

**ADVANCED GCE  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Extended Essay Titles**

**JANUARY 2008**

**2781–2790**

Morning/Afternoon

**This pre-release material may be opened on receipt.**



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Choose **one** title from those set in the Unit for which you have been entered. Only essays on titles printed in this question paper set for this session can be assessed.
- Ensure that your name, Centre number and Candidate number are entered in the spaces on the cover sheet provided, and that the cover sheet is firmly attached to the essay.
- **The pages of the essay must be firmly attached together and each page must be numbered.**
- Your essay must be submitted in the format specified in the *Religious Studies A2 Notes for Guidance*.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- Each question carries 90 marks.
- The quality of your written communication will be taken into account.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

### **2781 Philosophy of Religion 2**

- 1 'A belief in life after death solves the problem of evil.' Discuss.
- 2 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the verification and falsification principles.
- 3 'Miracles lead to belief in a God who cares for some and not others.' Discuss.

### **2782 Religious Ethics 2**

- 1 'The ethics of genetic engineering are more than a matter of individual conscience.' Discuss.
- 2 'Religious ethics are not the best approach to environmental issues.' Discuss.
- 3 'For issues surrounding sex and relationships, the demands of conscience should override other ethical considerations.' Discuss.

### **2783 Jewish Scriptures**

- 1 'Prophets were more concerned about the Messianic kingdom than Messianic figures.' Discuss with reference to the texts you have studied.
- 2 To what extent is the idea of covenant found in the texts you have studied about reward and punishment?
- 3 How far are date, authorship, purpose and historicity important in understanding the books of Jonah and Job?

**2784 New Testament****Alternative A: The Early Church**

- 1 From the texts you have studied, examine how issues of historicity and purpose might affect the interpretation of Paul's letters.
- 2 From the texts you have studied, critically examine whether Paul's teaching on justification was a radically new teaching.
- 3 'In order that in Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham might come to the Gentiles.' Galatians. 3:14.

To what extent did Paul successfully use Scripture to support his theological ideas in Galatians 3-5?

**Alternative B: The Gospels**

- 4 From the texts you have studied, compare the theology of the parables in Mark and Luke.
- 5 From the texts you have studied, critically examine how the gospels develop the concept of judgement.
- 6 To what extent was the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) intended to be a distinctive ethical teaching for all people?

**2785 Developments in Christian Thought**

- 1 'There is even more need for Black Theology today as a result of globalisation and capitalism.' Discuss.
- 2 'If it is true that the followers of other religions can receive divine grace, it is also certain that *objectively speaking* they are in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the Church, have the fullness of the means of salvation.' (*Dominus Iesus* page 31)  
  
Assess Christian teaching on the validity of other religions.
- 3 Assess Karl Barth's teaching on religion.

**2786 Eastern Religions****Alternative A: Buddhism**

- 1 'The Parable of the Burning House contains the most important teachings in the Lotus Sutra.' Discuss.
- 2 Critically examine the importance of the Pali Canon for Buddhists.
- 3 'Today is a result of yesterday, tomorrow is the result of today.' To what extent is this statement an apt representation of Buddhist ethics?

**Alternative B: Hinduism**

- 4 To what extent do verses 12-16 of The Yoga-Sutra of Patanjali tell us we must ignore the world around us?
- 5 To what extent is kama the most important of the four purushartas for the householder?
- 6 'Today is a result of yesterday, tomorrow is the result of today.' To what extent is this statement an apt representation of Hindu ethics?

**2787 Islam**

- 1 How far would you agree that all Muslim life and teaching is a preparation for the last day?
- 2 Evaluate the claim that Shari'ah is not as important for Sufis as for other Muslims.
- 3 To what extent do Sunni, Shi'ah and Sufi Muslims agree about the status of the Sunnah of the Prophet?

**2788 Judaism 1**

- 1 'The passage of time has changed Jewish understanding of the concept of the Promised Land.' Discuss.
- 2 'Progressive Judaism is no longer a radical option within the faith.' Discuss.
- 3 'Jewish faith and practice are in a state of crisis in the United Kingdom today.' Discuss.

**2789 Philosophy of Religion**

- 1 'Malcolm has produced the strongest version of the ontological argument.' Discuss.
- 2 'Durkheim's analysis of religion is better than that of Marx.' Discuss.
- 3 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the classical theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus.

**2790 Religious Ethics**

- 1 Critically discuss the ethical concerns raised by embryo research.
- 2 Compare and contrast religious ethics with the ethics of Kant.
- 3 'Every woman has the right to a child.' Critically discuss with reference to the ethical theories you have studied.





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