

556/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 6a

WESTERN RELIGIONS:

Studies in either Islam or Judaism

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 14 June 2006

(1 hour 30 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **two** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 25 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: Studies in Islam

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Explain, with examples, the five principles found within Shari'a. [15]
 (b) 'All Muslims must obey Shari'a law because it contains Allah's direct instructions on every aspect of human life.'
 Evaluate this statement. [10]
2. (a) Explain Muslim understandings of the concept of jihad. [15]
 (b) 'The concept of holy war is not relevant to 21st Century Muslims.'
 Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Examine the revolutionary change to the status of women brought about by the rise of Islam. [15]
 (b) 'Muslim women are badly treated because of cultural traditions, not because of Islamic law.'
 Assess this opinion. [10]

SECTION B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Explain the basis of the Mitnagdim's opposition to the religious revival led by Baal Shem Tov. [15]
 (b) 'The rise of the Hasidic Movement was entirely based on true devotion to the Torah.'
 Assess this view. [10]
2. (a) Examine the role of women within Hasidic Judaism. [15]
 (b) 'Orthodox women enjoy respect and honour as the backbone of Jewish family life.'
 Evaluate this contention. [10]
3. (a) Examine the relationship between Zionism and the Jewish religion. [15]
 (b) 'The rise of Zionism was caused only by widespread anti-Semitism.'
 Assess this view. [10]