

559/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 9
Religious and Human Experience

A.M. MONDAY, 26 June 2006

(1 hour 30 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

The use of a Bible is not permitted in this examination.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 50 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 one question.

1. Religious Authority

You must show knowledge and understanding of sacred writings as a religious authority from **at least two** different areas of study and be able to determine the significance of sacred writings as such an authority, compared with that of religious leaders.

- (a) Explain the nature and role of sacred writings as a source of authority for religious believers. [30]
- (b) 'The authority of sacred writings is less important than the authority of religious leaders in 21st century religion.'
Evaluate the validity of this assertion. [20]

2. Religious Experience

You must show knowledge and understanding of a variety of forms of religious experience from **at least two** different areas of study and be able to assess whether religious experiences are more meaningful and authoritative in the lives of religious believers than other aspects of religion and life.

- (a) Explain and illustrate different types of religious experience. [30]
- (b) 'Religious experiences, more than anything else, provide significant meaning and guidance to the lives of religious believers.'
Evaluate the validity of this claim. [20]

3. Life, Death and Life after Death

You must show knowledge and understanding of a variety of beliefs about life after death from **at least two** different areas of study and be able to assess how important belief in individual survival beyond death is to religion.

- (a) Explain some beliefs about life after death. [30]
- (b) 'Belief in personal immortality is essential to religion.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]