

553/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 3a

An Introduction to Religion and Ethics

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

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 Question 1 and one other question.

1.

Sacred writings do not consider the possibility that a human being may naturally be inclined to be homosexual. For sacred writings, sexual activity makes sense only in the context of procreation and is therefore natural only between male and female. In Situation Ethics it is whether a particular action promotes agapé (selfless love), not the teachings within these sacred writings, that is most important.

- (a) Outline the main ethical issues that homosexuality raises for some religious believers. [10]
- (b) Explain how the principles of Situation Ethics may be applied to the issue of homosexual relationships. [10]
- 2.** (a) Outline the theory of Natural Law. [10]
- (b) Assess the view that Natural Law is incompatible with making ethical decisions in today's world. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain how the principles of Utilitarianism might be applied to sex before marriage. [10]
- (b) Determine how far Utilitarianism is consistent with a religious approach to moral decision making. [10]