



GCE A level

1348/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS3 ETH - Studies in Religion and Ethics

A.M. THURSDAY, 31 May 2012

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 **two** questions.

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 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 two questions.

1. (a) Explain how Aristotle's virtue theory can be used to make moral decisions. [30]
(b) 'The doctrine of the mean is useless as a way of defining moral character.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]

2. (a) Explain how Kant's categorical imperative may be compatible with a religious perspective. [30]
(b) 'Morality does not depend upon religious belief.'
Assess this view. [20]

3. (a) Examine the ethical issues which arise from the existence and use of nuclear weapons. [30]
(b) 'The manufacture and sale of weapons is ethically justifiable.'
Assess this view. [20]

4. (a) Examine, from the perspective of **at least one** major world religion, the ethical issues which arise from stem cell research. [30]
(b) 'Research using stem cells is immoral.'
Evaluate this contention. [20]