



Viva Exam – Religious Studies– HT3

(Year 7)

Please
keep the
below

for all
students

Your **Viva exam** supports you in developing your confidence, self-expression and curricular understanding.

It does so by improving your **oracy**.

When a University student writes a thesis (their final paper or exam), they have to defend what they have written whilst their Professors ask questions. This is often referred to as a **Viva exam**.

Viva is short for **Viva Voce**, this is the Latin for ‘with living voice’, or in other words **spoken** not written.

Across this Half Term you will prepare for a **Viva exam** on the curricular area we are studying, this will be **instead** of your End of Term exam.

Your teacher will support you in **preparing** by **suggesting** what you may speak about, **providing** materials to support you, **checking** in on your planning and progress and giving you **feedback** after you have spoken so that you know what you have done well and what you will need to improve, next time.

This pack contains the basic materials and guidance you will need, to prepare for your **Viva exam**.

‘Viva’ Exam – RE – Year 7 – Half Term 3 (Spring 1)

Student Name:

Expectations:

- To speak unaided and without interruption on the subject of ‘Forgiveness is more powerful than punishment – agree or disagree?’ for two minutes.
- To accept and respond to one unknown question from your teacher following your speech and within this two-minute period.

Resources Permitted:

- Cue card notes are permitted, however, higher marks will be received for speaking without aides.

Marking and Grading:

As with your End of Term, your Viva will be given a 0-9 grade, students should always aim to meet or exceed their target grade. However, there is no need to feel bad if you don't, all this means is that you are learning and making progress!

Your total marks will be multiplied by five to produce a percentage, just like you get in your other End of Term exams, the teacher will then convert this percentage so that your termly report can show a grade in this area.

Viva exams are marked in four categories, please see the mark scheme below:

Preparation Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Complete and exemplary evidence of written preparation.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Purposeful but incomplete evidence of written preparation.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Limited or no written evidence of preparation.
Timing and Content Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Speaks for the full allocated time, without pause or interruption. Speaks exclusively on the subject selected, is precise, concise and purposeful. Speaks without the use of any written or visual aids.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Speaks for more than half of the allocated time, with limited pause or interruption. Speaks exclusively on the subject selected, but lacks precision and focus at times.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Speaks for less than half of the allocated time and or fails to focus on the subject and lacks purpose.
Manner and Presentation Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Projects and modulates consistently, uses rhetorical skill, body language and positioning throughout and with exemplary effect.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Projects well but modulates and uses body language inconsistently, increasing evidence of rhetorical skill.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Fails to project or modulate voice, use of body language is limited, rhetorical skill is largely unevidenced.
Response to questioning Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Responds convincingly and thoughtfully to both questions, in line with the Level 3 criteria for Timing and Content and Manner and Presentation.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Responds convincingly to elements of both questions or to just one question but not the other.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Is unable to respond at all or convincingly enough, to either question.

Overview:

During this Viva you will need to plan and prepare to speak on whether you agree or disagree that forgiveness is more powerful than punishment. You will also need to answer one question (which you won't know in advance) from your teacher.

- 1. Stage 1 – Decide on the subject of your speech.**
- 2. Stage 2 – Plan your speech and condense this plan into notes.**
- 3. Stage 3 – Practice your speech, learn to do it without notes and with greater confidence.**
- 4. Stage 4 – Share your speech with parents, peers and your teacher, for feedback.**
- 5. Stage 5 – Deliver your speech to the class and your teacher.**

You may make subject specific modifications to the grid below, however, anything highlighted in green must remain.

