



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2016

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit A2 6

assessing

Ethics and Society



AR261

[AR261]

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE, MORNING

TIME

2 hours.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **two** questions from Section A and answer the compulsory question in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question or part question in allocating the available examination time.

Section A

Answer **two** questions from this section

- 1 (a) With reference to **two** moral examples, analyse the application of Virtue Ethics to ethical decision making. [30]

(b) Critically assess the view that the major weakness of Virtue Ethics is its relativist character. [20]

- 2 (a) With particular reference to religious teaching and the Declaration of Human Rights, discuss how poverty is destructive of human well being. [30]

(b) Critically evaluate the claim that there is no moral difference between letting people die through poverty and actually killing them. [20]

- 3 (a) "Violence, even lethal violence, is sometimes necessary in order to protect innocent people."

Discuss a Pacifist response to this statement. [30]

(b) Critically assess the claim that war is never just. [20]

- 4 (a) With particular reference to relevant religious and ethical teaching, explain the justification for the death penalty on the basis of retribution. [30]

(b) Critically evaluate the view that the death penalty is morally unacceptable and always inhumane. [20]

Section B

Synoptic Assessment

Theme: Religion and State

You **must** answer this question

- 5 (a) With reference to at least **two** different areas of study, outline and consider the contribution of some key people to the debate on the relationship between Religion and the State. [30]
- (b) Critically assess the claim that religious faith and morality should always be protected by the State. You should refer to other aspects of human experience in your answer. [20]

