



GCE AS/A level

1347/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 WR - Introduction to Western Religions

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 12 January 2011

1¹/₄ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 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 45 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: Introduction to Islam

*Answer **two** questions.*

1. (a) Examine the origins and nature of the Qur'an. [30]
(b) 'The Qur'an is still the main source of authority within Islam.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Explain the significance of key events in the life of Muhammad after his call to be a prophet. [30]
(b) 'The hijrah was the main reason for the success of Islam.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the beliefs and practices of hajj. [30]
(b) 'Performing hajj is the most important pillar for Muslims in the 21st Century.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the roles of men and women in Muslim family life. [30]
(b) 'The influence of culture and tradition place impossible demands on Muslim family life.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Judaism

Answer two questions

1. (a) Explain the significance of Abraham for Jews. [30]
(b) 'The responsibility to keep the covenant is too much to expect of Jews.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Examine the nature of worship in the synagogue. [30]
(b) 'It is the synagogue that ensures the survival of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Explain the beliefs and practices of Yom Kippur. [30]
(b) 'Yom Kippur is the most important festival in Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine Jewish beliefs and practices with regard to divorce. [30]
(b) 'Men have a superior role to women in Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]