



**GCE AS/A level**

552/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2α**

**WESTERN RELIGIONS**

**An Introduction to either Islam or  
Judaism**

P.M. TUESDAY, 3 June 2008

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.**

Jihad, “to strive or struggle” in the way of Allah, is so important a concept in Islam that it is almost regarded as a sixth pillar. It is often misunderstood today by non-Muslims. In its most general meaning it refers to the obligation placed on all Muslims, as individuals and as a community, to follow the will of Allah and to extend the Islamic community.

- (a) Outline the Muslim concept of *jihad*. [10]
- (b) Explain how jihad is *often misunderstood today*. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the concept of Allah as expressed in the Qur’an. [10]
- (b) ‘Religion is more about the way you treat other people than what you believe about God.’  
Assess this view with reference to Islam. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain how Muslim beliefs about the Ummah are expressed in the pillars of shahadah (declaration of faith) and salah (prayer). [10]
- (b) ‘Prayer is the most important activity in Muslim life.’  
Assess this view. [10]

**SECTION B: An Introduction to Judaism**

*Answer Question 1 and one other question.*

1.

All food served in a Jewish home must conform to the laws of *kashrut*. The roots of these laws are in the Hebrew Bible and their amplification is found in the Talmud. The levels at which they are observed reflect the main stances of the different movements in Judaism. It can be said that observance of traditional food laws is a key indicator of a Jew's general attitude to being distinctively Jewish.

(a) Outline the Jewish *laws of kashrut*. [10]

(b) Explain the importance of *kashrut* within Judaism. [10]

2. (a) Outline the structure and nature of the Torah. [10]

(b) 'Judaism is obsessed with keeping laws; there is no joy in it.'  
Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Outline the practice and significance of Pesach celebrations. [10]

(b) 'Remembrance of past events is still the most important aspect of Judaism.'  
Assess this view. [10]