

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Foundation for the Study of Religion

WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2008

2760

Morning
Time: 1 hour

Additional materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.
- If you use extra sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the answer booklet.
- Answer **two** questions, one from each of the two different parts that you have studied.
- Do not answer more than one question from any one Part.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question 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 document consists of **8** printed 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 what is meant by the idea of *creatio ex nihilo*. [33]
(b) 'If God did create the world then God is responsible for it.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 2 (a) Explain Plato's concept of 'Forms' and the particular importance of the Form of the Good. [33]
(b) 'Plato's concept of Forms is simply a theory with no basis in fact.' Discuss. [17]

Part 2**Foundation for Unit 2762: Religious Ethics (AS)**

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

Either

- 3 (a)** What is the difference between meta-ethics and normative ethics? [33]
- (b)** 'Understanding ethical language can help in making moral decisions.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 4 (a)** Explain the difference between moral relativism and cultural relativism. [33]
- (b)** 'Relativist theories are always unfair because they do not apply to everyone.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 5 (a) Explain, with examples, the different types of evidence which might be used in dating the main events of the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'None of the evidence used in dating the events in the Jewish scriptures is convincing.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 6 (a) Explain the use of the term 'liturgy' when describing some of the writings in the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'Liturgy should be regarded as the most important part of the Jewish scriptures because it is about worshipping G-d.' 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 how the travels and activities of Paul recorded in Acts relate to the Epistles. [33]
- (b) 'The epistles were written by Paul himself so must be more reliable than the Acts of the Apostles.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 8 (a) Explain the origins of the Pharisees and Sadducees. [33]
- (b) 'For most first-century Jews, neither the Pharisees nor the Sadducees had any impact on their lives.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – The Gospels

Either

- 9 (a) Explain Source Criticism in relation to the gospels. [33]
- (b) 'Source criticism helps people to understand the message of the gospels.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 10 (a) Explain the origins of the Pharisees and Sadducees. [33]
- (b) 'For most first-century Jews, neither the Pharisees nor the Sadducees had any impact on their lives.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 11 (a) Explain Fundamentalist and Liberal approaches to an understanding of the inspiration of the Bible. [33]
- (b) 'Neither a Fundamentalist nor a Liberal approach is of any real help in understanding the Biblical texts.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 12 (a) Explain Biblical teaching about members of other faiths. [33]
- (b) 'Biblical teaching about other faiths is unacceptable.' 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 for Buddhism of the traditional stories of the Buddha's early life. [33]
(b) 'The example of the Buddha's life is more important than his teachings.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 14 (a)** Explain Hindu teachings about atman and karma. [33]
(b) 'Buddhism was a complete rejection of Hindu teachings.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – Hinduism

Either

'When they divided Man,
 into how many parts did they divide him?' (Purusha Sukta)

- 15 (a)** Explain what the Purusha Sukta teaches about the central role of sacrifice in creation. [33]
(b) 'The stories in the Purusha Sukta are myths and tell us nothing about the world or the gods.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 16 (a)** Explain, with examples, the difference between sruti and smriti. [33]
(b) To what extent do the Vedas have authority for Hindu life today? [17]

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

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

Either

- 17 (a)** Explain why, for Muslims, Muhammad ﷺ is the last prophet. [33]
- (b)** To what extent is Islam a rejection of the religious beliefs of pre-Islamic Arabia? [17]

Or

- 18 (a)** Explain the social and religious conditions in al-Madinah at the time of the arrival of Muhammad ﷺ. [33]
- (b)** 'Without the emigration to al-Madinah, Islam would probably not have been established.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 19 (a)** Explain why the phrase a 'chosen people' is often misunderstood. [33]
- (b)** 'Being Jewish is a blessing not a burden.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 20 (a)** Explain the use of the Tenakh in daily life and in worship. [33]
- (b)** 'People cannot live their daily lives by following a book which is thousands of years old.' Discuss. [17]

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