

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2760

FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Thursday

8 JUNE 2006

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 the two different parts that you have studied.

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) How do the writers of the Bible attempt to explain the creation of the world? [33]
(b) 'God created humanity for a purpose.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 2 (a) Explain Plato's analogy of the cave. [33]
(b) Discuss Plato's idea that most human beings can never really know the whole truth. [17]

Part 2

Foundation for Unit 2762: Religious Ethics (AS)

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

Either

- 3 (a) Explain, with examples, the use of meta-ethics. [33]
(b) 'Ethical language is largely meaningless.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 4 (a) Explain what it means, in ethics, to call a theory 'relativist'. [33]
(b) Assess the strengths and weaknesses of relativist views of ethics. [17]

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

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

Either

- 5 (a) Explain how scholars have attempted to date the events of the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'The destruction of the Temple in 70 CE is the first date in Jewish history which is not in doubt.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 6 (a) Explain how Form Criticism might help in the understanding of the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'Wisdom literature is one of the most important parts of the Jewish scriptures.' 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 origins and beliefs of the Pharisees. [33]
 (b) 'The Jews did not benefit at all from the Roman occupation.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 8 (a) Explain the importance for first-century Judaism of the Roman occupation of Palestine. [33]
 (b) 'The Zealot movement was an inevitable response to Roman rule.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – The Gospels**Either**

- 9 (a) Explain the importance for first-century Judaism of the Roman occupation of Palestine. [33]
 (b) 'The Zealot movement was an inevitable response to Roman rule.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 10 (a) Explain what is meant by 'Q' (Quelle) in relation to the Synoptic Problem. [33]
 (b) 'Solutions to the Synoptic Problem have raised more questions than they have answered.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 11 (a) Explain biblical teaching about attitudes towards other religions. [33]
 (b) 'Christianity is the only true faith and other people cannot enter heaven.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 12 (a) Explain what is meant by a Liberal approach to the interpretation of the Bible. [33]
 (b) 'A Liberal approach to the biblical text is destructive to the Christian faith.' 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 importance of the early life of the Buddha for understanding his teachings. [33]
(b) 'Accounts of the life of Siddhartha Gautama are just fiction.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 14 (a)** Explain the Buddha's teachings about the nature and the ending of suffering. [33]
(b) 'The Four Noble Truths suggest that the Buddha must have been a very miserable person.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – Hinduism

Either

- 15 (a)** Explain the main characteristics of two of the gods of the Vedas. [33]
(b) 'Vedic religion was polytheistic, not monotheistic.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 16 (a)** Explain the importance of the main discoveries made in the Indus Valley. [33]
(b) 'The archaeological discoveries of the Indus Valley are of very little help in understanding Hinduism.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 17 (a) Explain the importance for Islam of the migration to al-Madinah. [33]
- (b) 'The events of Muhammad's ﷺ life in al-Madinah are more important than those which took place in Makkah.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 18 (a) Explain the influences on Muhammad ﷺ during his upbringing. [33]
- (b) 'Muhammad ﷺ totally rejected the beliefs and practices of pre-Islamic Arabia.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 19 (a) Explain the content and use of the Talmud. [33]
- (b) 'For Jews, the Tenakh must always be seen as more important than the Talmud.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 20 (a) Explain what Jews mean by describing their religion as monotheistic. [33]
- (b) Assess the implications of ethical monotheism for Jewish life. [17]

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