

**Edexcel GCE**

# Religious Studies

**Advanced Subsidiary**

**Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations**

New Template Exemplar

**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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## Philosophy

### EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) What are the main ideas of the design and cosmological arguments for the existence of God? (21)
- (ii) Choose **one** of these arguments and comment on its weaknesses. (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main strengths and weaknesses of the design argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Consider the view that the weaknesses are more convincing than the strengths. (9)

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

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### EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) In what ways may suffering create philosophical problems for religious believers? Outline **two** solutions to these problems. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these solutions successful? (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine **one** philosopher's understanding of the term 'miracle'. Examine the arguments used to discredit miracles. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these arguments successful? (9)

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

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**Ethics**

**EITHER**

- 3** (a) (i) What are the advantages of utilitarianism? Identify the main problems of utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent do these problems make utilitarianism unacceptable? (9)

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

**OR**

- (b) (i) In what ways may situation ethics be regarded as a useful ethical theory? Outline the main weaknesses of situation ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent do these weaknesses undermine the theory? (9)

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

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**EITHER**

- 4** (a) (i) Examine what is meant by just war and pacifism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is pacifism compatible with a just war? (9)

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

**OR**

- (b) (i) Outline the view that there are no rights or wrongs in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent, if any, is it reasonable to claim that sexual ethics should be linked to religious beliefs? (9)

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

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## **Buddhism**

### **EITHER**

- 5 (a) (i) Outline the main features of the religious context prior to the time of the Buddha and illustrate the influence of this background on the life of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these features had a significant influence on the teachings of the Buddha. (9)

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

### **OR**

- (b) (i) Examine the significant features of the period of luxury and asceticism in the life of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this period for Buddhist beliefs. (9)

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

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### **EITHER**

- 6 (a) (i) Examine what is meant by the three refuges and their significance for Buddhists. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the links between these three refuges. (9)

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

### **OR**

- (b) (i) What are the key characteristics of two types of meditation in Buddhism? (21)
- (ii) Consider why meditation is significant in Buddhism. (9)

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

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## Christianity

### EITHER

- 7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings, during the Reformation, about the life 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) In what ways has the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus been influenced by **one** social context? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this teaching for Christians. (9)

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

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### EITHER

- 8 (a) (i) Examine Christian teaching about God as creator and its implications for Christians. (21)
- (ii) To what extent has this teaching been challenged by modern science? (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine beliefs about **two** aspects of the worship and practice of **one** Christian Church. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are the beliefs of the Church reflected in the worship and practice? (9)

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

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## Hinduism

### EITHER

9 (a) (i) Examine the distinctive features of the Indus Valley culture. (21)

(ii) Comment on the possible influences of this culture on the emergence of Hinduism. (9)

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

### OR

(b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of Vedic beliefs. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these Vedic beliefs for Hindus. (9)

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

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### EITHER

10 (a) (i) What may be understood by 'yoga'? Examine the relationship between belief and practice in yoga. (21)

(ii) To what extent is this relationship significant? (9)

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

### OR

(b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of Rama and Siva. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these figures for Hindu belief and practice. (9)

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

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**Islam**

**EITHER**

**11 (a) (i)** Examine the key religious characteristics of pre-Islamic Arabia. (21)

(ii) Comment on the main differences between the religion of this period and Muhammad's teaching about Allah. (9)

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

**OR**

(b) (i) Examine the key differences between the work of Muhammad in Makkah and his work in Madinah. (21)

(ii) Why is the emigration to Madinah (hijra) of such pivotal importance to Muslims? (9)

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

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**EITHER**

**12 (a) (i)** Examine Muslim teachings concerning life after death with regard to rewards and punishment. (21)

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

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

**OR**

(b) (i) Examine, with reference to **two** pillars, what is meant by submission to Allah. (21)

(ii) Choose **one** pillar and comment on its significance for beliefs about submission. (9)

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

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## Judaism

### EITHER

- 13 (a) (i) Give an account of the historical and religious context of Rashi and of Judah Halevi. Examine their key teachings. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the key teachings of **either** Rashi **or** Judah Halevi within Judaism. (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key teachings of Moses Maimonides. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these teachings fundamental to Judaism? (9)

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

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### EITHER

- 14 (a) (i) Examine the distinctive teachings of Orthodox and of Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these teachings reflected in different practices between Orthodox and Reform Judaism? (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key teachings and practices of Orthodox Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the differences between Orthodox and **either** Conservative **or** Liberal Judaism. (9)

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

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## **Sikhism**

### **EITHER**

**15** (a) (i) Examine the relationship between Guru Nanak and Hinduism. (21)

(ii) Comment on the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib for the practice of the Sikh way of life. (9)

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

### **OR**

(b) (i) Examine the religious context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that Guru Gobind Singh is the real founder of Sikhism. (9)

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

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### **EITHER**

**16** (a) (i) Examine Sikh teaching about how mukti may be achieved. (21)

(ii) To what extent is Sikhism based on living as a householder? (9)

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

### **OR**

(b) (i) Examine Sikh teaching about service to God and to other people. (21)

(ii) 'Waheguru ji ka khalsa; waheguru ji ki fateh'  
(The khalsa owes allegiance to God; sovereignty belongs to God alone).  
Comment on the view that these words express the essence of (9)

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

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## New Testament

### EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning outcasts (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the saying 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) With regard to your answer in (a), consider why these teachings **or** this saying were so controversial at that time. (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) What can be learned about the ministry of Jesus from **either** the calming of the storm (Luke's Gospel) **or** the healing of the Official's Son (Fourth Gospel)? (21)
- (ii) To what extent was the performing of miracles an important aspect of Jesus' ministry? (9)

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

### EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teaching of Jesus, in Luke's Gospel, concerning the Sabbath **or** examine the importance of **two** incidents involving women in the ministry of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel. (21)
- (ii) To what extent did Jesus' teaching concerning the Sabbath **or** his approach towards women reflect the practices of Judaism at that time? (9)

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

### OR

- (b) (i) Examine the significant features of Jesus' teaching concerning the demands of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) Consider the importance of the Twelve Disciples in the ministry of Jesus. (9)

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

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**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS**

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