

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced

Unit 3: Religious Studies – Developments

Friday 11 June 2010 – Morning

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS03/01

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 (for 60% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (for 40% of the marks).

Turn over ►

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Answer THREE questions.

Philosophy

EITHER

- 1** (a) (i) Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the argument for the existence of God based on religious experience. (18)
- (ii) 'The argument merely indicates the probability of God and this is of little value to a religious believer.' Discuss. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Analyse the distinctive features of the ontological argument for the existence of God. (18)
- (ii) Discuss the view that the ontological argument is obviously incorrect as an argument. (12)

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

EITHER

- 2** (a) (i) Compare and contrast **two** types of belief about life after death. (18)
- (ii) To what extent do these types of belief add credibility to belief in life after death? (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the contributions that **two** of the following may make to a study of religious language:
- Analogy
 - Myth and symbol
 - Language games.
- (18)
- (ii) Discuss the view that religious language is devoid of meaning. (12)

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

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Examine the key ideas of **one** critique of the link between religion and morality. (18)
- (ii) To what extent does this critique effectively undermine the link between religion and morality? (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Analyse the important features of **either** Deontology **or** Natural Moral Law. (18)
- (ii) To what extent is the selected theory persuasive? (12)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the important concepts relating to justice **and** law and punishment. (18)
- (ii) Consider critically the extent to which subjectivism poses problems for these concepts. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Analyse the contribution made by emotivism to debates about ethical language. (18)
- (ii) To what extent do the problems of ethical language remain unsolved? (12)

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

Buddhism

You may make reference to the set texts where appropriate.

EITHER

- 5** (a) (i) Explain how the background prior to the time of Ashoka influenced his reign. (18)
- (ii) Discuss his significance for the development of Buddhism. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the beliefs and practices of Zen. (18)
- (ii) Discuss the distinctive contributions of Zen to the development of Buddhism. (12)

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

EITHER

- 6** (a) (i) Examine the key features of dukkha and anatta. (18)
- (ii) Discuss why these ideas are closely related to each other. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Compare and contrast Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism with reference to the Bodhisattva doctrine. (18)
- (ii) To what extent is the Bodhisattva doctrine central to Mahayana Buddhism? (12)

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

Christianity

You may make reference to the set texts where appropriate.

EITHER

- 7 (a) (i) Analyse the teachings and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (18)
- (ii) Assess his significance within the development of Christianity in the modern world. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine one example of the practice of Christianity in the modern world. (18)
- (ii) Assess the significance of this practice in the modern world. (12)

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

EITHER

- 8 (a) (i) Examine Christian teachings about atonement and salvation. (18)
- (ii) Consider critically the significance of these teachings for Christians. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine modern beliefs about the Trinity. (18)
- (ii) Consider critically the significance of these beliefs for Christians. (12)

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

Hinduism

You may make reference to the set texts where appropriate.

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine the historical and religious context of **two** of the following:
- Ramakrishna
 - Dayananda Sarasvati
 - Sri Radhakrishnan.
- (18)
- (ii) Discuss the contributions to Hinduism of **one** of the figures selected in (i).
- (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important features of the historical context of M. K. Gandhi and his key teachings.
- (18)
- (ii) 'My life is my message.' Discuss this claim with reference to M. K. Gandhi.
- (12)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Analyse the meanings of Atman and Brahman.
- (18)
- (ii) Discuss **two** views about the relationships between Atman and Brahman.
- (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the meanings of samsara and moksha.
- (18)
- (ii) Discuss different views about ways of achieving moksha.
- (12)

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

Islam

You may make reference to the set texts where appropriate.

EITHER

- 11** (a) (i) Compare and contrast Sunni and Shi'ah Islam. (18)
- (ii) Discuss the significance of the historical division between them for understanding Islam in the contemporary world. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine key Islamic beliefs and practices in one or more Islamic states. (18)
- (ii) Discuss the ways in which Muslims may deal with diversity of beliefs. (12)

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

EITHER

- 12** (a) (i) Examine the significance of beliefs about Allah and the Qur'an for an understanding of Muslim ideas about authority. (18)
- (ii) Discuss **two** different Muslim interpretations of authority. (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of Sufism. (18)
- (ii) Discuss different interpretations of the contribution of Sufism to Islam. (12)

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

Judaism

You may make reference to the set texts where appropriate.

EITHER

- 13 (a) (i) Examine the historical and religious context of **two** of the following:
- David Friedlander
 - Abraham Geiger
 - Samson Raphael Hirsch.
- (18)

- (ii) Discuss the significance of the teachings of the **two** figures selected for the development of Judaism.
- (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine Jewish views about the Holocaust with reference to the problem of suffering.
- (18)

- (ii) Evaluate **two** Jewish responses to the Holocaust.
- (12)

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

EITHER

- 14 (a) (i) Examine the beliefs about God and revelation in the Thirteen Principles of Faith of Maimonides.
- (18)

- (ii) Discuss the view that Judaism has little interest in these beliefs.
- (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of Chasidism.
- (18)

- (ii) Discuss the significance of the view that Chasidism appeals to the hearts rather than the minds of modern Jews.
- (12)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

15 (a) (i) Examine how dispersion has affected the sense of identity within the Sikh community. (18)

(ii) 'The question of identity is the least important issue confronting the Sikh community today.'

Evaluate this view with reference to one movement within the Sikh tradition. (12)

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

OR

(b) (i) Analyse the trend towards uniformity in the Sikh community. (18)

(ii) Evaluate the view that to be a true Sikh one must be an orthodox Sikh. (12)

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

EITHER

16 (a) (i) Explain the importance of everyday practical spirituality in the Sikh way of life. (18)

(ii) Discuss the view that the use of violence contradicts the key principles of Sikh spirituality. (12)

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

OR

(b) (i) Analyse the understanding of God presented in the Japji. (18)

(ii) To what extent does this understanding of God affirm the uniqueness of Sikhism? (12)

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

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine the religious significance of **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God (Luke's Gospel) **or** the teaching of the Prologue (Fourth Gospel). (18)
- (ii) To what extent are these teachings important for an understanding of the gospel? (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) 'The gospel was written to reveal the nature of Jesus as the Christ.'
Examine this claim regarding the purpose of **either** Luke's Gospel **or** the Fourth Gospel. (18)
- (ii) To what extent may other purposes for the gospel be equally important? (12)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) With reference to **either** Luke's Gospel **or** the Fourth Gospel, examine the reasons why the religious and political authorities put Jesus to death. (18)
- (ii) To what extent was Pilate responsible for the death of Jesus? (12)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the significance of the religious symbolism contained within the crucifixion narrative of either Luke's Gospel or the Fourth Gospel. (18)
- (ii) To what extent does the resurrection narrative add to an understanding of the rest of the gospel? (12)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 90 MARKS

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