

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Thursday 15 January 2009 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS01/01

You must have:

Answer Book (enclosed)

Instructions

- Answer **three** questions. For each question you may only answer **either** part a or part b but **not** both.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided in the Answer Book
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Do not return this question paper with the Answer Book.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication will be taken into account in the marking of all your responses
– *you should take particular care with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression, on these questions.*

Advice

- The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (assessed in part (i) of each question for 70% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (assessed in part (ii) of each question for 30% of the marks).

Turn over ►

M34423A

©2009 Edexcel Limited.

6/7/5/2/



edexcel 
advancing learning, changing lives

Philosophy

EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) Examine the key ideas and strengths of the design argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the strengths and weaknesses are equally balanced. (9)

(Total for Question 1(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) What are the distinctive ideas of the cosmological argument for the existence of God? (21)
- (ii) To what extent is this a strong argument for the existence of God? (9)

(Total for Question 1(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) What are the key features of the problem of suffering? Examine the essential ideas of **two** solutions. (21)
- (ii) 'The problem of suffering is a mystery and cannot be solved.' Comment on this claim. (9)

(Total for Question 2(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the key concepts of miracles and examine the main reasons to believe in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the philosophical problems associated with miracles with reference to Hume. (9)

(Total for Question 2(b) = 30 marks)

Ethics

EITHER

3 (a) (i) Examine the features of Utilitarianism which make it appealing to many. (21)

(ii) To what extent do these features survive the challenges levelled against Utilitarianism? (9)

(Total for Question 3(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Outline the principal ideas of Situation Ethics. (21)

(ii) Consider the view that Situation Ethics is a genuinely religious ethic. (9)

(Total for Question 3(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

4 (a) (i) Outline the view that war can sometimes be considered justifiable. (21)

(ii) To what extent is it reasonable to claim that there are never good reasons to go to war? (9)

(Total for Question 4(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the reasons why dilemmas may arise in matters of sexual ethics. (21)

(ii) To what extent may religious beliefs be helpful in resolving these dilemmas? (9)

(Total for Question 4(b) = 30 marks)

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5** (a) (i) Outline the main features of the religious context prior to the time of the Buddha and illustrate the influence of this background on the life of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) To what extent were the teachings of the Buddha influenced by this background? (9)

(Total for Question 5(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of the life of the Buddha up to, and including, his enlightenment. (21)
- (ii) Why is the notion of the 'Middle Way' significant for Buddhists? (9)

(Total for Question 5(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 6** (a) (i) Examine the key features of the dharma and the sangha with reference to the three refuges. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the dharma and the sangha are of equal importance. (9)

(Total for Question 6(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the teachings on wisdom and morality in the eight-fold path and their influence on meditation. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the distinctive features of **one** type of Buddhist meditation. (9)

(Total for Question 6(b) = 30 marks)

Christianity

EITHER

- 7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings during the modern period, about the person and work of Jesus. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Christians. (9)

(Total for Question 7(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) In what ways has the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus been influenced by **one** historical context? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this teaching for Christians. (9)

(Total for Question 7(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 8 (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about a personal God and the implications of these beliefs for Christians. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is it possible for a personal God to suffer? (9)

(Total for Question 8(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine different beliefs about baptism which are held by **two** different Christian Churches. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is it necessary to be baptised in order to gain salvation? (9)

(Total for Question 8(b) = 30 marks)

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Outline the key features of the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the possible links between the Indus Valley culture and the Aryans. (9)

(Total for Question 9(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine some key characteristics of Vedic religion. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that there is a continuous development from the Indus Valley culture to the Vedic religion. (9)

(Total for Question 9(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Identify some key teachings associated with **two** types of yoga. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the main purposes of yoga are to develop discipline and control. (9)

(Total for Question 10(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key beliefs associated with both Krishna and Rama. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of **either** Krishna **or** Rama for devotees. (9)

(Total for Question 10(b) = 30 marks)

Islam

EITHER

11 (a) (i) Give an account of:

- one religious tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia;
- the key features of Muhammad's call to be the Prophet.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of revelations to Muhammad during his time in Makkah.

(9)

(Total for Question 11(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine what Muslims may understand by Muhammad as 'the messenger of God'.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of the hijrah for an understanding of the role of Muhammad in Islam.

(9)

(Total for Question 11(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

12 (a) (i) Examine the key features of beliefs about angels in the context of the six beliefs.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the possible significance of angels for Muslims.

(9)

(Total for Question 12(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) 'There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.' In what ways is the shahadah fundamental to Islam?

(21)

(ii) Comment on the implications of tawhid for Muslims.

(9)

(Total for Question 12(b) = 30 marks)

Judaism

EITHER

13 (a) (i) Examine the key characteristics of the teachings of Rashi and his school in their historical and religious context. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of Rashi for Jewish belief. (9)

(Total for Question 13(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Outline the religious and philosophical context of Moses Maimonides and examine his key teachings. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Jewish thought. (9)

(Total for Question 13(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

14 (a) (i) Examine the key emphases of Orthodox Judaism. (21)

(ii) Comment on the distinctive contributions of Orthodox Judaism to Jewish thought and practice. (9)

(Total for Question 14(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the key teachings and practices of Reform Judaism. (21)

(ii) Comment on their significance for Jewish thought and practice. (9)

(Total for Question 14(b) = 30 marks)

Sikhism

EITHER

15 (a) (i) Examine the differing uses of the term 'Guru' in Sikhism. (21)

(ii) To what extent did Guru Nanak's beliefs differ from those of his contemporaries? (9)

(Total for Question 15(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the historical context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)

(ii) Comment on the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib for the practice of the Sikh way of life. (9)

(Total for Question 15(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

16 (a) (i) Examine the importance for Sikhs of living as a householder. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that the Guru Granth Sahib is the only Guru a Sikh needs. (9)

(Total for Question 16(a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the main principles of the Sikh Rahit Maryada. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that many true Sikhs are not members of the Khalsa. (9)

(Total for Question 16(b) = 30 marks)

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) **Either** examine the teachings of Jesus concerning wealth and poverty (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the gate for the sheep' and 'I am the True Vine' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent were these teachings or these sayings likely to lead to controversy? (9)

(Total for Question 17(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) What do **either** the raising of Jairus' daughter and the healing of the bleeding woman (Luke's Gospel) **or** the healing of the official's son and the healing at the pool (Fourth Gospel) teach about the ministry of Jesus? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the miracles of Jesus were the most controversial aspect of his ministry. (9)

(Total for Question 17(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) **Either** examine the key features of Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the significance of Jesus' conversations with the Samaritan woman and the woman caught in adultery. (21)
- (ii) To what extent were Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath or his conversations with women significantly different from the practices of Judaism at the time? (9)

(Total for Question 18(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) What can be learned from Jesus' teaching about the special nature and demands of being a disciple? (21)
- (ii) To what extent did John the Baptist play a crucial role in the ministry of Jesus? (9)

(Total for Question 18(b) = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE