



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2009

## Religious Studies

## RSS09

Unit J World Religions 1: Buddhism OR Hinduism OR Sikhism

**Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards**

**This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 8-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 15 minutes

### 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 RSS09.
- Choose **one Section** only.  
Section A Buddhism page 2  
Section B Hinduism page 3  
Section C Sikhism page 4
- Answer **two** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- In each question, the first part tests your knowledge and understanding, while the second part tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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**Section A Buddhism**Answer **two** questions.Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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**Question 1 Samsara and the three marks of existence**

0	1
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 Explain the meaning and significance of the concept of samsara for Buddhists. *(30 marks)***AND**

0	2
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 'The Buddhist attitude towards life is pessimistic.'  
Assess the truth of this claim. *(15 marks)***Question 2 The Four Noble Truths**

0	3
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 Examine the teachings about nibbana in Buddhism. *(30 marks)***AND**

0	4
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 'Nibbana is an unattainable goal for most Buddhists.'  
Assess this view. *(15 marks)***Question 3 The Eightfold Path**

0	5
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 Explain the teachings on right mindfulness and right concentration in the Eightfold Path. *(30 marks)***AND**

0	6
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 'Meditation is the essential basis of the Buddhist way of life.'  
Assess this view. *(15 marks)***Question 4 The Sangha**

0	7
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 Examine the role and importance of the lay community in the Buddhist Sangha. *(30 marks)***AND**

0	8
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 'The lay community is more important than the monastic community in Buddhism today.'  
Assess this view. *(15 marks)*

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**Section B Hinduism**Answer **two** questions.Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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**Question 5 The Hindu concept of God**

0	9
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 Examine the nature and role of goddesses in Hinduism. (30 marks)**AND**

1	0
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 'In Hinduism, goddesses have more importance than male deities.'  
Assess this view. (15 marks)**Question 6 Means to liberation in Hinduism**

1	1
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 Examine the nature of atman and self-realisation in Hinduism. (30 marks)**AND**

1	2
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 To what extent is self-realisation an impossible goal for most Hindus? (15 marks)**Question 7 Worship in Hinduism**

1	3
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 Examine the various forms of worship which take place in Hindu temples (mandirs). (30 marks)**AND**

1	4
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 'Temple worship is an essential part of the Hindu way of life.'  
Assess this view. (15 marks)**Question 8 The Hindu way of life**

1	5
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 Examine the role and importance of ashrams in Hinduism. (30 marks)**AND**

1	6
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 'The home rather than the ashram is the best place for learning about the Hindu way of life.'  
Assess this view. (15 marks)**Turn over for Section C****Turn over ►**

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**Section C Sikhism**Answer **two** questions.Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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**Question 9 The Gurus**

1	7
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 Explain how the teachings of Guru Nanak arose out of the religious and social conditions of his time. *(30 marks)***AND**

1	8
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 'Guru Nanak founded a new religion.'  
Assess the truth of this statement. *(15 marks)***Question 10 Festivals**

1	9
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 Explain the nature and meaning of the festival of Diwali for Sikhs today. *(30 marks)***AND**

2	0
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 'The celebration of Diwali has more social importance than religious meaning for Sikhs today.'  
Assess this view. *(15 marks)***Question 11 The Guru Granth Sahib and the Gurdwara**

2	1
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 Explain how the Guru Granth Sahib is used by Sikhs. *(30 marks)***AND**

2	2
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 'The Guru Granth Sahib is listened to but not understood by most Sikhs.'  
Assess the truth of this claim. *(15 marks)***Question 12 Diwali and langar**

2	3
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 Explain both how the langar was established in the past **and** how it is practised today. *(30 marks)***AND**

2	4
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 'The langar is even more important today than it was in the past.'  
Assess this view. *(15 marks)***END OF QUESTIONS**