



**GCE A level**

1348/07

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RS3 WR - Studies in Western Religions**

A.M. THURSDAY, 31 May 2012

1¾ 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 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 contribution of **three** of the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs to the development of Islam. [30]  
(b) ‘Abu Bakr was the true successor of Muhammad.’  
Assess this view. [20]
  
2. (a) Examine the distinctive features of Shi’a Islam. [30]  
(b) ‘Sunni and Shi’a Muslims are so different that Islam can never be united.’  
Assess this view. [20]
  
3. (a) Examine the status of women in Islam today. [30]  
(b) ‘Islamic sources show that women had a greater role in Islam in the past than they have today.’  
Evaluate this contention. [20]
  
4. (a) Examine what is meant by ‘Fundamentalist Islam.’ [30]  
(b) ‘Until Islam has abandoned fundamentalism it will be affected by western prejudices and misconceptions.’  
Assess this view. [20]

**Section B: Studies in Judaism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain the understandings of God to be found in the Jewish mystical tradition. [30]  
(b) 'Mysticism is not in the true tradition of Judaism.'  
Evaluate this claim. [20]
  
2. (a) Outline the distinctive beliefs and practices of Orthodox Judaism. [30]  
(b) 'Orthodox Judaism cannot be modernised and still remain loyal to the covenant.'  
Assess this view. [20]
  
3. (a) Examine the issue of Jewish identity today. [30]  
(b) 'Women are treated as inferior to men in all branches of Judaism.'  
Assess this claim. [20]
  
4. (a) Explain how Jewish theologians have challenged the view that the Holocaust was a  
divine punishment. [30]  
(b) 'The Holocaust changed thinking about God and his relationship with the Jews.'  
To what extent is this claim valid? [20]