Stage 1
<p>When deciding on the subject of your speech you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Choose whether you agree or disagree with the statement.– Ensure you can support your viewpoint using content we have studied on justice or forgiveness in Sikhism or Islam.– Check that you're confident in your existing knowledge and willing to build on it. <p>During this stage, you will decide on your stance and the core argument of your speech. Your argument must be based on content we have studied in class on justice or forgiveness in either Sikhism or Islam, and should include specific teachings, examples or beliefs from these religions to substantiate your point of view. You should be confident in your current understanding and open to researching further to strengthen your argument.</p>
Stage 2
<p>When planning your speech you should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Create a clear structure with an introduction, main points and conclusion.– Choose at least one teaching from Islam and/or Sikhism to support your view.– Consider using rhetorical devices to make your argument more persuasive. <p>At this stage, you will map out the flow of your speech. You should plan how to open with a hook, organise your key ideas, include one or more teachings from Sikhism and/or Islam, and draw a clear conclusion. Think about rhetorical techniques like repetition, rhetorical questions, or analogy to persuade your audience. Keep it within the two-minute time limit.</p>
Stage 3
<p>When practicing your speech you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Practice repeatedly those parts you are weakest in, do not waste time practicing again and again, what you already know.– Watch and listen to yourself, for instance speak out loud, use a mirror, record yourself, you will need to be comfortable with the sound of your own voice and the value your opinion carries.– Focus on pace, rhythm, modulation and tone, as much as the content of your speaking, become comfortable pausing throughout your speech, rather than saying 'um'.
Stage 4
<p>When sharing your speech you should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– What are the initial reactions of others, do they seem more interested in some parts of the speech than others?

- What questions are people asking you afterwards, could these be questions that are likely to be asked of you on the day?
- What feedback do your audience give you on the use of your voice, your body language and communication style, are you confident and present enough?

Stage 5

When delivering your speech you should:

- Have notes with you in case you get stuck but attempt to go by memory as much as possible.
- Position yourself in the room, standing, at the front, use the space and consider walking around it as you speak.
- Focus on the faces of your audience, look for signs as to whether they are engaged or excited, consider whether you need to modulate your tone, increase volume, or lean move heavily on a rhetorical device.

During the final stage, focus on being calm, confident and engaging. You may use brief notes but rely on memory as much as you can. Make eye contact, speak clearly, and try to connect with your audience. Once your speech ends, be prepared to answer one unseen question from your teacher, using what you know from class.

Justice in Islam	Justice in Sikhism
	
<p>Justice in Islam is based on the belief that Allah is just and treats all humans fairly. Muslims are commanded to act with fairness and avoid favouritism. The Qur'an instructs honesty, care for the poor, and standing up for justice even if it means testifying against yourself or your parents [Qur'an 4:135].</p> <p>Muslims believe justice is essential in daily life, business, and legal matters. The Prophet Muhammad's final sermon famously emphasized equality: "No white person is better than a black person, and no black person is better than a white person except in piety." This teaching inspires Muslims to fight injustice and discrimination.</p>	<p>Sikhism teaches that all humans are equal as creations of God. Committing crimes is unjust, and Sikhs are expected to work towards fairness in society. The Rehat Maryada (Sikh code of conduct) instructs Sikhs to obey laws and support groups promoting equal rights.</p> <p>A key teaching from the Guru Granth Sahib reminds Sikhs that true justice comes from God and that they cannot escape divine judgment. Many Sikhs support human rights organizations like Amnesty International and work to help the oppressed, promoting fairness in legal and social systems.</p>
<h4>Forgiveness in Islam</h4>	<h4>Forgiveness in Sikhism</h4>



Allah is described as forgiving, and Muslims are encouraged to forgive others. The Qur'an says: "If you pardon, overlook, and forgive, then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful" (64:14). Choosing forgiveness brings Allah's mercy and helps build peace.

Muslims believe forgiveness is a powerful virtue that helps repair relationships and creates harmony within communities.



Forgiveness is one of the greatest virtues in Sikhism. Guru Arjan Dev said, "Forgiveness is the greatest virtue; it is the key to peace and happiness." Guru Nanak taught that true justice comes from God and encourages fairness and forgiveness.

Forgiving others helps Sikhs build stronger communities and achieve personal and social healing.