

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Tuesday 15 January 2013 – 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 on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.*

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) Examine the prominent features of the design argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the design argument provides a coherent explanation of the universe. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main strengths of the cosmological argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that the cosmological argument is not a convincing argument for the existence of God. (9)

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

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) Examine the key features of **two** solutions to the problem of suffering and their main purposes. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these **two** solutions do not succeed in removing obstacles to religious belief. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) "A miracle is a transgression of a law of nature by a particular volition of the Deity or by the interposition of some invisible agent."
Examine the key ideas in this definition of miracle. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that miracles are trustworthy and may be accepted. (9)

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

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Examine the defining characteristics of Situation Ethics. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Situation Ethics has failed to be a useful method for making moral decisions. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the reasons why Utilitarianism may be considered to be a failure. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Utilitarianism is a successful ethical theory. (9)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the reasons why pacifism may be a persuasive position. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Just War theory is a more realistic approach to the problems raised by going to war. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the reasons why dilemmas arise in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are religious approaches helpful in resolving the problems of sexual ethics? (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5** (a) (i) Examine the fundamental characteristics of religion in India prior to the time of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the Buddha's adaptation of these characteristics. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 5(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the importance of **two** of the following in relation to the life of the Buddha:
- signs associated with his birth
 - sights at the age of 29
 - asceticism
 - his followers.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that an understanding of the life of the Buddha is of little significance for Buddhists. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 5(b) = 30 marks)**

EITHER

- 6** (a) (i) Examine the meaning of the Three Refuges. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that 'taking Refuge' indicates a type of escapism. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 6(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the fundamental features of meditation in Buddhism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of meditation for Buddhists. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 6(b) = 30 marks)**

Christianity

EITHER

7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings during the Early Church 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 teachings about the life and work of Jesus in one religious context. (21)

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

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

EITHER

8 (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as personal. (21)

(ii) How far are these beliefs relevant today? (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine different practices of the Eucharist in **two** Christian traditions. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these practices for Christian belief about the nature of the Eucharist. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine some key results of investigations into the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the possible influences of this period on the development of Hinduism. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **four** prominent features of the Vedic period. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that **two** of these features are significant for the development of Hinduism. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Examine the key beliefs associated with yoga. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the implications of these beliefs for Hindu practice. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of Krishna and Sakti in Hindu traditions. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the distinctive significance of **one** of these for Hindu beliefs. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

11 (a) (i) Examine the characteristic features of the religious context prior to the time of Muhammad. (21)

(ii) Comment on the ways in which Muhammad dealt with these features. (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine the key features associated with Muhammad as prophet. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that these features are distinctive. (9)

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

EITHER

12 (a) (i) Examine the key ideas associated with submission in relation to Islamic belief and practice. (21)

(ii) Comment on ways in which Muslims may respond to claims that submission is passive and negative. (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine key ideas about Allah found in the Six beliefs. (21)

(ii) Comment on the implications of these ideas for Muslim practice. (9)

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

Judaism

EITHER

13 (a) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of Rabbinic Judaism. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of Rashi for an understanding of Rabbinic Judaism. (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine the fundamental beliefs associated with Maimonides. (21)

(ii) Comment on the distinctive contributions of Maimonides to Judaism. (9)

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

EITHER

14 (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following topics with reference to Orthodox Judaism: (21)

- chosen people of God
- Torah
- ritual
- gender issues.

(ii) Comment on Orthodox responses to challenges faced by the **two** topics selected in (i). (9)

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

OR

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

(ii) Comment on **two** criticisms of Reform raised by Orthodox Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

15 (a) (i) Examine the relationship between Guru Nanak and the following:

- Hinduism
- Islam.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the importance of Guru Nanak for the Sikh way of life.

(9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Give an account of the compilation and status of the Guru Granth Sahib.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the view that the treatment of the Guru Granth Sahib today amounts to idol worship.

(9)

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

EITHER

16 (a) (i) Describe the importance of nam simran and devotion in the everyday life of Sikhs.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the view that private devotion is more important than communal worship in the Gurdwara.

(9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Give an account of the main features of the Rahit Maryada.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the view that the only real Sikhs are the members of the Khalsa.

(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 light of the world' and 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Consider why **either** these teachings **or** the 'I am' sayings were so important to Jesus' ministry. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) With reference to **either** Luke's Gospel **or** the Fourth Gospel, examine the key features of **two** miracles/signs. (21)
- (ii) To what extent did the miracles of Jesus make his ministry distinctive? (9)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) Examine **either** the emphasis on prayer and praise **or** on the Sabbath (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine Jesus' conversations with the Samaritan Woman and with Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent was the emphasis on prayer and praise **or** on the Sabbath **or** Jesus' conversations with women important to the gospel? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the teachings of Jesus on the characteristic features of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) Consider the view that the role of the Twelve was crucial to Jesus' ministry. (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

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