



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2120UD0-1



S25-2120UD0-1

FRIDAY, 16 MAY 2025 – MORNING

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – AS unit 1

Option D

An Introduction to the Study of Buddhism

1 hour 15 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

0	1
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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 30 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

You are reminded of the need to:

- reflect on, select and apply specified knowledge.
- understand, interpret and evaluate critically religious concepts, texts and other sources.
- identify, investigate and critically analyse questions, arguments, ideas and issues arising from within this unit.
- construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence.
- engage in debate in a way that recognises the right of others to hold a different view.
- present responses to questions which are clear and coherent.
- use specialist language and terminology appropriately.
- use spelling, punctuation and grammar appropriately.

UNIT 1 – An Introduction to the Study of Religion

Option D – An Introduction to the Study of Buddhism

Part **a)** of each question tests your knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

Part **b)** of each question tests your skills of analysis and evaluation, with regards to aspects of and approaches to religion and belief.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|
- a)** Explain the Four Sights, with reference to dukkha (unsatisfactoriness), anicca (impermanence) and anatta (insubstantiality/no-self). [15]
- b)** ‘Experiencing the Four Sights had the greatest impact on the Buddha’s life.’ Evaluate this view. [15]

Or,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|
- a)** Explain the seriousness of the Four Parajikas ‘defeats’ for the Theravada monastic sangha. [15]
- b)** ‘The Four Parajikas are no longer relevant for the sangha today.’ Evaluate this view. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

0	3
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a) Examine the concept of arhat (worthy one) within Buddhism. [15]

b) 'The arhat is an essential feature of Buddhism.'
Evaluate this view. [15]

Or,

0	4
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a) Explain the importance of meditation in Buddhism. [15]

b) 'Samatha is more important than vipassana as a form of meditation.'
Evaluate this view. [15]

Or,

0	5
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a) Examine magga (the path) as part of the Four Noble Truths. [15]

b) 'The Four Noble Truths are not essential for all Buddhists.'
Evaluate this view. [15]

END OF PAPER

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