**0 2 ‘It is always right to give charity to the poor.’ 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. [12 marks]**

**Answer***: I strongly support claim that it is always right to give to the poor. This is because everybody should do something to help those less fortunate. In support of my argument, some Buddhists may also agree. This is because a key ethical principle in Buddhism is ‘karuna’ – compassion. Buddhists can perfect this ideal, by helping those less fortunate, a simple way to do this is by giving to the poor. Moreover, some Buddhists may consider those in the monastic community (the Sangha) as poor and they may be putting into the practice the concept of ‘dana’ by giving them charity e.g. food, materials for robes etc. However, other Buddhists may disagree. This is because by giving directly to the poor, it may encourage them to use to donation in an unskilful way i.e. they may use the money to buy drugs/alcohol. This not only breaks on the Five Precepts, but also would not be compassionate to them or potentially others due to the harm intoxicants can cause. These Buddhists may instead give charity i.e. money to organisations who help the poor e.g. soup kitchens, Buddhist charities (Karuna Trust), activism to change laws and trading policies. Despite this I still support my claim that it is always right to give to the poor. Although it is possible that the donation may be misused by the individual, it is also possible the donation may be misused by the organisation. There have been many scandals when NGOs have used donations unwisely e.g. to pay big salaries to charity officials. Also, an individual rather than give money to the poor as a form of charity, could buy a homeless person food/drink instead, they would then know the donation has been used appropriately. Overall, I strongly support the claim that it is always right to give money to the poor to the positive direct impact the action can have. Giving I believe is the best form of metta – loving kindness to those around you.*

**This is a Level 4 response. This question could have been approached using arguments from any of the world religions studied in Paper 1. This answer applies beliefs and teachings from Buddhism effectively, as well as evaluating non-religious arguments in relation to the statement. Very good level of focus on the statement, clear chains of reasoning and application of knowledge.**

**Twelve Mark Questions Mark Scheme**

**Level 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 marks)**

**Level 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 marks)**

**Level 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 of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided. **(4-6 marks)**

**Level 1:** Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. **(1-3 marks)**

**Level 0:** Nothing worthy of credit. **(0 marks)**