



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

Mark scheme

June 2003

GCE

Religious Studies

Unit RS01

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Levels of Response descriptors in AS examinations

Marks for 10-mark questions are shown in brackets

Level	Quality of Written Communication	AO1	AO2	Marks
5	Appropriate form and style of writing, clear and coherent organisation of information, with appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility and high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence/examples.	A very good response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and arguments and are critically analysed. A process of reasoning leads to an appropriate conclusion.	13-15 [9-10]
4	Appropriate form and style of writing; generally clear and coherent organisation of information, mainly appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility and fairly high level of spelling, punctuation and grammar.	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / examples.	A good response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and arguments and some critical analysis. A conclusion is drawn which follows from some of the reasoning.	10-12 [7-8]
3	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing, some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary. Satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing reasonable understanding.	Main issues are addressed and views are considered, with some supporting evidence. There is some attempt at analysis or comment. Evaluation may not be fully supported by reasoning or evidence.	7-9 [5-6]
2	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.	An outline account, including some relevant material. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding. Some coherence.	A simple argument, with some evidence in support.	4-6 [3-4]
1	There may be little clarity and coherence in organisation; little appropriate or accurate use of specialist vocabulary. The legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be very limited.	Isolated elements of accurate and relevant information. Slight signs of understanding.	A few basic points which are relevant, but no real argument.	1-3 [1-2]
0	There may be little clarity and coherence in organisation; little appropriate or accurate use of specialist vocabulary. The legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be very limited.	Nothing of relevance.	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0

Unit 1: An Introduction to Religion and Human Experience

1 *Read the passage and answer questions (a) and (b) which follow.*

“For some believers, the way into a religion is through a conversion experience. Their new-found faith is then further inspired by the scriptures of their religion.”

(a) *Explain what is meant by a conversion experience.*

Conversion

Process of change. May have clearly defined stages: revulsion with existing state / passivity / crisis experience / suddenness of change / emergence into new life. Must also allow outline of more gradual / voluntary change, and of experiences which appear to have nothing leading up to them.

Maximum Level 2 if example only.

For answer with no example award maximum Level 3.

For answer which does not recognise breadth award maximum mid-Level 4.

(10 marks)

AO1

(b) *Explain how believers may be inspired by the scriptures of their religion.*

Answers will vary according to the tradition(s) being studied. Three reasonable points explained and illustrated would make a thorough answer.

Ways include:

Effect of example of religious leaders / founding figures.

Power / presence of the divine mediated through the words.

Random reading disclosing divine will.

Instruction.

Wonder / awe.

Note: Examples could be given in terms of specific individuals who have been inspired by scripture or religious experience or in more general terms.

For answers without illustration / example award maximum Level 3.

(10 marks)

AO1

- 2 (a) *Explain what is meant by a mystical experience.*

Mystical experiences likely characteristics

Passivity of recipient; ineffable, noetic and transient (James); Loss of self / Union with what is being experienced; Ecstasy.

For answers without illustration /examples maximum Level 3.

For answers not reflecting any breadth / variety of concept award maximum mid-Level 4.

(15 marks) AO1

- (b) (i) *Explain the main features of a revelation experience, and*
(ii) *assess the view that no form of religious experience can be trusted as a source of faith and practice.*

(i) Revelation

Divine self disclosure or disclosure of message. May be dramatic religious experience, may be a moment of realisation coming at the end of a period of reflection. Some sources contrast ‘propositional’ revelation of a truth with non-propositional revelation – the seeing of the work of God within history or nature.

For answers without illustration / examples maximum Level 3.

For answers not reflecting any breadth / variety of concept award maximum mid -Level 4.

(10 marks) AO1

(ii) Assess

Reasons for distrust – subjective; open to fraud and error; not understood; source of dissent.

Reasons for trusting it - tests to distinguish genuine experiences; source of spiritual insight. Has been basis of much belief - may be so again.

(15 marks) AO2

3 (a) *Outline the teaching of one religious tradition about the nature and revelation of its scriptures.*

Nature

Relevant material could include the different types of writing in the scripture, different strands / sources of material, the material as the Word of God / Buddha / Guru or the record of human ideas.

Revelation

Arising from the insight of one or more important figures or from the direct action of the divine.

The following notes indicate the likely choice of content for each tradition.

Buddhism

Candidates may explicitly limit themselves to one tradition. If they deal with Buddhism in general there may be recognition of the variety of texts classed as scripture.

e.g. The tripitaka - Sutta, Vinaya, and Abhidhamma Pitaka.

The Mahayana Sutras.

Christianity

Candidates may deal generally with 'The Bible' or the Old / New Testament.

Hinduism

Two types of scripture: shruti and smriti

Shruti 'What has been heard from the gods' Cannot be changed - The Vedas including the Upanishads.

Smriti (what is remembered) also orally preserved and open to improvisation and challenge.

Includes the Ramayana and Mahabharata and codes of law.

Islam

Qur'an and Hadith (may be Qur'an only)

Qur'an Revealed Word of God / Recitation of word of God – memorised then recorded. Seen as perfect record.

Hadith – Sayings of Muhammad – Oral tradition later recorded in writing.

Judaism

Answer could be limited to **Torah** with a clear explanation of the Books of Moses, but this should acknowledge that it is not the only scripture. Alternatively, the answer could reflect the range of scriptures - Torah, Neviim and Ketubim and / or include the Talmud. There should be recognition that the way the scriptures are seen varies within Judaism.

Sikhism

Guru Granth Sahib – its nature as Guru.

For an answer dealing with either 'Nature' or 'Revelation' only, award maximum mid-Level 4 for a full answer.

Thorough answers (Level 5) should show some awareness of the range or diversity of material within the scriptures and / or diversity of views about the revelation of scripture within the chosen tradition.

(15 marks)

AO1

- (b) *Explain what other sources of authority there are in religion, and assess the view that scripture is the most important authority in religion today.*

This answer may, but need not, be limited to one religion.

Explain - expect up to three of the following: religious leaders; other writings; personal religious experience; conscience; religious communities / traditions.

For answer without illustration / example award maximum Level 3.

(10 marks) **AO1**

Assess – arguments against scripture include ‘out of date’; lacks application to modern issues; not seen as relevant. Arguments ‘for’ scripture – scripture as word of God; source of authority for religious leaders; unchanged; source of fundamental principles.

(15 marks) **AO2**