

556/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 6a

WESTERN RELIGIONS:

Studies in either Islam or Judaism

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 13 June 2007

(1 hour 30 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **two** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 25 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer questions from one section only, either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A: Studies in Islam

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Outline the different sources of law accepted by the four Sunni law schools. [15]
 (b) ‘The Hanbali School was the most pure in rejecting all sources other than Qur’an and Sunna.’
 Assess the validity of this view. [10]
2. (a) Explain the distinctive beliefs found within Shi’a Islam. [15]
 (b) ‘All Shi’a and Sunni Muslims share the same fundamental beliefs.’
 Evaluate this contention. [10]
3. (a) Examine what is meant by ‘an Islamic State’. [15]
 (b) ‘Since the death of the Prophet Muhammad, there has not been a true Islamic state.’
 Evaluate this statement with particular reference to an Islamic state you have studied. [10]

SECTION B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Outline the practices and beliefs associated with the Kabbalah. [15]
 (b) ‘The Jewish mystical understanding of God is a corruption of the Torah.’
 Evaluate this contention. [10]
2. (a) Explain the differences between Orthodox and non-Orthodox views on whether an individual is considered to be Jewish. [15]
 (b) ‘The Reform view on Jewish identity is more effective in safeguarding Judaism for the future.’
 Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Examine the Jewish opposition to political Zionism. [15]
 (b) ‘Without the Holocaust, Zionism would never have achieved the establishment of Israel as a Jewish state.’
 Evaluate this statement. [10]