

557/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 7a

Studies in Religion and Ethics

A.M. THURSDAY, 21 June 2007

(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 two questions.

1. (a) Explain how Aristotle's concept of virtue can provide a basis for making ethical decisions. [15]
(b) 'Religion provides clear answers to specific moral issues whilst virtue theory is too vague to be helpful.'
Evaluate this contention from the perspective of **one OR more** major world religions. [10]

2. (a) Explain how prejudice and discrimination undermine the morality of a society, giving examples to illustrate your answer. [15]
(b) 'Positive discrimination (or affirmative action) leads to a fairer society.'
Evaluate this view from the perspective of **one OR more** major world religions. [10]

3. (a) Explain how pacifism may be based on religious beliefs and teachings. [15]
(b) 'Pacifism is an inadequate ethical response to the threat of nuclear war.'
Evaluate this statement. [10]