suffering and reach Nirvana (state of no suffering)



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points
- They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints
- They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- Within each paragraph the candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements
- The candidate begins to appraise evidence in each paragraph
- They write a partially justified conclusion

The candidate is awarded marks at the top of the mark range for Level 3 because the demands of the levels descriptors for Level 3 are met.

To move to Level 4, the candidate's first step would be to develop their conclusion, as an opportunity to offer further appraisal.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Level 3

Response: 9 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 12 Marks



Read the question carefully

Note the key words

Provide the answer required

*(d) "Buddhists should work to overcome suffering."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I agree with this statement.

One Buddhist teaching which helps Buddhists overcome suffering is the Dhamma Wheel. The Dhamma Wheel was made by Buddha and was his teaching. In this Buddha stated several different rules to follow to ensure Buddhists overcome dukkha. ~~Therefore~~

Another teaching which helps Buddhists overcome suffering is the Eightfold Path. The Eightfold Path is important as it helps Buddhists not only overcome dukkha but also, reach Nirvana. Nirvana is a peaceful state of

mind which all Buddhists try to achieve as it is the ultimate goal of Buddhism.

An argument against this statement may be that a Humanist may disagree due to their belief that nirvana isn't real. Humanists fully disagree with religion and like to focus on scientific facts. Therefore, pretty much the whole of Buddhism isn't scientifically proven ~~therefore~~ so a humanist would disagree.

Overall, I think if a Buddhist aspires to reach nirvana and enlightenment the Buddhist should work hard to overcome suffering and achieve their ultimate goal.



The candidate gains Level 1 because:

- The candidate is able to provide information/issues and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements of the question
- The candidate offers isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief

The candidate is awarded 3 marks, the top of the mark range for Level 1 because the demands of the level descriptor are met.

The candidate provides a non-religious point of view, although this is not required by the question. As it was not required on this occasion, this part of the answer does not gain any credit.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a range of specialist terms appropriately

Level 1

Response: 3 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 6 Marks

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.2 – Buddhist attitudes towards crime.

The question asked was:

Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about crime.

The candidates needed to provide any Buddhist teaching, not specifically scriptural teachings. Most highlighted that crime is generally an unskillful action and fails to show loving kindness.

Most candidates recognised the requirement to outline, rather than list, their responses.

It does not make any difference whether a candidate uses bullet points or not, as long as they are offering an outline, rather than a list.

Many candidates find it helpful to present their outlines on three separate lines to ensure that they make three separated points.

This avoids the development of points, which is not credited in a) questions.

2 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about crime.

(3)

One teaching about crime is that it is unskillful.
Another teaching about crime is that it ^{happens} ~~goes~~ against
~~the~~ because of three poisons. A final teaching about crime is
that it ~~stops~~ stops you from receiving karmic merit.



One mark is awarded for each point identified

- One teaching about crime is that it is unskillful (1)
- Another teaching about crime is that it happens because of the three poisons (1)
- A final teaching about crime is that it stops you from receiving karmic merit (1)

Total: 3 Marks

a) items are point marked – Outline requires three outlined points.

2 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about crime.

(3)

~~Crime~~ If someone commits a crime, they gain bad karma.



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One mark is awarded for each outlined point

- If someone commits a crime they gain bad karma (1)

Total: 1 Mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

An outline must be more than one word, or item of knowledge.

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.4 – Buddhist attitudes towards punishment

The question asked was:

Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about why punishment might be needed in society.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two teachings are required and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the teaching given and to the question asked.

In this question, candidates were able to show knowledge and understanding about the need for punishment in society. Many candidates focussed on the idea of protection and reformation. However, many ignored 'in society' and thus gained fewer marks.

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about why punishment might be needed in society.

(4)

Buddhists believe Punishment is needed for society as a form of protection, a human right is to be protected, ^{therefore} ~~an~~ ~~formed~~ forms of punishment can be a way of ~~to~~ protecting the public from harmful criminals. Buddhists are taught that the punishment of reform is an effective way as the criminal can change for the better and learn the acceptable way of how to behave in society.



