

552/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2a**

**WESTERN RELIGIONS**

**An Introduction to either Islam or Judaism**

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2006

(1 hour)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B.

**SECTION A: An Introduction to Islam**

Answer *Question 1* and **one** other question.

1.

In Muslim countries governments provide education consistent with the Islamic heritage and religious beliefs.

Most mosques try to impart some Islamic knowledge to their young by having lessons at the mosque after school or at the weekend. This has potential, but is frequently not really satisfactory. It is now widely acknowledged that it taxes, bores and stresses children without providing any significant degree of knowledge or understanding of the faith.

*Islam* Ruqaiyyah Maqsood

- (a) Outline the practice **and** importance of education in Islam. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the home as a place of learning for Muslims. [10]
2. (a) Examine how Muslim beliefs about the worldwide Muslim community (Ummah) are expressed in the practices of salah **and** fasting during Ramadan. [10]
- (b) ‘Ramadan, more than any other Pillar, shows Muslim identity and unity.’  
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain the role of the Qur’an as a basis for Shari’ah law. [10]
- (b) ‘The teachings of the Qur’an and Shari’ah law make Islam appear a harsh religion.’  
Assess this view. [10]

## SECTION B: An Introduction to Judaism

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

1.

The lifetime of each Jew is marked by joyful or sad ceremonies marking moments of transition from one status to another. The various rituals associated with these have the power to bring Jews closer to God and also closer to their family. Some of these ceremonies find an echo in the synagogue and the wider community but their primary focus is generally within the home.

*An Introduction to Judaism* Nicholas de Lange

- (a) Explain why Jews celebrate life cycle rituals. [10]
- (b) Outline the role of the family in the birth and death rituals. [10]
2. (a) Outline the use of the Torah in Jewish worship. [10]
- (b) ‘The Talmud is more relevant to Jews today than the Torah.’  
Assess this statement. [10]
3. (a) Explain, with examples, the observance of mitzvot in Jewish life today. [10]
- (b) ‘If Jews do not keep all the mitzvot they cannot be regarded as good Jews.’  
Assess this statement. [10]