



# Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Religious Studies (8RS0)  
Paper 3: New Testament Studies

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## General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

**Paper 8RS0 03: New Testament Studies**  
**Mark scheme**

Question number	Answer	Mark
<b>1</b>	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p>Candidates cannot normally proceed beyond Level 2 if they explore only one of the titles.</p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus uses titles in three ways in the synoptic gospels to refer to the themes of his earthly life, suffering and future glory.</li> <li>• Jesus uses the term Son of God to refer to the theme of his divinity.</li> <li>• Scholars agree Jesus uses the title Son of God to express the unique relationship of Jesus, the Son, with God the Father.</li> <li>• The title 'Son of Man' was used in Judaism before the life of Jesus. In Daniel 7:13-14 the 'Son of Man' is identified as a heavenly figure who will one day bring salvation and judgement.</li> <li>• The term 'Son of Man' stands as a counterpart to 'Son of God' and is an affirmation of the humanity of Jesus just as the latter term affirms his divinity.</li> </ul>	<b>(8)</b>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative Content	Mark
2	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting the AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew chose to begin his gospel in a totally different way to other evangelists with a description of Jesus' ancestry and birth.</li> <li>Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from Joseph's viewpoint and highlights he is of the line of David through five carefully chosen proof texts from the Old Testament.</li> <li>In the first of a four-part birth narrative Matthew's gospel opens with reference to three titles: Messiah, Son of David and Son of Abraham, followed by a genealogy to prove who Jesus is.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the time of Jesus, the Jews expected the prophesied Messiah would be a descendant of King David whose rule over Israel was a golden age. Matthew's emphasis on the line of Joseph and the direct royal line of David is significant for establishing Jesus as the expected son of David, the Messiah who would restore this kingdom.</li> <li>Matthew refers to three titles: Messiah, Son of David and Son of Abraham and includes material not included in the other gospels. This has unique significance because Matthew makes links with people, stories, and Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah to prove Jesus is of the line of David and is the long expected Messiah.</li> <li>The Jews looked back to the Exodus as the beginning of their history and looked forward to a New Exodus under a New Moses at the end of time. This expectation had significance because of its impact on Matthew's birth narratives and for this reason references to the Exodus and Moses were deliberately included in the story of the Magi, King Herod and the flight into Egypt.</li> <li>Matthew does more than claim Jesus to be of Davidic descent; parallels drawn between the births of Jesus and Moses are significant for understanding prophecy that God would send Israel a prophet like Moses and Matthew's narrative presents Jesus as the 'new Moses'.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	(9)

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2)</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative Content	Mark
3	<p>3 marks AO1, 6 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different understandings of the identity and message of Jesus are derived from the Prologue, titles, 'I am' sayings and the signs.</li> <li>In the Prologue Jesus is not just the Messiah but the Son of God and Jewish listeners had different Messianic expectations.</li> <li>The signs and teachings emphasise Jesus' true identity, and his message highlights that Jesus comes to bring a new spiritual truth that is not based on the Law.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prologue from the outset emphasises that Jesus is God and this Christological understanding implies all that was previously revealed in Israel's relationship with God has now been fulfilled in Jesus; therefore followers who accept Jesus, the Son of God and Messiah, can expect new religious laws and moral codes given by Jesus to supersede the old.</li> </ul>	(9)

- Scholars interpret 'For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth come through Jesus Christ' as an example of replacement theology. Jesus has replaced the Mosaic covenant with the new covenant and therefore followers must follow the new religious law and moral codes if they choose to follow Jesus.
- The 'I am' sayings teach there is no other way to God except through Jesus. The seven predicative 'I am' sayings used to emphasise Jesus' divinity echo the covenant name God called himself. Jesus teaches he is the bread that can nourish and sustain the spiritual life therefore the implication is that the manna of Moses is inadequate for salvation and following Jesus demanded setting aside the old religious law and moral code for the teachings of Jesus.
- The semeia signpost Jesus' true identity as the Son of God and how only Jesus can offer a new path to eternal life. Turning water into wine suggested the inadequacy of the old religious law of Judaism for salvation and how Jesus has superseded the legalism of Judaism with the best wine. Therefore it is easy to see why the early Church linked wine to the Eucharist in its religious practice and continues to celebrate the wine/blood of Christ as salvific.

Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

- The Jews looked back to the Exodus as the beginning of their history and looked forward to a New Exodus under a New Moses at the end of time. This expectation had significance because of its impact on Matthew's birth narratives and for this reason references to the Exodus and Moses were deliberately included in the story of the Magi, King Herod and the flight into Egypt.
- Matthew does more than claim Jesus to be of Davidic descent; parallels drawn between the births of Jesus and Moses are significant for understanding prophecy that God would send Israel a prophet like Moses and Matthew's narrative presents Jesus as the 'new Moses'.

Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>Information/issues are identified (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements are supported by generalised arguments (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>Deconstructs religious information/issues which lead to a simplistic chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative Content	Mark
4(a)	<p>8 marks AO1</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and specialist language and terminology when responding to the question.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of Jesus' teachings were in sharp contrast to the teachings of the main religious groups.</li> <li>The Pharisees believed all Jews should strictly obey religious laws inclusive of Sabbath observance and Jesus went against these teachings by working on the Sabbath.</li> <li>Jesus taught about the resurrection and eternal life whilst the Sadducees rejected any teaching about or belief in life after death.</li> <li>The Zealots strongly believed the kingdom of God would be established on earth by God and Jesus taught about a spiritual kingdom.</li> <li>The different religious groups shared common basic beliefs such as belief in one God, the covenant and the Torah but differed in the teaching regarding the true Jewish way of life.</li> </ul>	(8)

<b>Level</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Provides a superficial understanding of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a narrow range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>
Level 3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding addresses a broad range of key religious ideas and beliefs (AO1).</li> <li>• Comprehensively develops key religious ideas and beliefs to show a depth of understanding (AO1).</li> </ul>

Question number	Indicative Content	Mark
4(b)	<p>5 marks AO1, 15 marks AO2</p> <p><b>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis and evaluation. Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding using specialist language and terminology when responding to the question, and in meeting AO2 descriptors described below.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roman occupation of 1st-century Palestine defined the response of the religious authorities to Jesus.</li> <li>• The religious authorities were accountable for maintaining order and for being seen to act against potential revolutionaries.</li> <li>• The stability of the priesthood and the temple were dependent on a stable relationship between the political and religious authorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Candidates may refer to the following in relation to AO2.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full understanding of Jesus' life and work requires knowledge of the historical, political and religious context of the first century. This context has significance because it is essential for establishing Jesus as a historical figure and for understanding the significance of his words and actions.</li> <li>• It is important to understand the first century context and possibly influences such as Judaism and Hellenism on New Testament writers in order to expose the life and teachings of Jesus; for example Hellenistic influences at work in John's Gospel have obvious significance for understanding Jesus' identity through John's narrative.</li> <li>• Jesus carried out his ministry under Roman occupation. The Romans did not want Jewish rebellion and this context has significance for Jesus' work because religious groups, such as the Sadducees and Pharisees, were suspicious of a charismatic leader and teacher who could attract huge crowds and their High Priests were expected by the Romans to keep the situation under control.</li> <li>• In the first century the High Priest was appointed by Rome and was responsible for maintaining peace in Jerusalem; the priests feared Roman reprisal against them and the temple; therefore, in order to maintain a working relationship with Rome, it was in their best interest to ensure that Jesus did not teach anything that questioned the ethics of the occupied power or that encouraged rebellion against the Romans.</li> <li>• Apart from the Roman occupation, the main concern of first century Pharisees was to ensure religious laws and traditions were strictly observed and this is significant for some of the difficulties surrounding Jesus' ministry because he broke the Sabbath law. The insistence of the Pharisees on adherence to the</li> </ul>	(20)

	<p>letter of the law made them appear legalistic and Jesus' teachings and compassionate actions on the Sabbath were a significant contrast to their strict practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The beliefs of some first century religious groups were significant because they differed radically from the teachings of Jesus; for example, the Sadducees' rejection of immortality and resurrection contrasted Jesus' teachings on eternal life.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates who show achievement only against AO1 will not be able to gain marks beyond the top of Level 1.</p>	
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<b>Level</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A narrow range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected but are unlikely to be used appropriately or accurately (AO1).</li> <li>Information/issues may be selected (AO2).</li> <li>Makes basic connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements are supported by generic arguments (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements made with no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 2	6–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A limited range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, some of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>Deconstructs religious information/issues (AO2).</li> <li>Makes connections between a limited range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements made with little or no attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 3	11–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are selected, most of which are used appropriately with some inaccuracies (AO1).</li> <li>Deconstructs religious information/issues, which lead to a simple chain of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Makes connections between many but not all of the elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made (AO2).</li> <li>Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>
Level 4	16–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide range of knowledge, specialist language and terminology are carefully selected and used appropriately, accurately and sustained throughout (AO1).</li> <li>Critically deconstructs religious information/issues leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning (AO2).</li> <li>Makes connections between the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question (AO2).</li> <li>Reasoned judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence (AO2).</li> </ul>

