

Pearson Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Thursday 14 May 2015 – 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.*

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 key strengths of the design argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that these strengths can withstand criticisms made against them. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 1 (a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive emphases of the cosmological argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that the cosmological argument is fundamentally flawed. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 1 (b) = 30 marks)**

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) Examine the key features of **two** solutions to the problem of suffering. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these solutions justify suffering. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 2 (a) = 30 marks)**

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **two** definitions of a 'miracle' and the significance of miracles for religious belief. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that miracles may be explained away and therefore rejected. (9)
-
- (Total for Question 2 (b) = 30 marks)**

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Outline the arguments for and against the view that morality does not depend on religion. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are challenges to this view stronger than arguments in its favour? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key ideas of **either** Utilitarianism **or** Situation Ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent has the theory selected in (i) survived the challenges raised against it? (9)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the key concepts associated with pacifism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that pacifism is a difficult position to hold. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine one dilemma that has risen in the area of sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the value of **one** way of solving dilemmas in sexual ethics. (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5 (a) (i) Examine the prominent religious features in India, prior to the time of the Buddha, with regard to their possible influence on him. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Buddha rejected many of these features, especially with regard to beliefs about liberation. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the significance of **four** features of the life of the Buddha. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the achievements of the Buddha. (9)

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

EITHER

- 6 (a) (i) Examine the importance of the Three Refuges for Buddhists. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that the most important of these for Buddhist practice is taking refuge in the Sangha. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key characteristics of **two** types of meditation in Buddhism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that **one** of these types of meditation is far more important for Buddhists than the other. (9)

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

Christianity

EITHER

7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings during the Early Church period about the Person and work of Jesus. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Christians. (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine the Church's teachings about the life and work of Jesus in **one** historical and religious context. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Christians. (9)

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

EITHER

8 (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as personal. (21)

(ii) How far is it reasonable to accept these beliefs in the modern world? (9)

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

OR

(b) (i) Examine different practices in **both** baptism and Eucharist in **two** Christian Churches. (21)

(ii) Comment on how the different practices demonstrate the different teachings of these two Christian traditions. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine the key features of the Indus Valley culture and Aryan influences. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that these features represent the foundations of Hinduism. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key characteristics of Vedic deities. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these deities for the development of Hinduism. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) Examine the ways in which yoga is important for achieving liberation. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that yoga is best understood as a means of achieving physical fitness. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key beliefs associated with Siva and Sakti. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that Siva and Sakti are indissolubly one. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

- 11** (a) (i) Examine **three** significant features of the historical and religious context of the life of Muhammad. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of **two** of these features for an understanding of the achievement of Muhammad. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the importance of the hijrah and the establishment of the Muslim community in al-Madinah. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the final years of Muhammad's life. (9)

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

EITHER

- 12** (a) (i) Examine the important emphases associated with Muslim beliefs about life after death (akhirah). You may concentrate on relevant aspects of the Six Beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the implications for Muslims of beliefs about reward and punishment. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the Five Pillars as expressions of:
- verbal profession of faith
 - ritual acts
 - participation in the community of Islam. (21)
- (ii) Comment on possible challenges to one or more of the Pillars and Muslim responses to such challenges. (9)

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

Judaism

EITHER

- 13 (a) (i) Examine the religious context of Rashi and Judah Halevi and the key teachings of **one** of these figures. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of Judah Halevi for Judaism. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the teachings of Moses Maimonides about the philosophical beliefs of Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Moses Maimonides showed that Jewish beliefs were understandable and coherent. (9)

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

EITHER

- 14 (a) (i) Examine the importance of tradition within Orthodox Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Orthodox Judaism is unfairly critical of modern ideas and values. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **three** current issues that are important for Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on some of the differences of opinion within Reform Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15** (a) (i) Examine the effect of **both** the historical context **and** the religious context on the life and teaching of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of Guru Gobind Singh for the Sikh way of life. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the role, importance and authority of the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the process of compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib increases its importance. (9)

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

EITHER

- 16** (a) (i) Describe the Sikh practice of devotion. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that nam simran is the most important practice for a Sikh. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Give an account of the behaviour expected from someone who has joined the Khalsa. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Khalsa is the focus of identity and discipline for Sikhs. (9)

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

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning outcasts (Luke's Gospel) **or** the meaning of the sayings 'I am the Good Shepherd' and 'I am the True Vine' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that **either** these teachings **or** the 'I am' sayings are important to the Gospel's message. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) With reference to **either** Luke's Gospel **or** the Fourth Gospel, examine the important teachings contained in the accounts of **two** miracles/signs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the importance of the miracles/signs in the Gospel has been overestimated. (9)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) What can be learned from **either** Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath (Luke's Gospel) **or** his conversations with his mother and with Mary Magdalene (Fourth Gospel)? (21)
- (ii) To what extent was **either** Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath **or** his conversations with women vital to the Gospel? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Identify the important teachings of Jesus regarding the challenges of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Holy Spirit was particularly important to the ministry of Jesus. (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

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Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

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Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS01/01

Answer Book

Do not return the question paper with the answer book.

Total Marks

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Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- 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 – *there may be more space than you need.*
- You should indicate your first question choice on page 2 and answer it on pages 2–9.
- You should indicate your second question choice on page 10 and answer it on pages 10–17.
- You should indicate your third question choice on page 18 and answer it on pages 18–25.

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Indicate your first question choice on this page. You will be asked to indicate your second question choice on page 10.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 7** **Question 13**
 Question 2 **Question 8** **Question 14**
 Question 3 **Question 9** **Question 15**
 Question 4 **Question 10** **Question 16**
 Question 5 **Question 11** **Question 17**
 Question 6 **Question 12** **Question 18**

In the box, state whether you are answering part (a) or part (b).

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Indicate your second question choice on this page. You will be asked to indicate your third question choice on page 18.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 7** **Question 13**
 Question 2 **Question 8** **Question 14**
 Question 3 **Question 9** **Question 15**
 Question 4 **Question 10** **Question 16**
 Question 5 **Question 11** **Question 17**
 Question 6 **Question 12** **Question 18**

In the box, state whether you are answering part (a) or part (b).

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