

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

‘Analyse the purpose of the Sangha for Buddhists.’

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **6 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **4 marks**

This essay is well-structured, focused, and succinct, addressing both the question and the skill of analysis. It avoids unnecessary detail, prioritising clarity and relevance, which are essential for achieving full marks.

Candidate 2

‘Analyse the purpose of Yom Kippur.’

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: (7 marks) maximum awarded **6 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **4 marks**

This essay remains focused on the question, does not deviate from the point of ‘Yom Kippur’ and demonstrates key knowledge and skills throughout.

Candidate 3

‘Analyse the purpose of the Christian Community’

The candidate was awarded **9 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **5 marks**

◆ Analysis: **4 marks**

This essay is clearly structured - two paragraphs always used and focused on the question. The candidate used the language of the question to show the marker that they are attempting to answer the question.

Candidate 4

‘Analyse the purpose of practicing the Five Pillars.’

The candidate was awarded **9 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **6 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **3 marks**

An example of an essay that focuses on just two of the five pillars enables the candidate to avoid telling the marker everything they know about each pillar. Instead, it allows for a more focused and in-depth analysis of the two selected pillars, ensuring that their knowledge and understanding are effectively applied and developed.

Candidate 5

‘Evaluate the significance of Jewish beliefs about God.’

The candidate was awarded **20 out of 20 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **10 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **5 marks**
- ◆ Evaluation: **5 marks**

An example of an essay with excellent structure which effectively uses clear signposting throughout to ensure the candidate stays focused on answering the question. By grounding their argument in basic beliefs about God, the candidate maintains a consistent line of reasoning and avoids losing track of their main argument.

Candidate 6

‘Evaluate the significance of Buddhist beliefs about the Three Marks of Existence.’

The candidate was awarded **19 out of 20 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **10 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **5 marks**
- ◆ Evaluation: **4 marks**

This essay demonstrates a clear and logical structure in answering the question. The first paragraph presents the key knowledge, the second offers detailed analysis, and the third provides evaluation. Each section stays focused on the question, avoiding any deviation into other aspects of Buddhism that are unrelated to the Three Marks of Existence.

Candidate 7

‘Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from sexual relationships.’

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **6 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **4 marks**

Another example of an essay signposting their knowledge and understanding (sexual relationship/moral issue/religious view) and using key words to demonstrate their application of skills.

Candidate 8

‘Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from custodial sentences.’

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **5 marks**

◆ Analysis: **3 marks**

This answer demonstrates a clear and focused structure, addressing all aspects of the question in a single paragraph. It effectively integrates 5 key understanding points (KU) and 3 analytical points (A), showcasing a deep understanding of the topic and its implications. The thoroughness and clarity of the response makes it easy to follow and effectively answers the question.

Candidate 9

‘Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from justifications for war.’

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 10 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: (9 marks) maximum awarded **6 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **2 marks**

This is an example of a candidate who has placed significant emphasis on demonstrating their knowledge and understanding, but has not balanced their response with sufficient analysis. As a result, while their essay may provide a strong factual foundation, it lacks the depth of critical thinking and evaluation needed to gain full marks for analysis. This highlights the importance of ensuring that analysis is integrated throughout the response, rather than solely focusing on knowledge and understanding.

Candidate 10

‘Evaluate non-religious responses to moral issues arising from the use of embryos.’

The candidate was awarded **17 out of 20 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: (15 marks) maximum awarded **10 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: **2 marks**
- ◆ Evaluation: **5 marks**

This candidate demonstrates excellent knowledge and understanding alongside strong evaluative skills. However, they struggle slightly to include more than two analytical points, which limits their ability to fully develop their argument. Overall, this is a solid attempt, but the response would benefit from additional support with

analysis. This can be challenging in essays that lack direct quotes, as these often provide a foundation for deeper analytical exploration.

Candidate 11

‘Evaluate non-religious responses to moral issues arising from modern armaments.’

The candidate was awarded **18 out of 20 marks**.

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each element of this question paper component:

- ◆ Knowledge and Understanding: **8 marks**
- ◆ Analysis: (7 marks) maximum awarded **5 marks**
- ◆ Evaluation: (6 marks) maximum awarded **5 marks**

This is an excellent example of an essay that emphasises the skills element of the question rather than the knowledge. It is well-argued and demonstrates a strong focus on critical analysis and application of skills throughout.