



## Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (8RS0)  
Paper 4D: Islam

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## General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

## Paper 8RS0 4D: Islam – June 2023

### Mark scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makkah society was tribal and each tribe had its own gods and spirit to protect it.</li> <li>• Makkah was at the centre of the trade routes and the Kaaba attracted many visitors who paid to leave their idols there.</li> <li>• Polytheism was also linked with animistic beliefs that spirits lived in natural objects.</li> <li>• The tribes revered the supernatural powers of their idols and believed they would protect them during inter-tribal fighting and raiding.</li> <li>• Moral behaviour was not linked to religious beliefs and the only existing rules related to loyalty to the tribe.</li> </ul>	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Answer	Mark
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting the AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</b> The Qur'an was given to Muhammad in his revelation during the Night of Power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Qur'an was given to Muhammad by his revelation during the Night of Power.</li> <li>• The Qur'an is regarded as holy and greatly respected by all Muslims.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the actual word of Allah that must not be altered.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muhammad was chosen as Allah's final prophet to receive the revelation of the Qur'an because earlier revelations were ignored or corrupted.</li> <li>• The Qur'an contains Allah's word and this is significant because it specifies beliefs and practices that humans require in order to worship him.</li> <li>• The Qur'an is central to the life of Muslims because they will be judged by their response to it.</li> <li>• Though the Qur'an is regarded as the final word of Allah, Shi'a Muslims believe that there will be further revelations when the 'Hidden Imam' returns and this may be significant because it challenges the traditional view about revelation.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>

Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2)</li> </ul>
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Question number	Indicative content	Marks
3	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shahadah means 'witness/testimony' and must be recited twice in front of witnesses.</li> <li>• The Shahadah facilitates consciousness of Allah's presence in daily life.</li> <li>• This creed demonstrates that Muslims intend to live in submission to the Will of Allah.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shahadah is so important that it is spoken at birth, death and during Salah because a Muslim believes and makes it central to life.</li> <li>• Shahadah is important to Muslims because it emphasises the oneness of Allah and the importance of Muhammad as the final prophet.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that the Shahadah separates Christianity and Islam because the Christian belief in the Trinity is seen as contrary to the Muslim belief of Tawhid.</li> <li>• All other Pillars relate to the Shahadah because they are commanded by Allah in order to demonstrate belief and worship.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>If candidates explore only one of the Six Beliefs they cannot normally progress beyond level 2. If they explore more than two, read all the answer and credit the best two.</b></p> <p><b>In this mark scheme, reference is made to two of the Beliefs, namely the oneness of Allah and the role of angels.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following relating to AO1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe that Allah is the sole creator and sustainer of the universe.</li> <li>• Allah has no partners and may not be compared to anything or anyone.</li> <li>• Allah is not remote or distant from his creation. He is transcendent but immanent.</li> <li>• Angels are beings made for submission to Allah, to serve and worship him.</li> <li>• Many angels have specific roles.</li> </ul>	(8)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative content	Mark
4(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Six Beliefs are central to belief and practice within the Muslim faith.</li> <li>• The Six Beliefs are accepted generally by all Muslims but sometimes with different emphases.</li> <li>• Shi'a Muslims differ from Sunnis in their understanding of predestination.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tawhid is the defining doctrine of Islam because of its uncompromising monotheism.</li> <li>• The Six Beliefs are of vital importance within Islam; giving meaning and significance to all Muslim belief and practice because Allah began and will end the universe and hence this must affect a Muslim's attitude towards life, Al-Janna and Jahannam.</li> <li>• The Qur'an is seen as providing a guide to everyday life because it gives legal and social guidance.</li> <li>• For Sunnis particularly, the Qur'an is used to give Muslims a spiritual focus in order to bring them closer to Allah.</li> <li>• Shi'a Muslims might consider the Six Beliefs to be incomplete because of their inclusion of the Imamate as one of the Five Roots.</li> <li>• The desire of Sufis to achieve oneness with Allah may be seen to be of more overriding importance than the Six Beliefs.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(20)

<b>Level</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Information/issues may be selected (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	6–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	11–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>• Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	16–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>• Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>• Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>