



GCE AS/A level

1347/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 WR
Introduction to Western Religions

A.M. FRIDAY, 17 January 2014

1 hour 15 minutes

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 origins and nature of the Qur'an. [30]
(b) 'The practical guidance given in the Qur'an is outdated for the 21st Century.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine the significance to Muslims of the Night of Power and the hijrah. [30]
(b) 'The hijrah was the main reason for the success of Islam.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the beliefs and practices of sawm. [30]
(b) 'No other pillar shows Muslim unity as clearly as sawm does.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine Muslim beliefs and practices in relation to birth rituals. [30]
(b) 'It is the centrality of Muslim family life that strengthens Islam.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section B: Introduction to Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the significance of Moses as the founder of Judaism. [30]
(b) 'The covenant is a burden of responsibility rather than a privilege to Jews.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine the various roles of the synagogue in Judaism. [30]
(b) 'It is the synagogue more than anything else that makes Judaism possible.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the beliefs and practices of Rosh Hashanah. [30]
(b) 'Jewish festival observance is more concerned with the past than the present.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the beliefs and practices in relation to Jewish family life. [30]
(b) 'It is the mother's faith that shapes the future of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [15]

END OF PAPER