

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit 3A: *Religion and Ethics*

Additional Specimen Questions



**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
ADVANCED LEVEL**



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT 3A
RELIGION AND ETHICS**

RST3A

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN PAPER

For this paper you must have:

- a 12 page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 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 **RST3A**.
- Answer **two** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 100.
- 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.

RST3A

Answer **two** questions.

- 1** (a) (30 marks)
(b) (20 marks)
- 2** (a) (30 marks)
(b) (20 marks)
- 3** (a) Explain what **one** religion says about the concept of love. (30 marks)
(b) Assess the view that any type of sexual behaviour is acceptable to religion today, as long as it is between consenting adults. (20 marks)
- 4** (a) Explain the role of ethics when deciding to experiment upon animals. (30 marks)
(b) Assess how far religion is of help when deciding on the rights and wrongs of animal experimentation. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS



General Certificate of Education

Religious Studies

Ethics RST3A

Additional SPECIMEN Mark Scheme

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.

RST3A: Religion and Ethics

3 (a) Explain what one religion says about the concept of love.

Will depend on the chosen religion, but should look at different aspects of Love, e.g. sexual love, love of material objects, love for family and friends, love for God, self-sacrificing love, love for one's fellow human being, charity, loyalty. What teaching there is about different aspects of love, and how this has been interpreted.

(30 marks) AO1

(b) Assess the view that any type of sexual behaviour is acceptable to religion today, as long as it is between consenting adults.

Discussion about what sort of behaviour is acceptable and under what circumstances. Will probably centre on a liberal, personal interpretation of religious principles versus one guided by a more fundamentalist approach. There may be comparisons between religions / sects / countries and about what is and is not acceptable therein, e.g. Mormonism and polygamy, the way Jewish men can start new relationships whilst not religiously divorced from their original wife, living together versus marriage. There may be discussion about what sort of sexual behaviour is never acceptable.

(20 marks) AO2

4 (a) Explain the role of ethics when deciding to experiment upon animals.

Definition of animal experimentation. Area of experimentation to be developed (medicinal / therapeutic and / or cosmetic) and whether that makes a difference to 'feel-good' factor. The element of 'choice'; both of an animal as opposed to a human, and the fact that animals have no choice. The claim of speciesism [Singer]. The debate over animals being non-rational and / or non-moral beings. The ethical approach might be general, or more specific, e.g. Utilitarianism, Kant, Virtue ethics or religious.

(30 marks) AO1

(b) Assess how far religion is of help when deciding on the rights and wrongs of animal experimentation

Discussion about the rights and wrongs of pursuing actions and research on animals. The following points may arise: God-given knowledge versus Man playing God, how far religion has teachings that can help (e.g. stewardship versus domination, licence versus liberty, what a religion teaches about treatment of animals and how that has been interpreted by adherents). There might be some discussion over whether religion has anything relevant to say or whether it is out of date, too much open to interpretation or irrelevant to the majority of the population. Whether religion should get involved in this field. Whether its teachings are idealistic rather than realistic.

(20 marks) AO2