



**ADVANCED GCE**  
**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
Extended Essay Titles

**2781–2790**

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

**JANUARY 2010**



**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 'Religious language can only be interpreted non-cognitively.' Discuss.
- 2 'Conversion experiences can only come from God.' Discuss.
- 3 Critically assess the distinctions between body and soul in the thinking of Plato and John Hick.

### **2782 Religious Ethics 2**

- 1 Assess the view that our freedom to make ethical decisions is an illusion.
- 2 In the light of ethical theories, discuss the claim that killing in war is more justifiable than other types of killing.
- 3 'Utilitarianism is better in all respects than the ethics of the religion you have studied.' Discuss.

### **2783 Jewish Scriptures 2**

- 1 How far does the book of Micah reflect the same theological ideas and social concerns as the book of Amos?
- 2 Examine critically the identity and role of the servant described in Isaiah chapters 40-43 and in Isaiah 53.
- 3 Using the texts you have studied, discuss the relationship of suffering to reward and punishment in the Jewish Scriptures.

**2784 New Testament 2****Alternative A: The Early Church**

- 1 'In his letters, Paul's attitude to the Law is ambiguous.' Discuss.
- 2 'Romans is the essence of Paul's gospel.' Discuss.
- 3 To what extent are issues of date, authorship, historicity and purpose essential for a study of **one** of Paul's epistles?

**Alternative B: The Gospels**

- 4 'The Kingdom of God is the main theme of the gospels.' Discuss.
- 5 Critically examine Mark's portrayal of Jesus' ministry through miracles and parables.
- 6 'The Sermon on the Mount is more important than any other text on Jesus' teaching.' Discuss.

**2785 Developments in Christian Thought 2**

- 1 Compare and contrast the aims of feminist theology and black theology.
- 2 'All religions are either equally true or equally false.' Discuss.
- 3 'Karl Barth's teaching on religion is more persuasive than the theology of Karl Rahner.' Discuss.

**2786 Eastern Religions 2****Alternative A: Buddhism**

- 1 'The other four precepts are merely an elaboration of the first precept (do no harm).' Discuss.
- 2 'Meditation is of no value to Pure Land Buddhists.' Discuss.
- 3 'Buddhism had to change in order to gain acceptance in China and Japan.' Discuss critically with reference to Zen and Pure Land Buddhism.

**Alternative B: Hinduism**

- 4 Assess the importance of the teachings of prakriti and purusa in the Samkhya system.
- 5 'Moksha has no real relationship to the other three purushartas.' Discuss.
- 6 'Gandhi has been more influential in Hinduism than any of the reforming movements.' Discuss.

**2787 Islam 2**

- 1 Assess the claim that none of the Articles of Muslim belief were new ideas.
- 2 Discuss the implications for Muslims of believing in Allah as Creator, Judge and Guide.
- 3 To what extent is Shari'ah the most misunderstood aspect of Islam?

**2788 Judaism 2**

- 1 'Judaism should abandon belief in a coming Messiah and concentrate on issues concerning the world today.' Discuss.
- 2 'Conservative Judaism is a good compromise between Orthodox and Liberal Judaism.' Discuss.
- 3 'True Judaism has not really survived the effects of the twentieth-century Holocaust.' Discuss.

**2789 Philosophy of Religion 1**

- 1 'No version of the Cosmological Argument can defeat the objections of Hume and Russell.' Discuss.
- 2 Assess the view that psychologists have explained religion and therefore disproved the existence of God.
- 3 'Kant produced the strongest version of the moral argument.' Discuss.

**2790 Religious Ethics 1**

- 1 Assess the view that Kantian ethics is the best approach to euthanasia.
- 2 'Morality needs absolute rules.' Discuss.
- 3 Critically discuss the ethical concerns raised by abortion.





**Copyright Information**

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations, is given to all schools that receive assessment material and is freely available to download from our public website ([www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

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.