

Mark Scheme (Results) Summer 2008

GCE

GCE Religious Studies (6584) Paper 1C

6584 - Unit 4C: Buddhism Mark Scheme

Question 1c		
Level	Mark	AO1 Examiners should be aware than any valid approach must be credited.
4	19-24	<i>Comprehensive understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage, with clear and critical analysis and proficient use of religious language, discussed within a wider context.</i>
		It is likely candidates may stress the thrust of argument in this passage that Buddhist philosophers argue for a middle way between everything existing and nothing existing. Candidates may present an exposition that clarifies the view that everything exists without change compared to the view that nothing exists leading to the middle way that all is impermanent. Candidates may provide a context in terms of key Buddhist beliefs such as the three signs of being with an analysis of key ideas such as middle way and impermanence. Candidates may refer to contributions from Buddhist sources such as the questions of King Milinda. There may be evidence of conceptual analysis such as attention given to impermanence with the idea of the beginning and end of all that exists. Some candidates may present ideas from various Buddhist schools such as some Mahayana traditions regarding themes such as sunya, emptiness.
3	13-18	<i>Clear understanding of the main point(s) and key idea(s) of the argument/interpretation of the passage, set in an appropriate context, with some analysis of key concepts; use of relevant religious terms.</i>
		Candidates may clarify the main line of reasoning regarding one of the three marks of existence, anicca. They may examine the line of reasoning in this passage with a clear exposition of the reasoning from the middle way to impermanence. Candidates may examine terms such as middle way, causal relations and links with existence. Candidates may refer to the application of anicca to other marks of existence such as anatta and dukkha. Some may link the quest for the middle way to related themes such as its manifestations in the life of the Buddha and related notions in some Buddhist developments such as Zen and non-attachment.
2	7-12	<i>Presentation of a selection of relevant material which reflects a basic understanding of the argument/interpretation of the passage; some use of specialised religious language in appropriate contexts.</i>
		Candidates may provide a basic understanding of the passage about the three signs of being with particular attention to anicca. Some candidates may illustrate these themes by means of a selected account of the life of the Buddha and the use of the middle way in his teachings.
1	1-6	<i>Uncritical presentation of the argument/interpretation of the passage; limited ability to identify and select the most relevant/important information and, therefore, reflecting little understanding; over reliance on repetition of the chosen passage.</i>
		Candidates may provide a simple summary of the passage with limited attention to terms such as change and the first noble truth.

Level	Mark	A02
4	13-16	<p><i>Cohesive and comprehensive analysis of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint and a careful analysis of their relationship to human experience and religion; a sustained and critical line or argument, including a balanced discussion of alternatives; substantiated conclusions drawn with full justification of viewpoint; expressed accurately, fluently, using a range of technical terms.</i></p> <p>It is likely candidates may debate the line of reasoning in this passage, considering a range of evidence and interpretation. Candidates may argue using exemplar material from Buddhist sources such as beliefs about anicca in Theravada compared to Mahayana notions of sunya. Candidates may indicate a clear line of reasoning such as agreement about the role of anicca and it is likely this will be justified by reference to Buddhist thinkers and sources.</p> <p>Candidates may evaluate the implications for religion in the sense that Buddhist notions of impermanence may have a radical impact on a range of other religious ideas such as a belief in a soul and personal identity. From the perspective of human experience candidates may debate the implications such as notions of pessimism and the virtue of equanimity.</p>
3	9-12	<p><i>Evidence of understanding of a range of implications of the expressed viewpoint in their broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a clear line of argument and comparison of relative strengths/weaknesses of a point of view; a structured argument, clearly expressed and accurately using some technical terms, giving a clear justification of a point of view.</i></p> <p>Candidates may debate the implications of this passage about the interpretation of anicca in the context of the middle way in Buddhist thought. They may compare some views for and against the interpretation in the passage and come to their own line of reasoning.</p> <p>In terms of implications for religion candidates may argue that some of these Buddhist notions are distinctive of Buddhist thought such as the links between anicca and anatta, the notion of no soul. In terms of human experience candidates may debate the usefulness of the eight-fold path as a means of putting these beliefs into practice.</p>
2	5-8	<p><i>An attempt to consider the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and in relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a basic attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view and justify opinions at a simple level; sufficient clarity of meaning.</i></p> <p>Candidates may argue in support of this passage at a simple level. They may consider that the passage coheres with insights from the life of the Buddha with evidence of his sights and change eventually leading to enlightenment</p>
1	1-4	<p><i>Limited awareness of the implications of the expressed viewpoint for its broader context and relation to aspects of human experience and religion; a limited attempt to discuss and evaluate a point of view, imprecisely expressed.</i></p> <p>Candidates may present a superficial account of a view in support of this passage that human existence is in a state of flux.</p>