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The candidate gives two developed teachings.

- Teaching One – protection, a human right is to be protected (1)
Development One – punishment can be a way of protecting the public from harmful criminals (1)
- Reason Two – Buddhists are taught that the punishment of reform is an effective way as the criminal can change (1)
Development Two – ... for the better and learn the acceptable way of how to behave in society (1)

Total: 4 Marks

(b) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about why punishment might be needed in society.

(4)

One Buddhist teaching as to why punishment might be needed is because the person in question might be causing a great amount of suffering. Therefore, if they are punished for their actions then they may be reformed and no longer commit unskillful actions, reducing overall suffering.



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The candidate gives one developed teaching:

- Teaching One – punishment might be needed because the person in question might be causing a great amount of suffering (1)
Development One – they may be reformed and no longer commit unskillful actions (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Crime and Punishment

Bullet point 2.1 – Buddhist attitudes towards justice.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the nature of justice.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks. They must also correctly use a source of wisdom in their answer which must be identifiable, relevant and linked to the teaching given in the answer.

Many candidates responded well to this question, but many approached this as if the question was about punishment rather than justice, which impacted their performance.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the nature of justice.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Justice means different things in different situations. Justice is judged on a case by case basis. In Dhammapada, it says, "A wise one judges impartially in line with the Dhamma." This illustrates that every case of justice must be judged equally, while following the teachings of the Dhamma, such as ahimsa.

Another teaching about the nature of justice is that it can be judged using the Upaya Kausala. Here, one judges whether a certain action is skilful or unskilful using prior wisdom and teachings of the Dhamma. Actions decide what people are. In Dhammapada it says "Action makes a man an outcast. Action makes a man Brahmin". Justice must therefore be served based on the actions.



The candidate gives two teachings. These are developed and there is an accurate source of wisdom.

- Teaching One – Justice is judged on a case by case basis (1) Source – Paraphrase from the Dhammapada (1) Development One – must be judged equally, while following the teachings of the Dhamma, such as ahimsa (1)
- Teaching Two – it can be judged using upaya kausala, one judges whether an action is skilful or unskilful (1) Development Two – Actions decide what people are... justice must therefore be served based on the actions (1)

Total: 5 Marks

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the nature of justice.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One teaching is that Karma is justice in action. As if anyone is facing inequalities / injustices it may be them reaping the consequences of their actions based on their Karma. Therefore Justice is inevitable and should be allowed to take place.

Another teaching is that Justice is not needed and doesn't have to be strived for. As it may be part of someone karmic destiny to suffer and they will eventually be recompensed. So punishing a criminal will not ultimately help the victim as 'hatred is not appeased by hatred in this world' as is the Buddhist teaching. Therefore Buddhists must allow Justice to naturally arrive ~~and~~ as going to all lengths to attain it is not beneficial.



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The candidate approaches this question by relating their answer to teachings about kamma.

This is a valid response and gains marks for both a teaching and a development.

Unfortunately, the candidate's second teaching restates the same idea that is presented in their first point.

They do offer a source of wisdom, but do not show that this is relevant to the question asked, and therefore it cannot be credited.

Total: 2 Marks

Question 2 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d) items. As explained in the specification this means:

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but did not evaluate the credibility of the argument.

Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to follow this up with genuine evaluation.

The statement was designed to evaluate different understandings about forgiveness. Candidates who did well recognised that this question was about the potential benefit of forgiveness over the negative impact of holding onto resentment. Some were able to expand answers with appraisal.

This question does not have SPaG marks – it is marked out of 12.

