

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Wednesday 13 January 2010 – Morning

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 strengths and weaknesses of the design argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that this argument is inconclusive as a proof for the existence of God. (9)
- (Total for Question 1(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Give an account of the key features of the cosmological argument for the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is this a weak argument? (9)
- (Total for Question 1(b) = 30 marks)**
-

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) What may the problem of suffering signify to a religious believer? Examine **one** solution to this problem. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that an alternative solution to that examined in part (i) offers a better response. (9)
- (Total for Question 2(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine key concepts of miracles and philosophical reasons to believe in them. (21)
- (ii) To what extent do criticisms undermine belief in miracles? (9)
- (Total for Question 2(b) = 30 marks)**
-

Ethics

EITHER

- 3** (a) (i) Examine the key characteristics of Situation Ethics. (21)
- (ii) Consider the view that Situation Ethics has not proved to be a useful method for making moral decisions. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the important features of Utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the weaknesses of Utilitarianism outweigh its strengths. (9)

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

EITHER

- 4** (a) (i) Give an account of ideas associated with the Just War Theory **and** Pacifism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these ideas influenced by religious beliefs? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **one** dilemma in sexual ethics and outline different ways in which it may be resolved. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are religious approaches to sexual ethics no longer relevant to the modern world? (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5 (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following:
- Historical context prior to the time of the Buddha
 - Religious context prior to the time of the Buddha
 - Social context prior to the time of the Buddha.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the ways in which Gautama may have adapted these **two** selected features into his teachings.
- (9)
-
- (Total for Question 5(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine how the Buddha's life reflected aspects of the 'Middle Way'.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the 'Middle Way' for Buddhists.
- (9)
-
- (Total for Question 5(b) = 30 marks)**

EITHER

- 6 (a) (i) Examine the interrelationships between the Buddha, the Sangha and the Dharma in the Three Refuges.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the Dharma for Buddhists.
- (9)
-
- (Total for Question 6(a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive features of **two** types of meditation in Buddhism.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the key purposes of meditation.
- (9)
-
- (Total for Question 6(b) = 30 marks)**

Christianity

EITHER

- 7** (a) (i) Examine the Church's teachings about the life and work of Jesus in **one** historical context. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings about Jesus for Christians. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the teachings about the person and work of Jesus in the Early Church period. (21)
- (ii) To what extent were these teachings influenced by key thinkers of the time? (9)

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

EITHER

- 8** (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as Creator. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that it is difficult for Christians to continue to hold these beliefs. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the different baptismal practices of **two** Christian traditions. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these differences. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine the key features of the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on possible Aryan influences on the Indus Valley culture. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **three** distinctive features of the Vedic period. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this period for the development of Hindu beliefs. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following:
- Karma yoga
 - Jnana yoga
 - Bhakti yoga.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on any **two** distinctive contributions of yoga to the development of Hinduism. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of **two** of the following:
- Rama
 - Sakti
 - Siva.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the **two** selected figures for devotees. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

- 11** (a) (i) Examine the historical and social context prior to the time of Muhammad. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the religious context prior to the time of Muhammad for understanding his life in Makkah. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of the hijrah and of Muhammad's life in Madinah. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Muhammad's life in Madinah for Muslims. (9)

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

EITHER

- 12** (a) (i) Examine the key ideas associated with belief in life after death found in the six beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of beliefs about life after death for Muslim practice. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive ideas of **three** of the five pillars. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of any **two** pillars for Muslim belief and practice. (9)

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

Judaism

EITHER

- 13** (a) (i) Outline the religious context of Rashi and examine his key teachings. (21)
- (ii) Comment on different views about the significance of Rashi and his school. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) In what ways did the historical and religious context of Moses Maimonides influence his key teachings? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the distinctive features of these teachings and their significance for the development of Judaism. (9)

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

EITHER

- 14** (a) (i) Outline the main differences between Orthodox and Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these differences for Jewish teachings. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of Orthodox Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the views of Reform Jews regarding Orthodox Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15** (a) (i) Give an account of the process by which the Guru Granth Sahib was compiled and became the Guru. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. (9)

(Total for Question 15(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the religious and historical context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of Guru Nanak for Sikhs. (9)

(Total for Question 15(b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 16** (a) (i) Examine Sikh teachings about how mukti may be achieved. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is devotion by itself enough to achieve mukti? (9)

(Total for Question 16(a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine Sikh teaching about service to God and to other people. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of the Rahit Maryada for members of the Khalsa. (9)

(Total for Question 16(b) = 30 marks)

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning riches (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the good shepherd' and 'I am the resurrection and the life' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent were these teachings or sayings challenging? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) What do **either** the healing of the bleeding woman and the raising of the widow's son (Luke's Gospel) **or** the feeding of the five thousand and the raising of Lazarus (Fourth Gospel) teach about the ministry of Jesus? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the miracles of Jesus were vital to his ministry. (9)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) Examine **either** the key features of Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the significance of Jesus' conversation with his mother at Cana, and also his conversation with Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent were **either** Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise **or** his conversations with women significantly different from the practices of Judaism at the time? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the significant features of Jesus' teaching concerning the demands of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) To what extent did the Holy Spirit play a crucial role in the ministry of Jesus? (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

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