



**GCE A level**

1349/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RS4 HE Studies in Religion and Human Experience**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 15 June 2011

1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 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 **one** question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

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

#### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Each question carries 75 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 one question.*

### 1. Religious Authority

You must show knowledge and understanding of the different ways religious authority influences religious believers and be able to evaluate whether religious believers hold all forms of religious authority to be equally important.

- (a) Explain the variety of different ways in which religious authorities influence religious believers. [45]
- (b) 'For the religious believer, all religious authority is of equal importance.' Evaluate the accuracy of this statement. [30]

### 2. Religious Experience

You must show knowledge and understanding of both individual and communal forms of religious experience and be able to evaluate how reliable a religious experience is in helping an individual understand the nature of God/*Ultimate Reality*. (The term 'Ultimate Reality' is used as an alternative for God to allow for a non-theistic perspective.)

- (a) Examine a variety of individual **and** communal forms of religious experience. [45]
- (b) 'A religious experience is the only way for a religious believer to understand the nature of God/*Ultimate Reality*.' Evaluate the accuracy of this statement. [30]

### 3. Life, Death and Life after Death

You must show knowledge and understanding of differing religious beliefs about the nature and purpose of life and be able to evaluate whether religious beliefs about life have any meaning today.

- (a) Examine different religious beliefs about the nature and purpose of life. [45]
- (b) 'Religious beliefs about life are irrelevant in today's world.' Evaluate the accuracy of this statement. [30]