(d) "Buddhists should always forgive others."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I generally agree with this statement because forgiveness is regarded as skillful and reconciliation frees the mind from holding any negative mental states which could cause suffering due to the three mental poisons. Furthermore, holding a grudge against someone would make ^{little} sense as all sentient beings are everyone is subject to anatta. And as there is no self, it is pointless for you to hate. This is a strong argument as it is backed by the Parable of the Saw and Buddha outlines how you should forgive and display mettā and karuṇā even if you were being attacked by robbers who were cutting off your limbs. This is also backed by how we all possess Buddha-nature / karuṇā-garbha and due to this we can all be seen as ~~sentient~~ equal. ~~Because~~ as we are all beings trapped in saṃsāra but we are also capable of enlightenment hence it would be meaningless to be reluctant to forgive as it would lead to the three poisons ("the root of evil") breeding in your mind which may cause you to commit unskillful actions that generate negative karma. Not only this, it would affect the victim as it would cause them suffering so forgiveness is always regarded as skillful.

On the contrary, it may be argued that some people aren't worthy of forgiveness due to the gravity of crimes they have committed and as it may be argued that people who have murdered deserve an equally bad punishment ~~without~~ without forgiving however, this won't appeal to a

Buddhism because it goes against ahimsa and the first moral precept. Not only

this, the Buddha very clearly outlines the importance of forgiveness regardless

of how abhorrent he is and this is shown when Angulimala attacks Buddha

but he is amazed by Buddha's calmness and he states how he "was not reformed by

the rod or the whip but by the kind words of the compassionate Buddha.

This is a strong argument as it implies how forgiveness is most impactful in

helping others and can be seen as the most swift action as it frees the

person from the three mental poisons. Similarly, the story of Milarepa is

powerful in explaining the importance of forgiveness. Milarepa was responsible for

the murder of 35 people who had wronged him and his family but he

sought reconciliation and freed the hatred in his mind and managed to obtain

enlightenment. This is a compelling argument as it shows how forgiving and

letting go of the three poisons can allow you to reach enlightenment.

This is backed by how "hatred never appeases hatred" which shows how hatred

is only overcome through forgiveness.

In conclusion, ~~therefore~~ I believe it is imperative that you forgive others as

it allows the 3 mental poisons to be freed and it reduces suffering

for both parties and promotes upexha which aids in escaping samsara

and reaching enlightenment.



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points
- They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints
- They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- Within each paragraph the candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements
- The candidate begins to appraise evidence in each paragraph
- They write a partially justified conclusion

The candidate is awarded marks at the top of the mark range for Level 3 because the demands of the level descriptors for Level 3 are met.

To move to Level 4, the candidate's first step would be to develop their conclusion further, as an opportunity to offer further appraisal.

Level 3

Total: 9 Marks

(d) "Buddhists should always forgive others."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

metta

(12)

Some may agree with this statement ~~as it is~~ because a key Buddhist belief is that Buddhists should show karuna (compassion). Forgiving others would be showing compassion.

Some may disagree with this statement because ~~as~~ they may believe that some people who cause suffering ~~can~~ cannot be forgiven, ~~for example~~ ^{for example} ~~per ex~~ ^{especially} if they show the three poisons (hatred, ignorance and greed).

Another reason why some may agree with this statement is because Dhamma ^(Buddhist teachings) preaches metta (loving-kindness). ~~This means that Metta would be~~ ^S showing love and kindness to others in forgiveness would be preaching metta.

Another reason why some may disagree with the statement is ~~for~~ if ~~fast~~ of someone went against the pancha sila. The pancha sila are precepts that Buddhists should live by and by going against them would be disregarding your faith.

In conclusion, although there are some convincing arguments to say otherwise,



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The candidate gains Level 2 because:

- The candidate's response makes superficial connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective to build simple chains of thinking.
- They showed a limited understanding of religion and belief.
- They begin to form a conclusion but offer no appraisal of the evidence.

Level 2

Total: 4 Marks



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Examiner Tip

Candidates may write on the exam paper and cross out/highlight the elements as required

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Buddhist Life

Bullet point 3.3 – Mantra recitation

The question asked was:

Outline **three** reasons why using Namu Buddhaya is important to Buddhists.

Some candidates were able correctly to identify information about the importance of Namu Buddhaya, although some found it difficult to articulate more than one reason. Many candidates were unfamiliar with the term 'Namu Buddhaya', leading to a loss of marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** reasons why using Namu Buddhaya is important to Buddhists.

