

GCSE Past Paper Questions – Paper 1 - Buddhist Beliefs

2 markers

Give two reasons why Siddhartha Gautama gave up his life of luxury. (2019)

Give two reasons why Siddhartha Gautama rejected his ascetic life. (2018)

Give two reasons why Buddha rejected his life of wealth. (sample 1)

Give two of the four signs that the Buddha saw. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two ways in which belief in Bodhisattvas influences Buddhists today. (2019)

Explain two ways in which the Four Sights influenced the Buddha's teachings. (2018)

Explain two ways in which learning about the life of the Buddha influences Buddhists today. (sample 1)

Explain two ways in which the Buddha's ascetic life influenced his later teaching. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two Buddhist beliefs about the Pure Land. (2019)

Explain two stages of the Eightfold Path. (2018)

Explain two Buddhist teachings about nibbana/nirvana. (sample 1)

Explain two Buddhist teachings about the causes of suffering. (sample 2)

12 markers

'It is not easy to achieve enlightenment.' (2019)

'The Four Noble Truths are the most important Buddhist teaching.' (2018)

For Buddhists, 'impermanence (anicca) is the most important of the Three Marks of Existence.'
(sample 1)

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

 (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – dukkha, life of the Buddha, dependent arising, Buddhahood and Pure Land, types of Buddhism.

Paper 1 - Buddhist Practices

2 markers

Give two religious practices performed at a Buddhist temple. (2019)

Give two of the six perfections in the Mahayanan tradition. (2018)

Give two of the five moral precepts. (sample 1)

Give two types of Buddhist meditation. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two contrasting ways in which Buddhists mourn the dead in Japan and Tibet. (2019)

Explain two contrasting Buddhist meditation practices (2018)

Explain two contrasting Buddhist rituals associated with death and mourning. (sample 1)

Explain two contrasting aims of Buddhist meditation. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two reasons why meditation is important for Buddhists. (2019)

Explain two reasons why Wesak is important for Buddhists. (2018)

Explain two ways in which shrines are important in Buddhist worship. (sample 1)

Explain two ways in which death ceremonies are important to Buddhists in Tibet. (sample 2)

12 markers

'For Buddhists, worship in the temple is more important than worship in the home.' (2019)

'It is impossible for Buddhists to always act with compassion (karuna).' (2018)

'The best way to understand the Buddha's teachings about the Three Marks of Existence is by meditating.' (sample 1)

'The five precepts are impossible to live by.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) - Metta, six perfections, karma, parinirvana (meaning significance and importance).

Common themes – meditation, worship.

Paper 2 - Christian Beliefs

2 markers

Give two Christian beliefs about Jesus' Ascension. (2019)

Give two Christian teachings about original sin. (2018)

Give two qualities which Christians believe describe the nature of God. (sample 1)

Give two reasons why the disciples believed Jesus was alive after his resurrection. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two ways in which belief in the Trinity influences Christians today. (2019)

Explain two ways in which Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today. (2018)

Explain two ways in which belief in the resurrection of Jesus influences Christians today. (sample 1)

Explain two ways in which the belief that God is just influences Christians today. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two Christian beliefs about the causes of sin. (2019)

Explain two Christian teachings about the incarnation. (2018)

Explain two Christian teachings about judgement. (sample 1)

Explain two Christian teachings about the means of salvation. (sample 2)

12 markers

'God cannot be loving because people suffer.' (2019)

'A loving God would not send anyone to hell.' (2018)

'If God were loving, there would be no suffering in the world.' (sample 1)

'The Bible tells Christians all they need to know about God's creation.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – atonement, ascension, resurrection.

Common themes – nature of God and existence of suffering, creation and sin.

Paper 2 - Christian Practices

2 markers

Give two ways in which the Church helps Christians to respond to persecution. (2019)

Give two ways in which Christians might show their commitment to Church growth. (2018)

Give two examples of the work of the Church in the local community. (sample 1)

Give two ways in which Christian churches respond to persecution. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two contrasting examples of the work of the Church in the local community. (2019)

Explain two contrasting examples of Christian worship. (2018)

Explain two contrasting ways in which the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated in Christianity. (sample 1)

Explain two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two reasons why celebrating Holy Communion/Eucharist is important for many Christians. (2019)

Explain two ways in which the worldwide Church works for reconciliation. (2018)

Explain two ways in which Christian street pastors carry out their Christian duty. (sample 1)

Explain two ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas. (sample 2)

12 markers

'The Lord's Prayer is the only prayer that Christians need to use.' (2019)

'Infant baptism is not as important as believers' baptism.' (2018)

'The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is by practising prayer.' (sample 1)

'Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – liturgical/non-liturgical worship, pilgrimage, evangelism, response to persecution.

