



GCE AS/A level

1341/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 CS

Introduction to Religion in Contemporary Society

A.M. TUESDAY, 13 May 2014

1 hour 15 minutes plus your additional time allowance

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.

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 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 TWO questions.

1(a) Examine the arguments in favour of euthanasia. [30]

**(b) 'It is wrong to assist the death of someone who wants to die.'
Assess this view. [15]**

2(a) Examine ways in which religious belief and practice are portrayed in The Simpsons. [30]

**(b) 'Television does not portray religious concepts effectively.'
Assess this view. [15]**

3. EITHER: Fundamentalism

(a) Explain the main characteristics of fundamentalism. [30]

**(b) 'The strengths of fundamentalism are greater than its weaknesses.'
Assess this view. [15]**

OR: New Religious Movements

(a) Explain the main characteristics of New Religious Movements. [30]

**(b) 'The most significant cause in the rise of New Religious Movements is social change.'
Assess this view. [15]**

4(a) Outline the reasons why Freud regards religious belief as an illusion. [30]

**(b) 'Freud's explanation of religious belief as a form of mental illness is not valid.'
Assess this view. [15]**

END OF PAPER