(3)

- It is important to buddhism as it is seen as a sign of devotion to the Buddha.
- It is important to Buddhists as it allows them to clearly contemplate on the Buddha's teachings and characteristics that they need to implement.
- It is important to Buddhists as it helps to be reminded of the origins of their traditions & beliefs.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

One mark is awarded for each point identified:

- Seen as a sign of devotion to the Buddha (1)
- Allows them to contemplate on the Buddha's teachings and characteristics (1)
- Helps to be reminded of the origins of their traditions and beliefs (1)

It does not make any difference whether a candidate uses bullet points or not, as long as they are offering an outline, rather than a list.

Total: 3 Marks

Candidates who answer using a list, which is not an outline, can only receive 1 mark according to the mark scheme. If any one element of a list were incorrect, it would receive 0 marks.

3 (a) Outline **three** reasons why using Namō Buddhaya is important to Buddhists.

homage to Buddha

(3)

one reason is that it shows respect to the Buddha
Another reason is that the Buddha was supposedly the first
being to be enlightened so the Buddhists show their respect
Another reason is that Buddhists want to follow and
be like the Buddha and so they send homage to him



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate is able correctly to identify information about the importance of Namō Buddhaya. They find it difficult to articulate more than one reason, rephrasing the same point in different ways.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Buddhist Life

Bullet point 3.5 – Objects of devotion.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** ways objects of devotion are used within Buddhist places of worship.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two ways are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the way given and to the question asked.

Generally, candidates were able to access marks on this question, describing ways Buddhists use objects of devotion. However, many candidates identified objects, but stopped short of explaining the way that they are used, thus gaining fewer marks.

Candidates should be encouraged to pay careful attention to the wording of the question, thus ensuring they cover the breadth of what is being asked.

(b) Explain **two** ways objects of devotion are used within Buddhist places of worship.

(4)

One way is that Buddhists use ~~mantra~~ mala beads and count all 108 of them. This is so that Buddhists are able to concentrate and calm their mind and they can practice this at shrine.

Another way ~~meditation~~ is that Buddhists meditate at a statue, which can be located in a temple which allows them to gain peace within. This means that they're able to meditate in peace ~~with~~ with high levels of concentration.



The candidate gives two developed ways:

- Way One – Buddhists use Mala beads and count all 108 of them (1)
Development One – This is so that Buddhists are able to concentrate and calm their minds and they can practice this at a shrine (1) (extra information is development)
- Way Two – Buddhists meditate at a statue which can be located in a temple (1)
Development Two – This means that they're able to meditate in peace with high levels of concentration (1)

Total: 4 Marks



Read the words in the question carefully: understand what it is asking

(b) Explain **two** ways objects of devotion are used within Buddhist places of worship.

(4)

Mala beads are used to count buddhist chants.

~~Flowers~~ Flowers are used to represent reincarnation as they are born, then die and then born again, this is like the wheel of samsara.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two ways, one of which is developed:

- Way One – Mala beads are used to count buddhist chants (1) No development is offered of this point
- Way Two – Flowers are used to represent reincarnation (1)
Development Two – they are born then die and then born again (1)

There is further development of this point, with reference to samsara, but there are no additional marks available for the development of this point.

Total: 3 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Examples linked to the way given, are a good form of development

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Buddhist Life

Bullet point 3.2 – Chanting

The question asked was:

Explain **two** reasons why chanting may be important to Buddhists.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as a source.

Many candidates accessed marks on this question, describing why chanting may be important to Buddhists. However, other candidates did not try to access the mark for a source of wisdom and authority, instead focussing on their reasons and developments.

- memorise - focus
(c) Explain **two** reasons why chanting may be important to Buddhists.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

form of
meditation
- even the gods
envy... those
who are intent
(5)
on meditation.

One reason why chanting may be important to Buddhists is because it helps them focus. This will then help deeper meaning within the Buddhist to find the deeper meanings within Buddhist Scriptures.

