

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Edexcel GCE**

# Religious Studies

**Advanced**

**Unit 4: Implications – New Testament**

Wednesday 15 June 2011 – Morning

**Time: 1 hour 15 minutes**

Paper Reference

**6RS04/1J**

**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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## New Testament

The various accounts of the scene at the empty tomb on the first Easter morning are so full of inconsistencies that it is easy for sceptics to deride them. The writer of the John gospel describes Mary Magdalene arriving at the tomb alone, discovering the tomb to be empty and imparting the news to Peter and an unnamed 'other disciple, the one Jesus loved' (John 20: 2), generally identified as John. The Matthew author relates that Mary Magdalene was accompanied by 'Mary the mother of James and Joseph'... Luke, who knows nothing of any Salome, speaks only of one 'Joanna' (presumably royal treasurer Chuza's wife) together with other women who go off to tell the disciples what they have seen, though according to Mark, the women, 'frightened out of their wits... said nothing to a soul, for they were afraid' (Mark 16: 8).

Similar discrepancies occur in the reports of what was seen at the empty tomb. John's Mary Magdalene saw first two angels sitting in the tomb and then Jesus, whom she was not allowed to touch. Matthew's two Marys saw one seated angel, and then Jesus. Mark's three women saw a young man in a white robe... Luke's group of women saw two men in brilliant clothes who suddenly appeared at their side, but not Jesus himself, who was seen only by two disciples on the road to Emmaus. All four gospels describe Jesus subsequently appearing to the full group of disciples... Luke also indirectly mentions an earlier appearance of Jesus to Simon Peter, one which seems to have gone unnoticed elsewhere in the gospels. But it is one of Paul's letters which gives the fullest information of all:

*...he [Jesus] appeared first to Cephas [Peter] and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too...* (1 Corinthians 15: 5–8).

The documentation is an almost hopeless jumble of confusion ...the garblings and inconsistencies have the same quality as the memories of witnesses after a road accident, which are, after all, personal and often highly confused versions of the same true story.

(Source adapted from: Wilson, I. 'Did Jesus really rise from the dead?' in *Jesus: The Evidence*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1996, p308)

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 1J: 50 MARKS**

**Start your answer on page 3.**



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

