

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Foundation for the Study of Religion
TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2008

2760

Afternoon
Time: 1 hour

Additional materials (enclosed): None

Additional materials (required):
Answer Booklet (8 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- 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.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the separate Answer Booklet provided.
- If you use extra sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the Answer Booklet.
- Write the number of each question attempted in the grid on the front of the Answer Booklet.

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.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.

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 Plato's understanding of the distinction between body and soul. [33]
(b) 'Plato's understanding of the distinction between body and soul is easy to criticise.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 2 (a) Explain the Biblical idea of the 'goodness of God'. [33]
(b) 'The idea of a "good God" is very different from that of Aristotle's Prime Mover.' Discuss. [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 prescriptivism in meta-ethics. [33]
- (b) 'Prescriptivism means that words such as "good" and "bad" have absolute meanings.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 4 (a) Explain how a moral relativist might respond to the idea that people should always tell the truth. [33]
- (b) Assess the weaknesses of relativist views of ethics. [17]

Part 3**Foundation for Unit 2763: Jewish Scriptures (AS)**

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

Either

- 5 (a) Explain, with examples, what is meant when some of the writings of the Jewish scriptures are described as poetry. [33]
- (b) 'Poetry is a difficult way to express human understanding of G-d.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 6 (a) Explain why some people may feel that Form Criticism is unhelpful when studying the Jewish scriptures. [33]
- (b) 'It is necessary to know the type of literature being studied in order to understand what is the revealed word of G-d.' Discuss. [17]

Part 4**Foundation for Unit 2764: New Testament (AS)**

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

Alternative A – The Early Church

Either

- 7 (a) Explain the beliefs of the Pharisees and Sadducees. [33]
(b) 'The Pharisees were less threatened by Roman rule than were the Sadducees.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 8 (a) Explain the discussion surrounding the authorship of the Acts of the Apostles. [33]
(b) 'The evidence clearly shows that Acts was written by the author of Luke.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – The Gospels

Either

- 9 (a) Explain the beliefs of the Pharisees and Sadducees. [33]
(b) 'The Pharisees were less threatened by Roman rule than were the Sadducees.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 10 (a) Explain the two and four document hypotheses in relation to the synoptic problem. [33]
(b) 'If there really were a synoptic problem, scholars would have found a convincing solution to it.' Discuss. [17]

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

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

Either

- 11 (a) Explain New Testament attitudes towards Judaism. [33]
- (b) 'The Bible teaches intolerance of other religions.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 12 (a) Explain **one** approach to the interpretation of the Bible. [33]
- (b) 'All approaches to the study of the Bible are too influenced by the use of "proof texts".' Discuss. [17]

Part 6**Foundation for Unit 2766: Eastern Religions (AS)**

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

Alternative A – Buddhism

Either

- 13 (a)** Explain the importance of what Gautama (the Buddha) saw when he left the palace. [33]
(b) 'The Buddha deliberately set out to found a new religion.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 14 (a)** Explain the Buddha's teaching of the Four Noble Truths. [33]
(b) 'The "Middle Way" is just an easy way out compared to the following of religious practices.' Discuss. [17]

Alternative B – Hinduism

Either

- 15 (a)** Explain the ideas of rta/dharma. [33]
(b) To what extent can rta/dharma be considered a universal moral law? [17]

Or

- 16 (a)** Explain beliefs about the Vedic god Indra. [33]
(b) 'Vedic religion has little to do with Hinduism.' Discuss. [17]

Part 7**Foundation for Unit 2767: Islam (AS)**

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

Either

- 17 (a) Explain the importance of the events in the life of Muhammad ﷺ from the Night of Power until he emigrated to al-Madinah. [33]
- (b) 'An understanding of the life of Muhammad ﷺ is essential for an understanding of Islam.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 18 (a) Explain the particular way in which the whole of the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad ﷺ. [33]
- (b) 'The way in which the Qur'an was revealed shows its importance.' Discuss. [17]

Part 8**Foundation for Unit 2768: Judaism (AS)**

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

Either

- 19 (a) Explain the origins and purpose of the Torah. [33]
- (b) 'The Torah is of far greater importance than the rest of the Tenakh.' Discuss. [17]

Or

- 20 (a) Explain the purpose of the Talmud. [33]
- (b) 'For Jewish life today, the Talmud is more important than the Tenakh.' Discuss. [17]

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