

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit 1F: *Old Testament*

Additional Specimen Questions



**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY**



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT F
OLD TESTAMENT**

RSS06

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTIONS

For this paper you must have:

- an 8 page answer book.

You are permitted the use of a Bible, which may include the Apocrypha.

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 **RSS06**.
- Answer **two** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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 English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1** (a) Examine the influence of Canaanite religion on the beliefs and practices of pre-exilic Israel.
(30 marks)
- (b) To what extent could it be argued that syncretism was not a serious threat to Israel's wellbeing?
(15 marks)
- 2** (a) (30 marks)
- (b) (15 marks)
- 3** (a) (30 marks)
- (b) (15 marks)
- 4** (a) (30 marks)
- (b) (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS



GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME OLD TESTAMENT RSS06

Mark schemes are normally prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. When published, a mark scheme normally includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in the examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of this year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

RSS06: Old Testament

- 1 (a) **Examine the influence of the Canaanite religion on the beliefs and practices of pre-exilic Israel.**

Expect reference to some of the following:

God associated primarily by many with fertility and this seen in importance of three agricultural festivals

Names of Canaanite gods used as titles for God, e.g. El Shaddai and incorporated into personal names, e.g. Saul's son Ishbaal

Use of Canaanite sanctuaries for worship of God, e.g. Bethel

Architectural features of Temple in Jerusalem and temples of Northern Kingdom taken from Canaanite models, e.g. bull calves at Dan and Bethel

Sacred trees, the massebah (sacred pillar), asherah (sacred pole) an accepted part of local religious practice

Countless excavated figurines of fertility goddesses suggests that these used by Israelites as well as Canaanites

Strong prophetic denunciation of practices such as sacred prostitution suggests it was practised by Israelites

Various levels of influence: some rejected Yahwism for Baalism, others practised both religions, others worshipped only Yahweh but as if he were a Canaanite god (see above) – all these approaches can be seen in Elijah cycle of stories

Rejection of all influences by minority led to prophetic protest and to conservative groups such as Rechabites

Institution of monarchy possibly derived from Canaanite models.

(30 marks) AO1

(b) To what extent could it be argued that syncretism was not a serious threat to Israel's wellbeing?

Agree

Fertility an inevitable and essential concern – important to link fertility with God

Religion enriched by adoption of practices, etc. from another religion

Transformation of Canaanite influences, e.g. agricultural festivals historicised and tied in to specifically Yahwist beliefs

Syncretism not the same as abandoning Yahwism

Presentation of syncretism as cause of Israel's decline due to bias of Deuteronomistic historian – inept rulers more to blame

Presentation of bull calves, etc. as idolatry not a true assessment – they were symbols

Disagree

Yahwism being diluted

Monotheism and concepts of God's holiness, etc. seriously challenged

Israel lost sense of what it meant to be God's chosen people and Mosaic covenant set aside

Ethical requirements lost and this seen above all in story of Naboth's vineyard where Canaanite ideas of kingship prevailed

Canaanite beliefs encouraged abuse of power by the monarchy – this led to national decline as much as political follies

Use of fertility symbols such as bull calves 'dangerous' and open to misunderstanding.

(15 marks) AO2