



GCE A level

1349/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS4 HE
Studies in Religion and Human Experience

A.M. THURSDAY, 19 June 2014

1 hour 45 minutes

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 **one** question.

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 75 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 one question.

1. Religious Authority

You must explain, exemplify and comment on the different ways specific types of religious authority influence religious believers and be able to evaluate the extent to which any religious authority can be considered really authoritative in the 21st century.

- (a) Examine in detail different ways in which specific types of religious authority influence religious believers. [45]
- (b) 'In the 21st century religious authority is no longer respected.'
Evaluate this statement. [30]

2. Religious Experience

You must explain, exemplify and comment on the nature of different types of religious experience and be able to evaluate whether an understanding of the nature of God/Ultimate Reality can be reliably gained through a religious experience.

(The term 'Ultimate Reality' is used as an alternative for 'God' to allow for a non-theistic perspective.)

- (a) Examine in detail the nature of different types of religious experience. [45]
- (b) 'A religious experience is not a reliable way to understand the nature of God/Ultimate Reality.'
Evaluate this statement. [30]

3. Life, Death and Life after Death

You must explain, exemplify and comment on specific religious teachings about the nature and purpose of life and be able to evaluate whether the way that religious persons live their lives is entirely influenced by their belief about life after death.

- (a) Examine in detail specific religious teachings about the nature and purpose of life. [45]
- (b) 'Belief in life after death is the single most important influence on how religious believers live their lives.'
Evaluate this statement. [30]

END OF PAPER