



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2010

Religious Studies

RST4A

**Unit 4A Life, Death and Beyond OR
Perceptions of Ultimate Reality OR
Religious Experience**

Thursday 17 June 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 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 RST4A.
- Choose **one** Section only.
Section A Life, Death and Beyond page 2
Section B Perceptions of Ultimate Reality page 3
Section C Religious Experience page 4
- Answer **one** question.
- 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 75.
- 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.

Section A LIFE, DEATH AND BEYOND

Answer **one** question.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of the question chosen.

Question 1

0	1
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 Examine ideas which can be found in both secular and religious thinking about the nature of human life. *(45 marks)*

and

0	2
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 'People today regard ideas about the nature of human life, whether religious or secular, as irrelevant.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? *(30 marks)*

Question 2

0	3
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 Examine religious beliefs about the importance of the present life and about life beyond death. *(45 marks)*

and

0	4
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 'In a largely secular society any beliefs about life beyond death are unacceptable.'

Discuss how far you agree with this statement. *(30 marks)*

Section B PERCEPTIONS OF ULTIMATE REALITY

Answer **one** question.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of the question chosen.

Question 3

0 5 Examine definitions of, and ideas about, God/Ultimate Reality in the religion(s) you have studied. *(45 marks)*

and

0 6 Consider how far these definitions and ideas help people to understand why life is as it is. *(30 marks)*

Question 4

0 7 Examine religious language as a meaningful way of talking about God/Ultimate Reality. *(45 marks)*

and

0 8 'The nature of God/Ultimate Reality means that any attempt to talk about God/Ultimate Reality will fail.'
Assess this view. *(30 marks)*

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Answer **one** question.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of the question chosen.

Question 5

0	9
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 Examine the characteristics of, and processes involved in, conversion and mystical experiences. *(45 marks)*

and

1	0
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 Consider how far the work of scholars has helped an understanding of religious experience. *(30 marks)*

Question 6

1	1
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 Examine how religious experience has acted as a foundation for particular religion(s). *(45 marks)*

and

1	2
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 'Religious experiences may have inspired the foundation of religions but they have little to contribute to those religions today.'

Evaluate this claim. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS