

How to get Grade 4 and above... in GCSE Philosophy and Ethics.

We will work on exam technique in class but you may be wondering what you need to do in order to reach **your target grade**.

In the summer, you will have **2 exams** (1 on Religious Beliefs and Practices. 1 on Philosophical and Ethical Themes).

On each paper you will answer 4 questions. Each question consists of 5 'sub-questions'

Below are the grade boundaries:

Grade 9 = 95%

Grade 8 = 85%

Grade 7 = 80%

Grade 6 = 76%

Grade 5 = 68%

Grade 4 = 60%

Grade 3 = 48%

Grade 2 = 35%

Grade 1 = 20%

Less than this = U

Per Exam Question (parts 1-5), this roughly equates to...

Grade 9 = 23

Grade 8 = 21

Grade 7 = 19

Grade 6 = 18

Grade 5 = 17

Grade 4 = 15

Out of 24 marks

Paper 1

So how do you get your target grade in Paper 1?

For grades 4+ you should score full marks in 'Sub-Questions' 1-3

To get full marks in 'Sub-Questions' 1,2 & 3.

1. You must select the correct answer in a multiple choice question. **(1/1)**.
2. You must write in full sentences giving 2 relevant examples, key terms or beliefs **(2/2)**.
3. You must write 2 BR/BE paragraphs. (BR = Belief and Religious Teaching, BE = Belief and Example). Both paragraphs should be on Christianity or Islam (depending on the Q). Your reference to the religious teaching doesn't have to be specific. **(4/4)**

See the relevant page below for your target grade.

FOR a grade 4:

4. You should try and achieve at least 3/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least three marks you should write 1 BRO paragraph, using key terms and a relevant religious teaching. Then state one other religious belief.

(3/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least five marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Give an example for or against the statement
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(5/12)

FOR a grade 5:

4. You should try and achieve at least 3/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least three marks you should write 1 BRO paragraph, using key terms and a relevant religious teaching. Then state one other religious belief.

(3/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least seven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Mention a second religious view
- Give a weakness of one of the religious views
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(7/12)

FOR a grade 6:

4. You should try and achieve at least 4/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least four marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs, using key terms and a religious teaching (the teaching must be explained).

(4/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least seven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Mention a second religious view
- Give a weakness of one of the religious views
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(7/12)

FOR a grade 7:

4. You should try and achieve at least 4/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least four marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs, using key terms and a religious teaching (the teaching must be explained).

(4/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least eight marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Give a weakness of one of the religious views
- Write a valid conclusion, linking back to the question.

(8/12)

FOR a grade 8:

4. You should try and achieve full marks in this question. In order to achieve at least four marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs, using key terms and a religious teaching (the teaching must be explained). Your religious teachings should both be direct quotes with references if you can.

(5/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least nine marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Give a strength or weakness of both of the religious views
- Write a valid conclusion, linking back to the question.

(9/12)

FOR a grade 9:

4. You should try and achieve full marks in this question. In order to achieve all marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs, using key terms and a religious teaching. Your religious teachings should both be direct quotes with references if you can.

(5/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least eleven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different Religious view using a BRO paragraph
- Give a strength or weakness of both of the religious views, linking to examples
- Write a valid conclusion, that shows a progression of thought from start to finish.

(11/12)

Paper 2

So how do you get these scores in Paper 2?

For grades 4+ you should score full marks in 'Sub-Questions' 1-3

To get full marks in 'Sub-Questions' 1,2 & 3.

1. You must select the correct answer in a multiple choice question. **(1/1)**.
2. You must write in full sentences giving 2 relevant examples, key terms or beliefs **(2/2)**.
3. You must write 2 BR paragraphs. (BR = Belief and Religious Teaching). One paragraph should be on Christianity the second should be on Islam. Your reference to the religious teaching doesn't have to be specific. **(4/4)**

See the relevant page below for your target grade.

FOR a grade 4:

4. You should try and achieve at least 3/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least three marks you should write 1 BRO paragraph (Christianity), using key terms and a religious teaching. Then state one other religious belief (Islam).

(3/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least five marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Give an example
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(5/12)

FOR a grade 5:

4. You should try and achieve at least 3/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least three marks you should write 1 BRO paragraph (Christianity), using key terms and a religious teaching. Then state one other religious belief (Islam).

(3/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least seven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Mention a different religious view (Muslim or Christian)
- Give a strength or weakness of the religious views
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(7/12)

FOR a grade 6:

4. You should try and achieve at least 4/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least four marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs (1 Christianity and 1 Islam), using key terms and a religious teaching.

(4/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least seven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Mention a different religious view (Muslim or Christian)
- Give a strength or weakness of the religious views
- Write a simple conclusion, linking back to the question.

(7/12)

FOR a grade 7:

4. You should try and achieve at least 4/5 marks in this question. In order to achieve at least four marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs (1 Christianity and 1 Islam), using key terms and a religious teaching.

(4/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least eight marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different religious view using a BRO paragraph (Muslim or Christian)
- Give a strength or weakness of one of the religious views
- Write a valid conclusion, linking back to the question.

(8/12)

FOR a grade 8:

4. You should try and achieve full marks in this question. In order to achieve all marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs (1 Christianity and 1 Islam), using key terms and a religious teaching. Your religious teachings should both be direct quotes with references if you can.

(5/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least nine marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different religious view using a BRO paragraph (Muslim or Christian)
- Give a strength or weakness of both of the religious views
- Write a valid conclusion, linking back to the question.

(9/12)

FOR a grade 9:

4. You should try and achieve full marks in this question. In order to achieve all marks you should write 2 BRO paragraphs (1 Christianity and 1 Islam), using key terms and a religious teaching. Your religious teachings should both be direct quotes with references if you can.

(5/5)

5. You should try and achieve at least eleven marks on this question. In order to do this you should;

- Explain your own opinion, giving reasons and an example
- Explain one Christian view using a BRO paragraph
- Explain one different religious view using a BRO paragraph (Muslim or Christian)
- Give a strength or weakness of both of the religious views, linking to examples
- Write a valid conclusion, that shows a progression of thought from start to finish.

(11/12)