

**ADVANCED GCE UNIT
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Extended Essay Titles

JANUARY 2007

2781–2790

This pre-release material may be opened on receipt.



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Choose **one** title from those set in the Unit for which you have been entered. Only essays on titles printed in this question paper set for this session can be assessed.
- Ensure that your name, Centre number and Candidate number are entered in the spaces on the cover sheet provided, and that the cover sheet is firmly attached to the essay.
- **The pages of the essay must be firmly attached together and each page must be numbered.**
- Your essay must be submitted in the format specified in the *Religious Studies A2 Notes for Guidance*.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- Each question carries 90 marks.
- The quality of your written communication will be taken into account.

This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

2781 Philosophy of Religion 2

- 1 'Heaven and hell are concepts without philosophical foundations.' Discuss.
- 2 'Corporate religious experiences, such as the Toronto Blessing, tell us nothing about God.' Discuss.
- 3 'Analogy provides the best way to understand the nature of God.' Discuss.

2782 Religious Ethics 2

- 1 'Our ethical choices are not free.' Discuss.
- 2 To what extent is conscience just a reflection of up-bringing?
- 3 In the light of ethical theories, discuss critically the arguments for and against going to war.

2783 Jewish Scriptures

- 1 Compare and contrast how the book of Micah and the set passages from Isaiah deal with Messianic themes.
- 2 Examine the extent to which ideas about life after death develop in the texts you have studied.
- 3 'Corporate identity and personal religion are both equally evident throughout the Jewish scriptures.' Discuss.

2784 New Testament**Alternative A: The Early Church**

- 1 Consider the arguments for and against the Pauline authorship of Ephesians by comparison with 1 Corinthians and Galatians.
- 2 'The resurrection of Jesus lies at the heart of the gospel preached by Paul.' Discuss.
- 3 'For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received.' (1 Corinthians 15:3) Examine critically the ways in which Paul uses his conversion to authenticate his apostleship.

Alternative B: The Gospels

- 4 To what extent does an understanding of the Jewish background contribute to an understanding of the person of Jesus as portrayed in the gospels?
- 5 'Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of God were about a future hope of salvation.' Discuss.
- 6 Assess the importance of the healing miracles as gospel teachings.

2785 Developments in Christian Thought

- 1 Assess James Cone's view that 'theology is a rational and passionate study of the revolutionary activity of God in the world in the light of the historical situation of an oppressed community.' (*The Risks of Faith*).
- 2 'A pluralist theology of religion undermines the purpose of theology.' Discuss.
- 3 'Because black slave religion was very different from white Christianity, Black Theology is quite distinct and original.' Discuss.

2786 Eastern Religions

Alternative A: Buddhism

- 1 'The adaptations made as Buddhism moved into China and Japan are a betrayal of Buddhist origins.' Discuss.
- 2 'In Zen you must find your own way, while in Pure Land you are saved by another.' Discuss.
- 3 'Morality is the most important part of The Eightfold Path.' Discuss.

Alternative B: Hinduism

- 4 'The Purusha Sukta shows that varna is a god-given structure, and cannot be modernised.' Discuss.
- 5 'The Ramakrishna movement owes less to Ramakrishna than to others.' Discuss.
- 6 'Belief in a God (Isvara) makes Yoga incompatible with Samkhya.' Discuss.

2787 Islam

- 1 To what extent is it justifiable, from the articles of belief, to describe Muhammad ﷺ as the founder of a new religion?
- 2 'The differences between Sunni and Shi'a Islam are not significant.' Discuss.
- 3 Examine the implications for Muslims of their beliefs about the relationship between Allah and the created world.

2788 Judaism 1

- 1 'The conflict between the State and religious Judaism is a major feature of modern Israel.' Discuss.
- 2 'The only significant difference between Orthodox and Progressive groups within Judaism is the policy regarding conversion.' Discuss.
- 3 'Post-Holocaust theology reflects a disastrous division within Judaism.' Discuss.

2789 Philosophy of Religion 1

- 1 'Challenges from science have dealt a severe blow to the teleological argument's attempt at proving God's existence.' Discuss.
- 2 'Descartes offers the strongest version of the ontological argument.' Discuss.
- 3 Evaluate Freud's claim that religion is an illusion based on human wishes.

2790 Religious Ethics 1

- 1 Discuss critically the ethical concerns raised by genetic engineering.
- 2 'Utilitarianism is not a useful method for making decisions about moral issues.' Discuss.
- 3 'Personhood is the only important question when considering an abortion.' Discuss.

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