



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

Religious Studies

RSS08

Unit H Religion and Contemporary Society

Tuesday 17 January 2012 9.00 am to 10.15 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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, the first part tests your knowledge and understanding, while the second part 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.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

Question 1 Changing patterns of religious practice in the UK during the 20th century

0 1 Examine the evidence for a decline in Christianity in the UK during the 20th century. (30 marks)

and

0 2 'The decline in Christianity in the UK has been so steep that there is no way back.'
How far do you agree? (15 marks)

Question 2 Expressions of religion within society

0 3 Examine how places of worship may be identified through their main features. You may refer to one or more religion(s) in your answer. (30 marks)

and

0 4 'Distinctive places of worship divide communities.'
How far do you agree? (15 marks)

Question 3 Issues of identity and belonging

0 5 Explain how religious identity and cultural identity are related to each other. (30 marks)

and

0 6 'It takes strong faith to maintain a religious identity in today's society.'
How far do you agree? (15 marks)

Question 4 An introduction to New Religious Movements (NRMs)

0 7 Examine the meanings of the terms 'sect' and 'cult' as applied by sociologists to the study of New Religious Movements. (30 marks)

and

0 8 'Sects have had greater impact than cults.'
Assess this claim. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS