Extracts from the Mark Scheme – Existence of God

**3.4 Explain two religious beliefs about the nature of the divine.**

**Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer.**

For Buddhists, ultimate reality is the supreme, final, fundamental power in all reality / it is eternal / unchanging / an eternal truth or principle that governs the universe, etc.

Buddhists do not believe in a being who controls the universe beyond nature and human actions / the divine is ultimate reality / the eternal truth that governs the universe / Buddhist scriptures reveal truths about life, not qualities of God / they inspire people to live lives of peace and compassion / Buddha said: ‘The world exists because of causal actions, all things are produced by causal actions and all beings are governed and bound by causal actions. They are fixed like the rolling wheel of a cart, fixed by the pin of its axle shaft’ (Sutta-Nipata 654), etc.

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| **‘Those who claim to have special revelations are mistaken.’** | | **12** | |
| **Evaluate this statement.**  **In your answer you:**  • **should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement**  • **should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**  • **should refer to religious arguments**  • **may refer to non-religious arguments**  • should reach a justified conclusion. | | | |
| **Target: AO2:1a and 1b Analyse aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence** | | | |
| **Level** | **Criteria** | | **Marks** |
| 4 | A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.  Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.  **References to religion applied to the issue. .** | | 10-12 |
| 3 | Reasoned consideration of different points of view.  Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.  **Clear reference to religion .** | | 7-9 |
| 2 | Reasoned consideration of a point of view.  A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.  OR  Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.  **Maximum Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one sided .** | | 4-6 |
| 1 | Point of view with reason(s) stated in support . | | 1-3 |
| 0 | Nothing worthy of credit. | | 0 |