

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2760

FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Thursday

9 JUNE 2005

Afternoon

1 hour

Additional materials:
Answer paper

TIME 1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/ answer booklet.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

Answer **two** questions, one from each of two different parts.

Do **not** answer two questions from the same part.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The quality of your written communication will be taken into account.

This question paper consists of 6 printed pages and 2 blank pages.

Answer **two** questions, one from each of the two parts that you have studied.

Do not answer more than one question from any one Part.

Part 1

Foundation for Unit 2761: Philosophy of Religion (AS)

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 1 (a) Explain Plato's concept of the soul and its relationship to the body. [33]
(b) Compare Plato's view of the soul with that of Aristotle. [17]

Or

- 2 (a) Explain what is meant in the Bible by describing God as a miracle worker. [33]
(b) 'The presence of miracles in the Bible suggests that God is unreliable.' Discuss. [17]

Part 2

Foundation for Unit 2762: Religious Ethics (AS)

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 3 (a) Explain one moral relativist theory. [33]
(b) 'Moral relativist theories are no real help in making moral decisions.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 4 (a) Explain what is meant by Natural Law. [33]
(b) 'Natural Law is a very fair way of making ethical decisions.' Discuss. [17]

Part 3**Foundation for Unit 2763: Jewish Scriptures 1**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 5 (a) Explain what evidence can be used in the dating of principal events in the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'The Jewish Scriptures are important for what they say about God but are no use as historical documents.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 6 (a) Explain the importance for Jews of the poetry in the Jewish Scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'Poetry is the best way of expressing human understanding of God.' Discuss. [17]

Part 4**Foundation for Unit 2764: New Testament 1**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Alternative A – The Early Church**Either**

- 7 (a) Explain how the Roman occupation of Palestine affected Jewish religious life. [33]
- (b) 'The Jews benefited from the Roman occupation.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 8 (a) Explain the relationship between Acts and the gospel of Luke. [33]
- (b) 'Acts must have been written by the same person who wrote Luke.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – The Gospels**Either**

- 9 (a) Explain how the Roman occupation of Palestine affected Jewish religious life. [33]
- (b) 'The Jews benefited from the Roman occupation.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 10 (a) Explain what is meant by the Synoptic Problem. [33]
- (b) 'None of the solutions to the Synoptic Problem is convincing.' Discuss. [17]

Part 5**Foundation for Unit 2765: Developments in Christian Thought 1**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 11 (a)** Explain the strengths of a Fundamentalist approach to the Bible. [33]
(b) 'A Fundamentalist approach has more strengths than weaknesses.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 12 (a)** Explain Biblical teaching about the role of women. [33]
(b) 'The Bible teaches that men are more important than women.' Discuss. [17]

Part 6**Foundation for Unit 2766: Eastern Religions 1**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Alternative A – Buddhism**Either**

- 13 (a)** Explain what is meant by the Four Noble Truths. [33]
(b) 'The First Noble Truth is a very negative way of looking at the world.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 14 (a)** Explain the nature of Hinduism at the time of the Buddha. [33]
(b) 'The Buddha intended to reform Hinduism, not create a new religion.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – Hinduism**Either**

- 15 (a) 'The Brahman was his mouth,
The arms were made the Prince,
His thighs the common people,
And from his feet the serf was born.' [from the Purusha Sukta]

Explain what the Purusha Sukta teaches about the origins of humanity. [33]

- (b) 'Purusha Sukta raises more questions about the origins of the world than it answers.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 16 (a) Explain what is understood in Hinduism when the Vedas are described as sacred texts. [33]

- (b) 'The idea of deity in the Vedas cannot be described as polytheistic.' Discuss. [17]

Part 7**Foundation for Unit 2767: Islam**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 17 (a) Explain the historical background of pre-Islamic Arabia. [33]

- (b) How far was Muhammad's ﷺ teaching a reaction against the religious beliefs and practices of his time? [17]

Or

- 18 (a) Explain what Muslims mean by describing the Qur'an as the revealed word of God. [33]

- (b) 'Treating the Qur'an as the revealed word of God prevents Islam from moving with the times.' Discuss. [17]

Part 8**Foundation for Unit 2768: Judaism**

Answer only **one** question from this part.

Either

- 19 (a)** Explain ethical monotheism. [33]
- (b)** 'It is more important for Jews to be ethical than monotheistic.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 20 (a)** Describe the content and use of the Tenakh. [33]
- (b)** 'The Torah is the actual words of G-d but the rest of the Tenakh is simply the ideas of humans.' Discuss. [17]

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