Another reason why chanting may be important to Buddhists is because it is a form of meditation. This means that the Buddhist is able to reflect on the truth of existence, as well as the world around them. The Buddha explained that "even the gods envy... those who are intent on meditation".



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two reasons, which are developed and they provide an accurate source of wisdom.

- Reason One – it helps them to focus (1) Development One – This will then help the Buddhist to find the deeper meaning within Buddhist scriptures (1)
- Reason Two – because it is a form of meditation (1) Development Two – This means that the Buddhist is able to reflect on the truth of existence, as well as the world around them (1) Source – The Buddha explained that 'even the gods envy... those who are intent on meditation' (1)

Total: 5 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Sources can be paraphrased: however, they must be recognisable

(c) Explain **two** reasons why chanting may be important to Buddhists.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Another Buddhist belief is chanting helps them to relax and to remind them of the first Buddha. Another Buddhist belief is chanting helps them to reach enlightenment faster.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two undeveloped reasons and does not offer a source of wisdom.

- Reason One – Chanting helps them to relax and remind them of the first Buddha (1)
- Reason Two – Chanting helps them to reach enlightenment faster (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Question 3 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Living the Buddhist Life

Bullet point 3.7 – Death and mourning rituals and ceremonies

The question asked:

"Buddhist funerals should not be sad occasions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

This question worked well. Candidates across the ability range gave confident answers.

However, d) questions are good discriminators of achievement in RS and this was no exception. Candidates who did well knew a range of information about mourning rituals and ceremonies and were able to expand answers with evaluation.

Many other candidates focussed their responses purely around memorable examples, such as the use of sky burials.

Candidates who understand the diversity within the religious tradition, and the arguments for and against different practices are those best-placed to evaluate.

*(d) "Buddhist funerals should not be sad occasions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Tibetan Buddhists believe that funerals, especially their sky burials, should not be considered sad occasions. Tibetan Buddhists believe in *pratītya-samutpāda* (dependant co-existence) that connects all living things together. Therefore, providing one's body to other living things to consume can be seen as a final act of *metta* and *karma* (loving kindness and compassion) - it also depicts the teachings of ~~the~~ *anatta* (no-self). Funerals should serve as a way to teach families to lose attachment and understand everything is impermanent (*anicca*). This will allow them to purge their *vipassana dukkha* (suffering caused by change), allowing them to reach enlightenment faster. This argument is strong as it is deeply rooted in many different Buddhist teachings. However, some can argue that funerals must be sad occasions.

Some Buddhists would say that these occasions must be saddening in order to help →

those mourning to lose attachment. In the story of the mustard seed, the Buddha sends a mourning woman to find a mustard seed from a home where no one has died and only then he can bring her dead son back. The woman was unable to get the seed, realising that everyone had lost a loved one at some point. It was through this grief that the woman understood how to lose attachment and purge her *Upasavana dukkha*. The same should also apply to everyone ~~also~~ who loses someone. As they grieve, they will come to understand how inevitable it was and through this they can ~~lose~~ lose attachment and come closer to *Nibbana*.

Overall, funerals should be sad occasions as it only serves to boost the teachings and understandings one gets when ~~the~~ they mourn, allowing them to lose attachment faster and more so, increasing their likelihood of reaching *Nibbana*.



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points
- They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints
- They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question
- Within each paragraph the candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements
- The candidate begins to appraise evidence in each paragraph
- They write a partially justified conclusion

The candidate is awarded marks at the top of the mark range for Level 3 because the demands of the level descriptors for Level 3 are met.

To move to Level 4 the candidate's first step would be to develop their conclusion as an opportunity to offer further appraisal.

SPaG is awarded 3 marks, in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Level 3

Response: 9 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 12 Marks

*(d) "Buddhist funerals should not be sad occasions."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Buddhists would believe that this statement, this is because Buddhists believe that when you die you are re-born as something else. This cycle is called cycle of Samsara, although Buddhist try to escape this cycle each life they live. Buddhists see this cycle as a form of Dukkha, therefore if a Buddhist passes away there is always chance that they have finally escaped the cycle and that is a thing to be celebrated. Other Buddhists are still able to mourn their loss because they believe in metta and that's how they felt about their loved one.

