



GCE AS/A level

1347/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 WR
Introduction to Western Religions

A.M. MONDAY, 13 May 2013

1¼ 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 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 Muslim concept of Allah (tawhid). [30]
(b) ‘Muslim ideas about Allah are beyond human understanding.’
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine the significance of the sunna and hadith of Muhammad. [30]
(b) ‘Information about the life of Muhammad is not reliable.’
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine Muslim understanding of Jihad. [30]
(b) ‘Jihad is now the most important practice in Islam.’
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the beliefs and practices of family life in Islam. [30]
(b) ‘It is the traditions of Muslim family life that ensure Islam survives in modern Britain.’
Assess this view. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the character and authority of the Talmud in Judaism. [30]
(b) 'Judaism concerns itself too much with interpretation rather than practice of the Torah.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Examine the importance of the home as a place of worship in Judaism. [30]
(b) 'Synagogue worship remains the main strength of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]

3. (a) Examine the significance of Shabbat to Judaism. [30]
(b) 'Strict observance of Shabbat is too difficult for Jews living in the 21st Century.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine beliefs and practices in relation to marriage in Judaism. [30]
(b) 'It is the mother's faith that shapes the future of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]