

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Edexcel GCE**

# Religious Studies

**Advanced**

**Unit 4: Implications – Ethics**

Wednesday 15 June 2011 – Morning

**Time: 1 hour 15 minutes**

Paper Reference

**6RS04/1B**

**You do not need any other materials.**

Total Marks

## Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Read the passage carefully.
- Answer **BOTH** part (a) and part (b) of the question.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- 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 (for 60% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (for 40% of the marks).

Turn over ►

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## Ethics

Ancient Western philosophical thought about how to live centred on the question of the highest good: what life is most fully and lastingly satisfying? While virtue was meant to govern one's relations with others, it was first of all the condition of attaining the good for oneself. Christianity taught that the highest good was attainable only through salvation, and complicated the pursuit of it by insisting on obedience to God's commands. The distinctive enterprise of modern philosophical ethics grew as ideas of the highest good and of the will of the Christian deity came to seem less and less able to provide practical guidance. Since many people today do not believe, as the ancients did, that there is just one definite way of living which is best for everyone, and since many think we cannot resolve our practical problems on a religious basis, the questions of modern Western ethics are unavoidably still our own questions.

(Source: Schneewind, J. *Modern Moral Philosophy* in Singer, P. (ed) *A Companion to Ethics*, Blackwell, 2001, p147)

1. (a) Examine the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. (30)
  
- (b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. (20)

**(Total 50 marks)**

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**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1B: 50 MARKS**

**Start your answer on page 3.**



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**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1B: 50 MARKS**