In conclusion I don't believe a Buddhist's funeral should be sad because they have a belief, they know what happens after death. This means they shouldn't have anything to fear.

Although some Buddhist's may disagree with the statement, this is because Buddhist's believe that anyone can be forgiven no matter what has happened in their life. This means that if a Buddhist dies unexpectedly they may not have been forgiven in their life yet which ~~pos~~ means they are possibly still stuck in the cycle of Samsara.



The candidate gains Level 1 because:

- The candidate is able to provide information/issues and make superficial connections among a limited range of elements of the question
- The candidate offers isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief

The candidate is awarded 3 marks, the top of the mark range for Level 1 because the demands of the level descriptor are met.

SPaG was awarded 3 marks, in this example, because the candidate:

- spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy
- uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- uses a wide range of specialist terms appropriately

Level 1

Response: 3 Marks

SPaG: 3 Marks

Total: 6 Marks

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.3 – Buddhist attitudes to conflict

The question asked was

'Outline three Buddhist teachings about the causes of conflict.'

The candidates needed to provide teachings about the causes of conflict.

This elicited a wide range of correct responses. However, there was a number of candidates who described the *impact* of conflict, rather than its cause, which was not credited.

4 (a) Outline **three Buddhist teachings about the causes of conflict.**

(3)

One teaching is that ~~it~~ conflict is caused by greed. A second teaching is that it is caused by hatred. A third teaching is that conflict is caused by ignorance.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate is awarded one mark for each point identified:

- Conflict is caused by greed (1)
- It is caused by hatred (1)
- Conflict is caused by ignorance (1)

Total: 3 Marks

4 (a) Outline **three** Buddhist teachings about the causes of conflict.

(3)

One Buddhist believe is that conflict can lead to suffering and harming other people. Another Buddhist belief is conflict can lead to sadness and grief of other people. Another Buddhist belief is it can lead to anger and armies trying to get a job.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate misreads the question and focusses their response on the *impact* of conflict.

This does not address the question, which is asking for information about the *causes* of conflict.

As such the candidate does not receive any credit.

Total: 0 Marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Pay careful attention to the wording of the question to ensure you provide content that will receive credit

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.8 – Buddhist responses to issues surrounding conflict.

The question asked was:

Explain **two** ways Buddhists respond to violence.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two ways are required, and both need to be developed to be awarded 4 marks.

Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the way given and to the question asked.

The candidates needed to provide ways Buddhists may respond to issues surrounding conflict. This elicited a wide range of correct responses.

Note that in this response, the candidate reverses their development and way in their second point. This is still credited.

(b) Explain **two** ways Buddhists respond to violence.

(4)

They would respond to violence by passive resistance as they would believe in ahimsa and so they would not respond to violence with more violence as "hatred is never appeased by hatred".

They would also believe that responding to violence would be an unskillful action if it was with more violence. So they would be compassionate and listen. They believe you can only help by providing a more attractive option.



The candidate gives two different ways that a Buddhist may respond to violence and develops both of these points.

- Way One – They would respond to violence by passive resistance (1)
Development One – as they would believe in ahimsa and so they would not respond to violence with more violence. (1)

Note that the candidate does offer a relevant quote, but the development mark for this way has already been awarded.

- Way Two – They would be compassionate and listen (1) Developed (in reverse) by – responding to violence would be an unskillful action if it was with more violence (1)

Total: 4 Marks



b) questions do not require the use of a 'source of wisdom', but they can be a useful method of offering development

(b) Explain **two** ways Buddhists respond to violence.

(4)

Buddhists don't ~~believe~~ like violence and don't get into conflicts but Buddhist will defend themselves if they are attacked.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one way that Buddhists may respond, but does not develop this point.

- Way One – Buddhists will defend themselves if they are attacked (1)

The candidate does offer some further information, but this does not address the question, and, as such, is not credited.

Total: 1 Mark

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.1 – Buddhist attitudes towards peace.

The question asked was

Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the importance of peace.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two teachings are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, quotes or examples. The development must be of the teaching given and to the question asked.

The teachings then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the teaching given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark as the source.

This item was directly from the specification, almost using the exact wording.

Most candidates were able to access marks on this question, describing why peace is important to Buddhists. Candidates offered a wide range of potential sources of wisdom and authority, although some found it difficult to articulate more than one teaching in their response.

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the importance of peace.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Buddhists believe peace is important as war results in violence and suffering. Buddhists believe every action should be skillful and result in the least suffering possible. Buddha states in the Dhammapadam: 'whoever is not ~~not~~ hostile among the hostile, him I call a [holy man]'. This shows Buddha intends them to be peaceful even when there are hostile around them. Another Buddhist teaching about peace is that it cannot be achieved by violence. Buddha taught hatred can only be destroyed by loving-kindness (metta) and so any violent action, even with the intention of ending war, will only result in suffering for all.



The candidate gives two teachings, which are developed. Their first teaching is also further developed by the inclusion of an accurate source of wisdom.

- Teaching One (reverse) – Buddha intends them to be peaceful even when those around them are hostile (1) Source – ‘Whoever is not hostile among the hostile, him I call a holy man’ (1) Development One – Peace is important as war results in violence and suffering. Buddhists believe every action should be skilful and result in the least suffering possible (1)
- Teaching Two (reverse) – Buddha taught hatred can only be destroyed with loving kindness (metta) (1) Development Two – Peace... cannot be achieved by violence... even with the intention of ending war (1)

Total: 5 Marks

(c) Explain **two** Buddhist teachings about the importance of peace.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One Buddhist teaching about peace and it is important
is the Buddhist teaching of pacifism and how violence
will only lead to more suffering. This is important
as Buddhism is about ending suffering and ending
its causes.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one developed teaching.

- Teaching One – Teaching of pacifism and how violence will only lead to more suffering (1) Developed by – This is important as Buddhism is about ending suffering and ending its causes (1)

Total: 2 Marks

Question 4 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the d) items. As explained in the specification this means:

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

AO2 constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question asks candidates to 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the validity of the arguments used/appraisal to gain the higher grades. Many candidates produced excellent answers giving reasons for and against but failed to evaluate the credibility of the argument. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels. Many candidates used words that implied appraisal, such as strong/weak argument, but were unable to follow this up with genuine evaluation.

d) items are marked using a levels-based mark scheme.

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Peace and Conflict

Bullet point 4.6 – Buddhist attitudes to war.

The question asked:

"A Buddhist should never fight."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- refer to different Buddhist points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Please note that as required in the bullet point in the question, candidates are required to give different Buddhist points of view.

Candidates were able to give knowledge and understanding of the differing views on fighting.

The majority included different Buddhist points of view. Many candidates responded to individuals' engagement in fighting, whereas others approached this question from the position of Buddhist nations.

Some candidates were able to expand answers with appraisal, but many were not analytical in their approach and limited themselves to Level 2.

This question does not have SPaG marks – it is marked out of 12.

(d) "A Buddhist should never fight."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- refer to different Buddhist points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I disagree with this statement. I think it is unfair to say never because if in a situation where a fight is brought to them fighting back as self defense should be acceptable and good as it is preventing your personal suffering.

Arguments for never fighting will be supported by many Buddhists. These Buddhists are complete pacifists and believe strictly in the moral precept of 'not harming or taking life'. There are physical fights. Buddhists are taught by the Buddha that conflicts and fights are a cause of the 3 poisons of greed, hate and ignorance. For this reason, as the three poisons bring forth suffering, ^{some} Buddhists will never fight. They would rather die not fighting as they believe they will either achieve enlightenment in that moment and be free of eternal suffering; or will just be reborn. Fighting is an unskillful action and so I understand why ~~some~~ Buddhists may agree with the statement. I think the argument is quite strong actually, as it shows why they shouldn't fight and what is the cause of their fighting and further results of fighting. Furthermore their beliefs are supported by teachings of the Buddha (the moral precepts) and is true.

