



GCE A level

1348/07

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS3 WR - Studies in Western Religions

A.M. MONDAY, 13 June 2011

1³/₄ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer questions from one section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 50 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

Part (*a*) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (*b*) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

Answer questions from one section only, either Section A or Section B.

Section A: Studies in Islam

Answer two questions

1. (a) Examine the importance of shari'a within Muslim life. [30]
 (b) 'The shari'a is no longer relevant in modern society.'
 Assess this view. [20]

2. (a) Examine the distinctive practices found within Sufi Islam. [30]
 (b) 'Sufi practices are totally different from true Islam.'
 Evaluate this view. [20]

3. (a) Explain the role of Muslim faith schools in Britain. [30]
 (b) 'All Muslims should try to assimilate into British way of life.'
 Assess this claim. [20]

4. (a) Examine the main features of the Nation of Islam. [30]
 (b) 'The Nation of Islam should not be considered a true Islamic movement.'
 Evaluate this contention. [20]

Section B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions

1. (a) Examine the growth of Hasidism in the time of Baal Shem Tov. [30]
(b) ‘Baal Shem Tov ensured the survival of Judaism.’
Assess this view. [20]

2. (a) Examine the development of Reform Judaism. [30]
(b) ‘The Pittsburgh Platform was a total betrayal of traditional Jewish beliefs.’
Evaluate this contention. [20]

3. (a) Explain the challenges of being a religious minority for Jews living in Britain. [30]
(b) ‘All Jewish children in Britain should be educated within Jewish faith schools.’
Assess this contention. [20]

4. (a) Explain the responses to the Holocaust of **three** Holocaust theologians. [30]
(b) To what extent are these responses more convincing than the traditionalist view that the Holocaust was God’s way of punishing the Jews? [20]