

552/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2a**

**WESTERN RELIGIONS**

**An Introduction to either Islam or Judaism**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 January 2007

(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, Allah does not reveal Himself, but rather His will or guidance. Revelation occurs through the direct inspiration of prophets and messengers throughout history. While Muslims are encouraged to follow the will of Allah out of obedience, the vision of the final judgement remains a constant reminder of the ultimate consequences of each life.

Adapted from *Islam – The Straight Path* John L. Esposito

- (a) Explain the phrase *messengers throughout history*. [10]
- (b) Describe Muslim teaching on *the final judgement* (akhirah). [10]
- 2.** (a) Outline key events in the life of Muhammad after his call to prophet hood. [10]
- (b) ‘The example of Muhammad is all that Muslims need to guide them through life.’ Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Describe the structure of a Muslim family. [10]
- (b) ‘It is family life more than anything else that sustains and strengthens Islam in Britain.’ Assess this view. [10]

**SECTION B: An Introduction to Judaism**

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

**1.**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1 vv 1-2

(a) Outline the Jewish view of creation. [10]

(b) Explain the role and significance of Shabbat in Judaism. [10]

**2.** (a) Explain the importance of the Mishnah and Gemara. [10]

(b) ‘Jews should concentrate on putting the teaching of the Torah into practice rather than spending time studying it.’  
Assess this view. [10]

**3.** (a) Explain the importance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to Jews. [10]

(b) ‘Celebrating festivals is the most important part of Judaism.’  
Assess this view. [10]