

General Certificate of Education
January 2003
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES **RS01**
Unit 1 An introduction to Religion and Human Experience

Monday 13 January 2003 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is RS01.
- Answer **two** questions: **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

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Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1 Read the passage and answer questions (a) to (d) which follow.

“At the heart of many religions are religious scriptures or sacred writings. The nature of these writings is varied, as is the purpose for which they were written, but in every case they act as a guide to faith, bringing understanding to whoever reads them.”

With reference to the scriptures or sacred writings of **one** religion:

- (a) Explain the nature of these scriptures or sacred writings. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain the purpose for which these scriptures or sacred writings were written. *(10 marks)*
- (c) Explain what it means to say that scriptures may be interpreted literally or symbolically. *(10 marks)*
- (d) Assess the view that scriptures have little value as a guide to faith in religion today. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Explain the main features of the following types of religious experience:

- (i) conversion; **and**
- (ii) mystical experience. *(20 marks)*

(b) Explain why those who have religious experiences may find them hard to describe, and assess the view that religious experiences have significance only for those who have them. *(20 marks)*

3 (a) Choose **one** person whose religious experience has had a major impact on religion. Summarise the religious experience(s) of that person, and explain the significance of their experience(s) for followers of that religion. *(20 marks)*

(b) Explain why religious experience has no authority for some people, and assess the view that it is not important for believers to have religious experiences. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS