

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Tuesday 24 May 2011 – Morning

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).

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Philosophy

EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) Examine the ways in which the design argument provides evidence for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the weaknesses of the design argument show that the universe can be explained without reference to God. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the view that the cosmological argument provides an explanation for the world and is a trustworthy basis for belief in the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the cosmological argument fails as a proof for the existence of God. (9)

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

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) Examine and show the strengths of **two** solutions to the problem of suffering. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these proposed solutions are failures. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main features of definitions of miracles and **two** philosophical reasons for believing in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on problems raised by these definitions of miracles that may lead to a rejection of belief in miracles. (9)

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

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Give an account of the arguments for and against the view that morality does not depend on religion. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are the arguments against this view stronger than those in its favour? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key ideas of **either** Utilitarianism **or** Situation Ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent has the theory selected in (i) survived the challenges which it has faced? (9)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Outline the key ideas associated with pacifism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is pacifism a difficult position to hold? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine what is meant by a dilemma in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) Consider the usefulness of **one** way of solving dilemmas in sexual ethics. (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5 (a) (i) Examine some of the religious beliefs and practices in India prior to the time of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the reasons why the Buddha refined and rejected some of these beliefs and practices. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of the four signs and the enlightenment of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these features for an understanding of the 'Middle Way' in Buddhism. (9)

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

EITHER

- 6 (a) (i) Examine the key features of the Sangha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on how far the Sangha is significant for Buddhists. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of **two** types of meditation and their importance to Buddhists. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the different purposes of meditation in Buddhism. (9)

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

Christianity

EITHER

- 7 (a) (i) Examine teaching about the person and work of Jesus in the modern Church. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this teaching for Christians. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus in **one** social and religious 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. (21)
- (ii) How far is it possible for God to be personal without being vulnerable? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine different teachings on Baptism in **two** Christian Churches. (21)
- (ii) Comment on how the different practices demonstrate the two Churches' different teaching. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine the key features of the Indus Valley culture and show how these may have been absorbed into Aryan culture. (21)
- (ii) 'The evidence relating to this period is difficult to interpret and this creates problems for understanding its religious significance.'
Comment on this claim. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of beliefs about Vedic deities. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that it is simplistic to describe these beliefs as polytheistic. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Examine the key beliefs and practices of **two** of the following:
• Bhakti yoga
• Hatha yoga
• Jnana yoga
• Karma yoga. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the two types selected in (i) for an understanding of Hindu beliefs about enlightenment/liberation. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the key features of Krishna, Rama and Siva. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the distinctive significance of **one** of these figures for devotees. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

- 11** (a) (i) Examine the key religious features of the period prior to the time of Muhammad and their possible influence on Muhammad in Makkah. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the reasons why Muhammad may have accepted some of these features and rejected others. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the religious features of Muhammad's life in Makkah and the reasons why he was persecuted. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the hijrah was the beginning of Islam. (9)

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

EITHER

- 12** (a) (i) Examine the key beliefs about angels and prophets in the Six beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of **either** angels **or** prophets for Muslim belief and practice. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive features of **two** of the following pillars:
- Salah
 - Saum
 - Zakah.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the relationship between the two pillars selected in part (i) and shahadah. (9)

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

Judaism

EITHER

- 13** (a) (i) Examine the background to Rashi and the key features of Rashi and his school. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Rashi and his school within the development of Judaism. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the religious context to Moses Maimonides and his key teachings. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Moses Maimonides is considered to be the most influential figure in Rabbinic Judaism. (9)

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

EITHER

- 14** (a) (i) Examine the key emphases of the teachings of Orthodox Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the challenges encountered within Orthodox practice and suggest possible responses. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the significant differences between the practices of Orthodox and Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Reform Judaism is tolerant towards other forms of Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15** (a) (i) Examine the historical context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)
- (ii) Comment on reasons why the term 'Guru' is significant for Sikhs. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Give an account of the nature and compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. (9)

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

EITHER

- 16** (a) (i) Examine Sikh teaching about the practice of devotion. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is the practice of devotion the basis of the Sikh way of life? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the obligations placed on Sikhs by initiation into the Khalsa. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Khalsa is the basis for Sikh identity and discipline. (9)

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

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **EITHER** the teachings of Jesus concerning outcasts (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the Bread of Life' and 'I am the gate for the sheep' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these teachings or sayings were crucial to Jesus' ministry. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) What do **EITHER** the healing of the bleeding woman and the calming of the storm (Luke's Gospel) **or** the feeding of the five thousand and the raising of Lazarus (Fourth Gospel) reveal about the character of Jesus' ministry? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the miracles of Jesus were a controversial part of his ministry. (9)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) Examine **EITHER** Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine two episodes involving women (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent did **EITHER** Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise **or** his conversations with women reveal attitudes different from those of Judaism? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) What were the important teachings of Jesus regarding the life of discipleship? (21)
- (ii) To what extent was the Holy Spirit crucial to Jesus' ministry? (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 90 MARKS

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