

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Wednesday 16 May 2012 – 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).

Turn over ►

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PEARSON

Philosophy

EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) 'The design argument explains the purpose found in the natural world.'
Examine this description of the design argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that this argument is successful as a proof for the existence of God. (9)
- (Total for Question 1(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the evidence used to support the cosmological argument. (21)
- (ii) 'Challenges to this argument show that it is a failure.'
Comment on this claim. (9)
- (Total for Question 1(b) = 30 marks)**
-

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) In what ways may suffering be seen as a problem for a religious believer? Give an account of **two** solutions to this problem. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is one of these solutions more convincing than the other? (9)
- (Total for Question 2(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key problems of believing in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that it is justifiable to believe in miracles. (9)
- (Total for Question 2(b) = 30 marks)**
-

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Examine the arguments for and against the view that morality is independent of religion. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these arguments convincing? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the important concepts of **either** Situation Ethics **or** Utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these important concepts undermined by relevant criticisms? (9)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the view that it may be possible to justify involvement in war on some occasions. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that no war can ever be justified. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the ways in which religious beliefs can be used to clarify dilemmas in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that religious beliefs about sexual ethics are no longer relevant to most people today. (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5** (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following, with reference to the time prior to the Buddha:
- historical context
 - religious context
 - social context.
- (21)
- (ii) Why did the Buddha accept some aspects of these contexts and reject others?
(9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the importance of the enlightenment and death of the Buddha for an understanding of his life.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance for Buddhist practice of one of his final sayings: 'Work out your salvation with diligence.'
(9)

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

EITHER

- 6** (a) (i) Examine the essential features of the Three Refuges.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these three are all of equal importance.
(9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key teachings about meditation within the Eightfold Path.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the main purpose of meditation is to improve moral behaviour.
(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) Examine the Church's teaching on the life and work of Jesus in 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 God as personal and as creator. (21)
- (ii) How far are these beliefs challenging for Christians today? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine differing understandings of the Eucharist within **two** different Churches. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the impact of these different understandings of the Eucharist on Christians. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine **three** key features of the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these three features for Hindu belief and/or practice. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the major, distinctive features of Vedic beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that an acceptance of the authority of the Vedas is a defining feature of Hindu belief. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) In what ways may yoga help devotees to attain liberation? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of understanding yoga primarily as a form of mental and physical control. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the different emphases of those who worship Siva and those who worship Krishna. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the avatar (a god in human form) tradition in Hinduism. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

11 (a) (i) 'Pre-Islamic Arabia featured a range of religious traditions.'

Examine this description of the time before Muhammad.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the possible influence of this varied religious background on Muhammad's teaching.

(9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine some of the key problems during Muhammad's time in Madinah and his responses to them.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of this period for Muslims.

(9)

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

EITHER

12 (a) (i) Examine the key teachings about akhirah (life after death) in the context of the six beliefs.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of akhirah for Muslims.

(9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine the key ideas of salat and its links with shahada.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of sawm for Muslims.

(9)

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

Judaism

EITHER

- 13** (a) (i) Examine the key teachings associated with Rashi and Judah Halevi. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Judah Halevi for Jewish thought. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of the life and work of Moses Maimonides. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Maimonides successfully combined philosophy with Jewish belief. (9)

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

EITHER

- 14** (a) (i) 'Orthodoxy affirms the divine basis of Judaism.'
Examine the implications of this claim for Orthodox belief and practice. (21)
- (ii) Comment on selected controversies arising from this claim about the divine basis of Orthodoxy. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive teachings and practices of Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that there is ongoing antagonism between Orthodoxy and Reform Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15 (a) (i) Examine the religious context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Guru Gobind Singh for Sikhs. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the different uses of the term 'Guru' in Sikhism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. (9)

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

EITHER

- 16 (a) (i) Give an account of the role of devotion in the Sikh way of life. (21)
- (ii) How far is it true to say that the practice of devotion is the most important element in the Sikh way of life? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the code of conduct of the Khalsa. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Khalsa is out of date. (9)

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

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning riches (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the good shepherd' and 'I am the resurrection and the life' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Why were these teachings or sayings so controversial for Jesus' hearers? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important features of **either** the calming of the storm and the raising of Jairus' daughter (Luke's Gospel) **or** the healing of the lame man and the healing of the blind man (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the miracles of Jesus were of little importance to 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 Jesus' conversations with his mother at Cana and with the woman caught in adultery (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent was Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise **or** his conversations with women important to the gospel? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important teachings of Jesus regarding the life of a disciple. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the ministry of John the Baptist was crucial to Jesus' own ministry. (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

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