



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

Religious Studies

RSS08

Unit H Religion and Contemporary Society

Thursday 15 January 2009 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 RSS08.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- In each question, part (a) tests your knowledge and understanding, while part (b) tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 (a) Examine changes which took place in the practice of Christianity in the United Kingdom during the 20th century. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘The practice of Christianity has changed because society has changed.’
- Assess how far this is true. *(15 marks)*
- 2 (a) Examine the features and purposes of religious buildings which may be found in the United Kingdom today. *(30 marks)*
- (b) Assess how far the presence of religious buildings promotes social cohesion. *(15 marks)*
- 3 (a) Examine the ideas of ‘identity’ and of ‘assimilation’ with reference to **one or more** religion(s) you have studied. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘Assimilation poses a threat to the survival of any religious group.’
- Assess this claim. *(15 marks)*
- 4 (a) Outline the theological and sociological factors which led to the rise of New Religious Movements during the 20th century. *(30 marks)*
- (b) ‘The New Religious Movements of the 20th century have lost their appeal today.’
- Assess how far this is true. *(15 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS