

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES **RS01**
Unit 1 An introduction to Religion and Human Experience

Thursday 7 June 2007 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is RS01.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘When we explore religious experiences we are struck by their immense variety. There are many different types of vision, for example. Searching for ‘visions’ on the Internet provides hundreds of very different experiences, not all of them religious, which are sometimes described in vivid detail. Revelation experiences are also varied, as is the information they provide.’

(a) Examine the variety of ‘vision’ experiences by referring to **three** “different types of vision” experienced by religious believers. *(10 marks)*

(b) Explain what is meant by ‘revelation experiences’. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Explain how **and** why scriptures are important in religion today. *(15 marks)*

(b) ‘Some passages of scripture may be interpreted symbolically.’

Explain what this statement means, and assess the view that, when believers interpret scriptures symbolically, they are simply making the scriptures say what they want them to say. *(25 marks)*

3 (a) Explain how **both** scriptures **and** religious experience can inspire faith. *(15 marks)*

(b) Explain why religious experiences can be so difficult to describe, and assess the view that, although religious experience can inspire faith, believers need more than religious experience to tell them how to live or what to believe. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS