

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
Advanced Subsidiary GCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

2760

Tuesday **17 JANUARY 2006** Morning 1 hour

Additional materials:
8-page answer booklet

TIME 1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the 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 'Forms'. [33]
 (b) 'Plato's concept of Forms is of little use in understanding the physical world.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 2 (a) Describe Aristotle's teaching about the differences between the Final Cause and other sorts of cause. [33]
 (b) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Aristotle's ideas about cause. [17]

Part 2

Foundation for Unit 2762: Religious Ethics (AS)

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

Either

- 3 (a) Explain what is meant by Virtue Ethics. [33]
 (b) 'Virtue Ethics is a good way of making moral decisions.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 4 (a) Explain the different ways in which 'right' and 'wrong' are used in meta-ethics. [33]
 (b) 'Terms such as "right" and "wrong" are no more than expressions of opinion.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 5 (a) Explain what is meant by 'prophecy' when describing some of the writings in the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) How important for understanding the Jewish Scriptures is knowing the type of literature which is being studied? [17]

Or

- 6 (a) Explain what evidence might be used in the dating of the life of Abraham. [33]
- (b) 'If archaeology and the Jewish Scriptures disagree about the possible dates of events, then the Jewish Scriptures must be right.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Alternative A – The Early Church**Either**

- 7 (a) Explain the arguments about the dating of the Acts of the Apostles. [33]
 (b) Examine the extent of the relationship between Acts and the Epistles of Paul. [17]

Or

- 8 (a) Explain the beliefs and practices of the Sadducees. [33]
 (b) 'The Sadducees were the most important religious group in first-century Palestine.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – The Gospels**Either**

- 9 (a) Explain the beliefs and practices of the Sadducees. [33]
 (b) 'The Sadducees were the most important religious group in first-century Palestine.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 10 (a) Explain what is meant by Source Criticism. [33]
 (b) 'Source Criticism does not help people to understand the gospels.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 11 (a) Explain what the Bible teaches about racism and equality. [33]
 (b) To what extent does the Bible teach equality? [17]

Or

- 12 (a) Explain what is understood by a 'traditional' approach to the Bible. [33]
 (b) 'A traditional approach to the Bible has serious weaknesses.' Discuss. [17]

Part 6

Foundation for Unit 2766: Eastern Religions

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

Alternative A – Buddhism

Either

- 13 (a) Explain the Buddhist concept of anatta and anicca. [33]
 (b) 'It is unrealistic just to live in the hope of nibbana.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 14 (a) Explain the social and religious conditions of Northern India at the time of Gautama the Buddha. [33]
 (b) 'It is essential to know the religious background in order to understand the early life of the Buddha.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – Hinduism

Either

- 15 (a) What does the Purusha Sukta teach about the origins of the world? [33]
 (b) 'The Purusha Sukta is of lasting value for Hinduism.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 16 (a) Describe the nature and possible origins of the Vedas. [33]
 (b) 'Rta is the most important concept in the Vedas.' Discuss. [17]

Part 7

Foundation for Unit 2767: Islam

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

Either

- 17 (a) Explain how the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad ﷺ. [33]
 (b) Assess the importance for Islam of the life of Muhammad ﷺ. [17]

Or

- 18 (a) Explain the Jewish, Christian and Pagan background to pre-Islamic Arabia. [33]
 (b) How far was Islam a rejection of the beliefs and practices of pre-Islamic Arabia? [17]

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

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

Either

- 19 (a)** Explain the principal differences between the Jerusalem and Babylon Talmuds. [33]
- (b)** 'Something written by humans cannot be the word of G-d.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 20 (a)** Describe the origins of the Talmud. [33]
- (b)** 'It is more important for a Jew to study the Talmud than the Tenakh.' Discuss. [17]

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