

ADVANCED GCE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Extended Essay Titles

2781–2790

This pre-release material may be opened on receipt.

JANUARY 2009



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 Teacher Support and 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 **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

2781 Philosophy of Religion 2

- 1 'Only a belief in embodied existence after death is philosophically justifiable.' Discuss.
- 2 'Religious experiences are all illusions.' Discuss.
- 3 'Myth is the only way to understand the nature of God.' Discuss.

2782 Religious Ethics 2

- 1 Evaluate the arguments of Virtue Ethics for and against abortion.
- 2 Discuss critically the view that we should always follow our conscience when making ethical decisions.
- 3 Discuss critically religious ethical views on peace and justice.

2783 Jewish Scriptures

- 1 To what extent is concern about social justice evident in the texts you have studied?
- 2 'Prophets are more important than kings in the Jewish scriptures.' Discuss with reference to the set texts.
- 3 Discuss the extent to which date, authorship, purpose and historicity are important when studying Daniel 12 and 2 Maccabees 7.

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

- 1 Analyse the significant theological themes in Paul's letter to the Galatians.
- 2 'For all have sinned and fallen short.' Romans 3:23.
From the letters you have studied, examine the extent to which Paul's mission was inclusive of both Jews and Gentiles.
- 3 'If one ignores the debate about authorship, Romans and Ephesians both offer reflective summaries of the major themes of Paul's theology.' Discuss.

Alternative B: The Gospels

- 4 'In the gospels, Jesus' authority and status are shown only within the context of Judaism.' Discuss with reference to the texts you have studied.
- 5 Assess the extent to which Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom of God were a challenge to his audience.
- 6 'The clearest illustration of Jesus' teaching on salvation is shown in the healing miracles in Mark's gospel.' Discuss with reference to the texts you have studied.

2785 Developments in Christian Thought

- 1 'Black Theology is a Christian heresy.' Discuss.
- 2 To what extent does Martin Luther King Junior's theology emphasise the strengths of Black Theology?
- 3 'As we cannot define what religion is there can be no satisfactory theology of religions.' Discuss.

2786 Eastern Religions

Alternative A: Buddhism

- 1 Critically examine the attitudes to the Buddha in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.
- 2 'Wisdom is more important than morality in Buddhist ethics.' Discuss.
- 3 To what extent are the teachings in the Heart Sutra representative of Mahayana Buddhism?

Alternative B: Hinduism

- 4 'The concept of ahimsa is incompatible with the concept of dharma outlined in the Bhagavad Gita.' Discuss.
- 5 'Varnashramadharma will cease to be of any value as the caste system falls into disuse.' Discuss.
- 6 Assess the long-term influence of reform movements on Hinduism.

2787 Islam

- 1 'Sufism is the heart of Islam.' Discuss.
- 2 To what extent do Sunni and Shi'a Islam share the same views concerning the importance of each of the articles of Islamic belief?
- 3 'Shari'ah law has been a positive influence on family life and the roles of men and women.' Discuss.

2788 Judaism

- 1 'Only Reform Judaism offers any real hope for the survival of Judaism into the 22nd century.' Discuss.
- 2 'The hope of the coming of the Messianic figure as prophesied in Isaiah and Malachi is simply unrealistic.' Discuss.
- 3 'To ensure the survival of the faith, it is time for Jews to forget the 20th century Holocaust and look towards the future.' Discuss.

2789 Philosophy of Religion 1

- 1 'The moral argument for the existence of God fails as it is impossible to draw conclusions from our experience of morality.' Discuss.
- 2 'Religious experience provides solid evidence for the existence of God.' Discuss.
- 3 'Thanks to Hume and Darwin, teleological arguments are bound to fail.' Evaluate this claim.

2790 Religious Ethics 1

- 1 Evaluate the ethical arguments for and against euthanasia.
- 2 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of moral absolutism.
- 3 'Virtue Ethics is useless when dealing with issues about medical ethics.' Discuss.



Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (OCR) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.