

552/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2a

WESTERN RELIGIONS

An Introduction to either Islam or Judaism

P.M. THURSDAY, 8 June 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 Islam, the special status of family life reflects the Qur’anic concern for the rights of the family. The traditional family social structure, the roles and responsibilities of its members, and family values may be identified in the law. The family consists of the father, his wife or wives, unmarried sons and daughters, and married sons with their wives and children, all of whom have specific roles within the family structure. It serves as the basic social and economic unit.

Adapted from *Islam: The Straight Path*, John L Esposito

- (a) Examine the role **and** importance of the family in Islam. [10]
- (b) Explain Muslim teaching about divorce. [10]
2. (a) Examine the Muslim concept of jihad. [10]
- (b) ‘Jihad is now the most important practice in Islam.’
Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Examine the importance of the Qur’an for Muslims. [10]
- (b) ‘To understand Islam it is necessary to understand the life of Muhammad as well as the Qur’an.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Judaism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible are referred to as the Pentateuch. According to tradition these books were the work of Moses who spoke 'face to face, as a man speaks to a friend', with God. They contain the basic rules that Jews are required to keep as part of the Covenant agreement.

(a) Outline different views of the authorship of the Pentateuch. [10]

(b) Explain the Jewish idea of *the Covenant agreement*. [10]

2. (a) Examine the importance of the Codes and Responsa in Judaism. [10]

(b) 'Rabbinic Judaism is the only true Judaism.'
Assess this statement. [10]

3. (a) Explain the importance of the festival of Pesach to Judaism. [10]

(b) 'Judaism is too concerned with the past; it should be more prepared to change with the times.'
Assess this statement. [10]