

Revision for the 4th Form Philosophy Exam.

The exam will ask you to answer 3 questions, one from each of the sections:

- Belief about Deity
- Religious and Spiritual Experience
- Religion, Reason and Revelation.

You will be able to choose which religion you answer on in each section: Buddhism or Islam.

It is NOT advisable to revise for only one religion; you may find the question for the other religion easier to answer, but not have the knowledge to apply to it, if you do!

You can answer different questions for different religions, but you cannot change religion within the question. If you start with Islam, you must answer a, b, c, d **and** e with Islam.

To check you know everything you need for each topic (both for Buddhism and Islam), see below.

The exam will last 1 ½ hours. You should spend 30 minutes on each question.

How to answer GCSE Questions

a) and b) – Unless you are asked for a specific religious view, be **generic** in your definition

c) Make **3 brief points**. Not an essay.

d) Use key religious **vocabulary**
Quote if possible and relevant
Refer back to the **question** to make sure you're answering it
Develop your points with:
Examples
Or **quotations**
Or **reasons**
Or **teachings**

e) Focus mostly on the religion the question addresses
Use key religious **vocabulary**
Make sure you give two **opposing** views
The trick is two opposing *views*, not two opposing *religions*. You can mention different religions if they offer the opposing *view*. Make sure that at least **50%** of your answer focuses on the religion addressed by the question.
Don't simply **list** beliefs of different religions/groups
Justify all opinions with:
Examples
Or **quotations**
Or **reasons**
Or **teachings**

INCLUDE **your opinion!** You can't get a C without it.
Give **justification** for your opinion as well.
Make sure that you **don't repeat** reasons; say something **new** when justifying your opinion.
If you're running out of time, briefly mention and justify the opposite view and your view. This will make a huge improvement in your marks!

Islam Checklist

Belief about Deity

- ✓ Beliefs about the nature of Allah
- ✓ Reasons given in support of belief
- ✓ Concept of miracles, including different beliefs within the religion
- ✓ Allah intervening in the world
- ✓ The creation of the world
- ✓ Teaching of Mohammed (pbuh) about Allah

Religious and Spiritual Experience

- ✓ Concept of worship
- ✓ Worship in mosque and home
- ✓ Tawhid and Shirk
- ✓ Absence of symbols
- ✓ Use of calligraphy
- ✓ Prayer (in practice and as a pillar)
- ✓ Fasting and Ramadan
- ✓ Responses to Allah
- ✓ Food for festivals
- ✓ Haram and Halal food

Religion, Reason and Revelation

- ✓ Concept of revelation
- ✓ Allah's revelations to Humanity since the creation of the world
- ✓ The final revelation of the Quran to Mohammed (pbuh)
- ✓ Revelation through mystical and religious experience
- ✓ Revelation of Allah through the world
- ✓ Authority of the Quran and reasons for it
- ✓ Significance and importance of the Quran

Buddhism Checklist:

Belief about Deity

- ✓ Beliefs about nature of gods
- ✓ Reasons for limited status of gods
- ✓ Reasons in support of beliefs about gods
- ✓ Miracles and different beliefs about miracles
- ✓ Gods', Buddhas' and Bodhisattvas' intervention and their/ its importance
- ✓ Concept of worship
- ✓ Worship in a vihara and at home
- ✓ The use and significance of symbolism in worship
- ✓ Concept of meditation; its purpose and use to deepen faith
- ✓ Concept of fasting
- ✓ Use of food and fasting as a spiritual discipline
- ✓ Food for festivals

Religious and Spiritual Experience

- ✓ Concept of worship
- ✓ Worship in a vihara and at home
- ✓ The use and significance of symbolism in worship
- ✓ Concept of meditation
- ✓ Its purpose and use to deepen faith
- ✓ Concept of fasting
- ✓ Use of food and fasting as a spiritual discipline
- ✓ Food for festivals

Religion, Reason and Revelation

- ✓ Concept of revelation
- ✓ Revelation of ultimate truths through Buddhas and bodhisattvas
- ✓ How nibbana might be known: Scriptures, Meditation, Buddhas, Bodhisattvas.
- ✓ The origins of the Buddhist scriptures
- ✓ Significance and importance of the Buddhist scriptures