

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit 3F: *Religion and Contemporary Society*

Additional Specimen Questions



**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
ADVANCED LEVEL**



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT 3F RST3F
RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTIONS

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 **RST3F**.
- 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.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1** (a) (30 marks)
(b) (20 marks)
- 2** (a) Examine the characteristics of a secular society. (30 marks)
(b) Assess the extent to which British society today may be described as 'secular'. (20 marks)
- 3** (a) (30 marks)
(b) (20 marks)
- 4** (a) (30 marks)
(b) (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS



GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY RST3F

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.

RST3F: Religion and Contemporary Society

2 (a) Examine the characteristics of a secular society.

Not dominated by religion
The practice of religion is non-existent or at a low level
The practice of religion is in no way seen as 'normative'
Where religion is practised, no one religious group is seen as dominant
Religion has little or no part in public life
There can be no 'established Church' or equivalent
The functionaries of religion have no special status in public life
Religious institutions are not supported by the state
The symbols of religion have little or no place in public life
The values of society are determined by non-religious principles.

(30 marks) AO1

(b) Assess the extent to which British society today may be described as 'secular'.

Secular

Term is often used – society described as such
Comparatively low levels of participation in worship and membership of religious groups
Loss of status for religion as compared with previous generations

BUT

Levels of practice still quite high
Religion and religious debate important in everyday and public life
Persistence, and growth of faith schools
Religious representation still in House of Lords
Status of clergy in other aspects of public life,
etc.

(20 marks) AO2