Common themes – prayer, Christian organisations.

Thematic Paper 2

Relationships and Families

2 markers

Give two religious teachings about gender discrimination. (2019)

Give two religious beliefs about same-sex marriage. (2018)

Give two religious beliefs about the nature of the family. (sample 1)

Give two religious beliefs about the use of contraception. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about unmarried couples living together (cohabitation). (2019)

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the roles of men and women. (2018)

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the use of artificial contraception within marriage. (sample 1)

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about same-sex parents. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two religious beliefs about the purpose of families. (2019)

Explain two religious beliefs about divorce. (2018)

Explain two religious beliefs about the role of parents in a religious family. (sample 1)

Explain two religious beliefs about sexual relationships outside of marriage (adultery). (sample 2)

12 markers

'It is wrong to disapprove of homosexual relationships.' (2019)

'For religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.' (2018)

'Divorce is never right.' (sample 1)

'Men and women should not have equal rights.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – contraception/family planning, same-sex parents/polygamy.

Common themes – homosexuality, marriage/divorce, gender roles.

Religion and Life

2 markers

Give two ways religious believers might help to reduce pollution. (2019)

Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. (2018)

Give two examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship. (sample 1)

Give two religious beliefs about pollution. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (2019)

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia. (2018)

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about abortion. (sample 1)

Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two religious beliefs about how human life began on earth. (2019)

Explain two religious beliefs about how peoples' actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife. (2018)

Explain two religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (sample 1)

Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife. (sample 2)

12 markers

'Abortion should be allowed only when the mother's life is at risk.' (2019)

'Abuse of the environment is impossible to stop.' (2018)

'It is not reasonable to believe in life after death.' (sample 1)

'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – sanctity/quality of life, Euthanasia, stewardship/dominion, animals for food

Common themes – animal experimentation, beginning of human life, afterlife.

Peace and Conflict

2 markers

Give two ways that religious believers can work for peace. (2019)

Give two reasons why many religious believers are against violent protest. (2018)

Give two ways in which religious believers help victims of war. (sample 1)

Give two religious beliefs that show that violence is wrong. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two similar religious beliefs about reconciliation. (2019)

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about nuclear weapons. (2018)

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about weapons of mass destruction. (sample 1)

Explain two similar religious beliefs about pacifism. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two reasons why religious people help victims of war. (2019)

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all acts of terrorism are wrong. (2018)

Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness. (sample 1)

Explain two religious beliefs about justice. (sample 2)

12 markers

'Religious believers should never fight in a war.' (2019)

'War is the best way to solve problems between countries.' (2018)

'War is never right.' (sample 1)

'There are no good reasons for countries to possess nuclear weapons.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – reconciliation, peace-keeping, holy war, just war theory, religious organisations, reasons for war.

Common themes – pacifism or war, wmds/nuclear weapons.

Crime and Punishment

2 markers

Give two of the aims of punishment. (2019)

Give two causes of crime. (2018)

Give two examples of religious moral laws which some criminals break. (sample 1)

Give two religious beliefs about forgiveness. (sample 2)

4 markers

Explain two contrasting religious views about how people who commit a crime because of an addiction should be treated. (2019)

Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of community service as a punishment. (2018)

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the death penalty for murder. (sample 1)

Explain two similar religious beliefs about people who break the law. (sample 2)

5 markers

Explain two religious reasons why some people are against the death penalty. (2019)

Explain two religious beliefs which show that all hate crimes are wrong. (2018)

Explain two religious beliefs about breaking the law in order to get a bad law changed. (sample 1)

Explain two religious beliefs about the death penalty. (sample 2)

12 markers

'There is nothing wrong with sending a criminal to prison.' (2019)

'The death penalty should never be used.' (2018)

'Corporal punishment can never be justified.' (sample 1)

'Reformation is the best aim of punishment.' (sample 2)

Major topics yet to come up (5 and 12 markers) – forgiveness, community service, principle of utility/sanctity of life, evil intentions and actions.

Common themes – death penalty, aims of punishment, treatment of criminals.