

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS05

Unit 5 An introduction to Aspects of a Major World Faith

Tuesday 3 June 2008 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 RS05.
- Choose **one Section** only.
 - Section A Buddhism page 2
 - Section B Christianity page 3
 - Section C Hinduism page 4
 - Section D Islam page 5
 - Section E Judaism page 6
 - Section F Sikhism page 7
- Answer **two** questions.
 - Answer **the first** question **and one other** from your chosen section.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

SECTION A BUDDHISM

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘Buddhism did not develop in isolation. The Buddha lived and taught in north-east India some 2500 years ago, and the development of Buddhism was influenced, in part, by its religious context. There were many factors that influenced the Buddha’s thinking and shaped the way the religion developed after his death.’

(a) Describe the religious factors leading to the emergence of Buddhism in India. *(10 marks)*

(b) Explain the importance of the Buddha for Buddhists. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Examine the key features of life in a Theravadin Buddhist monastic community. *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline the role of lay Buddhists in Theravada Buddhism, and assess the claim that monastic life cannot survive without the support of the lay people. *(25 marks)*

3 (a) Examine the teaching of the second Holy Truth. *(15 marks)*

(b) Summarise the teaching of the fourth Holy Truth, and assess the claim that it is “an extreme way of living and not the middle way”. *(25 marks)*

SECTION B CHRISTIANITY

Answer Question 4 **and either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

4 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘Christianity is based on a number of traditional teachings. Some of its beliefs about the nature of God are found in the Nicene Creed. Christianity also has distinctive beliefs about what humans are like, or the ‘human condition’. These include the idea of humans being ‘sinful’.’

- (a) Outline the beliefs about the nature of God expressed in the Nicene Creed. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain what Christians mean by describing the human condition as ‘sinful’. *(10 marks)*

- 5
- (a) Examine the way in which the service of believers’ baptism is conducted in a Baptist church. *(15 marks)*
 - (b) Outline the reasons for believers’ baptism, and assess the view that baptism should only be administered to believers. *(25 marks)*

- 6
- (a) Describe the key features of worship in Christian churches. *(15 marks)*
 - (b) ‘By looking at the inside of a church, one can tell what sort of worship goes on in it.’

With reference to Christian denominations you have studied, describe the internal features of the churches, and assess the claim that the nature of the building makes an essential contribution to Christian worship. *(25 marks)*

Turn over for SECTION C

Turn over ▶

SECTION C HINDUISM

Answer Question 7 **and either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

7 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘The Hindu temple or mandir is a symbol with many meanings. It is intended to be a special place for the encounter between the worshipper and the divine. The temple priests guide the worshippers on their journey to meeting the deity.’

(a) Describe the main features of worship in a Hindu temple. *(10 marks)*

(b) Explain the role of temple priests in Hinduism. *(10 marks)*

8 (a) Examine the meaning of the Om symbol for Hindus. *(15 marks)*

(b) Explain the Hindu teachings on the relationship between Brahman and atman, and assess the claim that the union of the self (atman) with Brahman is the highest goal for all Hindus. *(25 marks)*

9 (a) Examine the religious aspects of the Indus Valley civilisation. *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline those aspects of the Indus Valley civilisation which are present in Hinduism today, and assess the claim that Hinduism today is more focused on its ancient past than on the modern world. *(25 marks)*

SECTION D ISLAM

Answer Question 10 **and either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

10 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘The time before Islam is often referred to as jahiliyya. Muslims believe that Muhammad was chosen as a prophet of God to bring people out of jahiliyya and back to the religion of Islam. Providing that Muslims reject jahiliyya and follow the message given by Muhammad, they will be rewarded on judgement day.’

(a) Explain what is meant by jahiliyya. *(10 marks)*

(b) Outline what Muslims believe about judgement. *(10 marks)*

11 (a) Explain the ways in which the teaching of Muhammad given in Makkah (Mecca) before the hijrah was different from the teaching given later in Madinah (Medina). *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline the importance of religious practice for Muslims, and assess the claim that it is the social aspects of religious practice which are more important for Muslims today rather than the spiritual aspects. *(25 marks)*

12 (a) Explain what Muslims believe about prophets of God. *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline what Muslims believe about angels, and assess the view that belief in angels is no longer of any importance for Muslims today. *(25 marks)*

Turn over for SECTION E

Turn over ▶

SECTION E JUDAISM

Answer Question 13 **and either** Question 14 or Question 15.

13 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘Some people would say that Judaism can survive without a synagogue but cannot survive without the observant Jewish home. It is in the Jewish home where all the features of Judaism are learned and practised, festivals and dietary law especially.’

- (a) Explain Jewish teaching about dietary laws in the home. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain why the Jewish home is important for festival observance. *(10 marks)*

14 (a) Explain the importance for Judaism of the covenants with Abraham and Moses. *(15 marks)*

- (b) (i) Examine briefly the relationship between covenant and Rosh Hashanah.
- (ii) Assess the view that the covenant, an idea rooted in events so long ago, cannot be relevant to Jews of the 21st century. *(25 marks)*

15 (a) Explain why many Jews in the 19th century sought reform of their religion. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Outline the Orthodox opposition to reform movements in the 19th century, and assess the view that the survival of the Jewish religion into the 21st century is entirely due to these reform movements. *(25 marks)*

SECTION F SIKHISM

Answer Question 16 **and either** Question 17 **or** Question 18.

16 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘The Nishan Sahib which flies from the flag pole outside the gurdwara shows that anyone, Sikh or non-Sikh, will be given a meal free-of-charge. This is called langar. Men, women and children work together, preparing vegetables and cooking and other people serve food.’

- (a) Explain how equality is expressed in the langar. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Outline the meaning and purpose of langar in the gurdwara. *(10 marks)*

17 (a) Examine the importance of the Khalsa for Sikhs today. *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline the contribution of Guru Tegh Bahadur, and assess the claim that the spiritual emphasis of Guru Tegh Bahadur is no longer found in the Khalsa. *(25 marks)*

18 (a) Explain why the home is an important place of worship for Sikhs. *(15 marks)*

(b) Examine briefly the Sikh concept of God, with particular reference to the Mul Mantra (Mool Mantar), and assess the view that the Mul Mantra (Mool Mantar) tells a Sikh everything they need to know about God. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page