

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Tuesday 2 June 2009 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS01/01

You must have:

Answer Book (enclosed)

Instructions

- Answer **three** questions. For each question you may only answer **either** part a or part b but **not** both.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided in the Answer Book
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Do not return this question paper with the Answer Book.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication will be taken into account in the marking of all your responses
– *you should take particular care with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression, on these questions.*

Advice

- The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (assessed in part (i) of each question for 70% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (assessed in part (ii) of each question for 30% of the marks).

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Philosophy

EITHER

1. (a) (i) Examine the main strengths and weaknesses of the design argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) 'The design argument shows the existence of God is probable.' Comment on this view. (9)

(Total for Question 1(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) What are the main strengths of the cosmological argument for the existence of God? (21)
- (ii) To what extent is it reasonable to reject this argument? (9)

(Total for Question 1(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

2. (a) (i) 'Suffering is a major problem for religious belief but there are solutions.' Examine this claim with reference to **two** solutions. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that nevertheless suffering remains a major problem for religious belief. (9)

(Total for Question 2(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) What does Hume understand by miracles? Examine the major philosophical reasons for believing in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these reasons have significant weaknesses. (9)

(Total for Question 2(b) = 30 marks)

Ethics

EITHER

3. (a) (i) Outline the arguments against the dependency of morality on religion. (21)
- (ii) Consider the view that these arguments are outweighed by the claim that morality is dependent on religion. (9)

(Total for Question 3(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the chief characteristics of Utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is Situation Ethics a more convincing theory than Utilitarianism? (9)

(Total for Question 3(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

4. (a) (i) Outline the arguments in favour of pacifism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that despite the strength of pacifist arguments, war can sometimes be justified. (9)

(Total for Question 4(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the view that there can be clear judgements about what is right and wrong in matters of sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is it reasonable to claim that religious beliefs are no longer a helpful way of solving dilemmas in sexual ethics? (9)

(Total for Question 4(b) = 30 marks)

Buddhism

EITHER

5. (a) (i) Identify the key features of the religious context prior to the time of the Buddha and examine the ways in which he rejected and adapted these features. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Buddha's teaching was primarily new. (9)

(Total for Question 5(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **two** of the following topics in relation to the life and teaching of the Buddha: (21)
- asceticism
 - enlightenment
 - his disciples
 - his death.
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Buddha was the founder of a religion. (9)

(Total for Question 5(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

6. (a) (i) What is the meaning of 'refuge' in the context of the three refuges? Examine the key links between these refuges. (21)
- (ii) 'The refuges are fundamental to Theravada Buddhism.' Comment on this claim. (9)

(Total for Question 6(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of **two** types of meditation. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the main purpose of meditation is to become enlightened. (9)

(Total for Question 6(b) = 30 marks)

Christianity

EITHER

7. (a) (i) Examine the issues arising out of one controversy in the Early Church about the person of Jesus. (21)
- (ii) To what extent were the issues of this controversy resolved? (9)

(Total for Question 7(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) In what ways has the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus been influenced by **one** religious context. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Jesus for Christians. (9)

(Total for Question 7(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

8. (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as Creator. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is it reasonable to accept these beliefs in today's world? (9)

(Total for Question 8(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the ways in which the Eucharist is practised within **two** different Churches. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these practices for Christian belief about the nature of the Eucharist. (9)

(Total for Question 8(b) = 30 marks)

Hinduism

EITHER

9. (a) (i) Examine the key themes associated with the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these themes significant for later Hinduism? (9)

(Total for Question 9(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) 'Hinduism is very diverse.' Examine this claim with reference to some features of Vedic religion. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that some Vedic beliefs are a fundamental part of Hinduism. (9)

(Total for Question 9(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 10.(a) (i) Identify some key beliefs and practices associated with **two** types of yoga. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the purposes of yoga. (9)

(Total for Question 10(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases associated with **two** of the following: (21)
- Krishna
 - Rama
 - Siva.
- (ii) Comment on the ideals associated with **one** of these figures. (9)

(Total for Question 10(b) = 30 marks)

Islam

EITHER

- 11.(a) (i) Examine the key religious features of pre-Islamic Arabia. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the possible influences of these features on Muhammad. (9)

(Total for Question 11(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the problems that Muhammad encountered in Makkah and his successes in Madinah. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance for Muslims of the view that Muhammad was a human being like the rest of humanity. (9)

(Total for Question 11(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 12.(a) (i) In the context of the six beliefs examine the key teachings about **either** holy books **or** messengers of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the teachings selected in (i) for Muslims. (9)

(Total for Question 12(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) 'The five pillars show a Muslim's submission to God and identity with the Muslim community.' Examine this claim with reference to **two or three** of the pillars. (21)
- (ii) Comment on possible problems and solutions associated with the practice of **one** pillar. (9)

(Total for Question 12(b) = 30 marks)

Judaism

EITHER

- 13.(a) (i) Examine the main emphases of Judah Halevi, and of Rashi and his school. (21)
- (ii) Consider the significance of **one** of these figures for Judaism. (9)

(Total for Question 13(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key teachings of Moses Maimonides on philosophy and scripture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Moses Maimonides is a source of great importance for Jewish thought. (9)

(Total for Question 13(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 14.(a) (i) Examine the key teachings of Orthodox Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the distinctive practices of Orthodox Judaism. (9)

(Total for Question 14(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the major emphases of Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on criticisms made against Reform Judaism. (9)

(Total for Question 14(b) = 30 marks)

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15.(a) (i) Examine the relationship between Guru Nanak and **two** of the following:
- Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism.
- (21)
- (ii) Consider the importance of the term 'Guru' for Sikhs.
- (9)
- (Total for Question 15(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine Guru Nanak's life in its religious context.
- (21)
- (ii) To what extent is Guru Gobind Singh the founder of a new religion?
- (9)
- (Total for Question 15(b) = 30 marks)**
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EITHER

- 16.(a) (i) Outline Sikh teaching about the practice of devotion.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the treatment of the Guru Granth Sahib is idol worship.
- (9)
- (Total for Question 16(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the main aspects of discipline for members of the Khalsa.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that, for Sikhs, sewa is the most important value.
- (9)
- (Total for Question 16(b) = 30 marks)**
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New Testament

EITHER

- 17.(a) (i) **Either** examine the teachings of Jesus concerning outcasts and forgiveness (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the Bread of Life' and 'I am the Light of the World' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) With regard to your answer in (i), consider why these teachings **or** sayings may have been controversial. (9)

(Total for Question 17(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) In what ways do **either** the calming of the storm and the raising of the widow's son (Luke's Gospel) **or** the changing of water into wine and the walking on the water (Fourth Gospel) help the reader to understand the nature of Jesus' ministry? (21)
- (ii) To what extent are the miracles selected in (i) particularly significant within the gospel narrative as a whole? (9)

(Total for Question 17(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 18.(a) (i) **Either** describe the important features of the teaching of Luke's Gospel on praise and prayer **or** describe the significant features of **two** incidents in the Fourth Gospel which illustrate the importance of women to the ministry of Jesus. (21)
- (ii) How far did Jesus' teaching and attitudes regarding these features differ from those of Judaism at the time? (9)

(Total for Question 18(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Identify the key teachings of Jesus regarding the special nature of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) Why were the Twelve so important to the ministry of Jesus? (9)

(Total for Question 18(b) = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 90 MARKS

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