However some Buddhists may say that never is too strong and that 'rarely' or 'only as a last resort' would be better choices of words. These Buddhists aren't entirely pacifists and are stronger believers in ending suffering by any means.

possible. For this reason if a fight is causing any form of suffering they will do what they believe must be done to put an end to it. Of course being Buddhists fighting back would be a last resort. These Buddhists believe fighting causes suffering and that they must find a way to end it and fighting back in this scenario will be skillful and of right action. I think this is also quite a strong argument, because fighting does cause suffering and Buddhists live to end suffering that is their main purpose - achieve enlightenment and end suffering. Furthermore although it is the belief that there is rebirth you never know, especially if you may be reborn as a plant or dirty animal as you have not been skillful enough in your actions and bad karma is a result so they want to live longer to be better and hopefully pass away achieving enlightenment.

I think the against argument is the strongest here but both arguments are very strong and understandable, but from my point of view total pacifism is wrong as they will endure more suffering that way, ~~I~~ in my opinion.



The candidate gains Level 3 because:

- The candidate deconstructed in a simple way religious information, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints.
- They showed an accurate understanding of religion and belief.
- They referred to different Buddhist points of view.
- They made limited judgements leading to a partially justified conclusion.

The candidate is awarded marks at the bottom of the mark range for Level 3 because only some of the demands of the level descriptor are met.

Level 3

Total: 7 Marks



Candidates should be familiar with the requirements in the levels mark schemes

There are many different ways to answer d) items and gain marks: a template will not assure good marks.

(d) "A Buddhist should never fight."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Buddhist teachings
- refer to different Buddhist points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

I agree with the statement as you are hurting others which is the opposite of karuna. So therefore you are ~~achieving~~ doing the right action. This is a strong argument as you are hurting others and causing even more conflict so you will ~~stay in the~~ ~~Sam~~ not be following the eightfold path.

Continuing, I agree as through ~~the~~ hurting of others ~~that~~, you are gaining bad karma, this will therefore keep you trapped in the Samsara cycle for longer.

However, I disagree as if the sole purpose of the fight was to restore peace then that would be the right action. But this is a weak argument since fighting will just increase

more anger and hatred which
fuels the three fires.

Furthermore, I ~~agree~~^{disagree} with the
statement as maybe this fight
may be the last resort to perhaps
protect the people. So this will definitely
be compassionate and a generous
act as your protecting others and
this is a strong argument as it
restores peace eventually so ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~is~~
suffering ~~and~~ ^{and hatred} ~~and~~ takes place.

In conclusion I agree with the statement
as fighting it will just cause even
more anger so therefore ~~nothing then~~
a less peace is present. The main
Buddhist goal is to reach enlightenment
and not fight. Fighting makes them
further away from achieving or
~~enlightenment~~ enlightenment since ~~if~~ ^{as} they
are not following the eightfold path
accordingly.



The candidate gains Level 2 because:

- The candidate's response offers superficial connections made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question – it is able to use knowledge from a Buddhist perspective and shows a limited understanding of religion and belief.
- A conclusion was given with a superficial attempt to appraise the evidence.

The candidate is awarded marks in the middle of the mark range for Level 2 because most, but not all, the demands of the level descriptor are met.

Total: 5 Marks

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Answer a) items in outlines ie full sentences
- Provide 3 sentences for a) items, each on a separate line
- b) items should have two developed reasons and not more than two
- Development may be 1) examples 2) quotes 3) extra relevant material
- Development must link to the reason given and still answer the question set
- c) items are similar to b) items but should also use a source as a fifth element
- The source of wisdom may be a paraphrase but should be identifiable
- The source of wisdom must be linked to the reason given
- d) item responses must show AO2 skills to achieve high marks
- d) items must show an appraisal of the argument not simply rely on a set format
- Level descriptors are used to mark d) items, not point marking

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

