



GCE AS/A level

1344/01



S15-1344-01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 BS

Introduction to Biblical Studies

A.M. THURSDAY, 14 May 2015

1 hour 15 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

The use of a Bible is NOT permitted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **two** 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 **two** questions from **one** section only, **either** Section A or Section B.

Section A: Introduction to the Old Testament

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the main characteristics of Old Testament prophecy. [30]
(b) 'Old Testament prophecy has no relevance today.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Examine the effects of the Exile on Israel's religion. [30]
(b) 'The Exile taught Israel to reach out to other nations.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Explain the difference between a conditional Old Testament covenant and an unconditional Old Testament covenant. [30]
(b) 'The Exile proved that God had cancelled all covenants.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Explain how the Old Testament set up David as a role model for kings. [30]
(b) 'Israel's early monarchy was a failure.'
Assess this statement with reference to Saul, David and Solomon. [15]

Section B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the key themes in Luke's narrative of the events surrounding the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. [30]
(b) 'Luke's Birth Narrative cannot be trusted.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Describe how the Parable of the Sower is interpreted to the disciples in Mark's Gospel. [30]
(b) 'The Parable of the Sower and its interpretation reflect who Jesus was.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Examine the key features of miracles with reference to the Feeding of the Five Thousand. [30]
(b) 'The accounts of the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand are too similar to be true.'
Assess this statement. [15]

4. (a) Explain how the New Testament develops Jewish ideas of resurrection. [30]
(b) 'Paul's teaching on the resurrection is clear.'
Assess this view. [15]

END OF PAPER