



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2010

Religious Studies

RSS08

Unit H Religion and Contemporary Society

Wednesday 13 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.15 am

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 the evidence for the decline of religion in the United Kingdom. (30 marks)
- (b) ‘Just because fewer people go to church does not mean that people are less religious.’
- Assess this claim. (15 marks)
- 2 (a) Examine the functions of the variety of buildings, **other than places of worship**, which are evidence of the presence of religion in contemporary society. (30 marks)
- (b) Assess the claim that buildings of this sort are just as important as places of worship. (15 marks)
- 3 (a) Examine the relationship between religious identity and cultural identity. (30 marks)
- (b) ‘If people maintain distinctive religious or cultural identities today, then society will become increasingly divided.’
- Assess this claim. (15 marks)
- 4 (a) Describe the main characteristics of New Religious Movements. (30 marks)
- (b) ‘New Religious Movements have attracted much attention but are of little real significance today.’
- Assess this claim. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS