



GCE A level

1348/07



S16-1348-07

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 WR
Studies in Western Religions

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 15 June 2016

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 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 50 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: Studies in Islam

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the contributions to Islam of Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman. [30]
- (b) 'Uthman's contribution to Islam was far greater than that of Abu Bakr or Umar.'
Assess this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the historical reasons for the division between Sunni and Shi'a Islam. [30]
- (b) 'The disagreements between Sunni and Shi'a Islam are concerned with the most important Islamic beliefs and practices.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Explain the different ways in which Muslims can be educated about their faith. [30]
- (b) 'Muslim faith schools have more disadvantages than advantages for British Muslims.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine Islamic views on the role of shari'a in contemporary society. [30]
- (b) 'Islam is greatly misunderstood in the West.'
Assess this view. [20]

Section B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the main features of Jewish mysticism. [30]
- (b) 'Jewish mysticism is as authentic as any other form of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine the reasons for the development of Reform Judaism. [30]
- (b) 'Reform Judaism remains true to the essential principles of traditional Judaism.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Explain the importance of the role of Jewish women in preserving Jewish identity. [30]
- (b) 'Jews in Britain cannot assimilate to British society without losing their Jewish identity.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Explain why Jewish theologians have felt a need to explain the Holocaust. [30]
- (b) 'Holocaust theology has effectively demonstrated that a Biblical understanding of suffering is inadequate.'
Assess this view. [20]

END OF PAPER