



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

552/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2α
WESTERN RELIGIONS
An Introduction to either
Islam or Judaism**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2008
(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 20 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: An Introduction to Islam

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1.

Islamic law is essentially religious – the concrete expression of God’s guidance for humanity. It has remained central to Muslim identity and practice because it constitutes the ideal social blueprint for the good society. Despite vast cultural differences, Islamic law has provided a common code of behaviour for Muslim societies.

Islam – The Straight Path John L. Esposito (2005)

- (a) Outline the role and importance of the Qur’an as a basis for *Islamic law*. [10]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Sunnah of the Prophet in *Islamic law*. [10]
- 2.** (a) Examine the Muslim belief in messengers and helpers (risalah). [10]
- (b) ‘All Muslim life and teaching is a preparation for the final judgement (akhirah).’
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Outline the practice and importance of education in Islam. [10]
- (b) ‘Men have a superior role to women in Islam.’
Assess this view. [10]

SECTION B: An Introduction to Judaism

Answer Question 1 and one other question.

1.

The Jewish home is built upon the institution of marriage and provides the physical setting for Jewish family life. It is the family that gives a Jewish home its special character. The Jewish family is extensive and has flexible boundaries, but, in the traditional family, precise and differentiated roles are given to men, women and children.

(a) Outline the practice and importance of *Jewish family life*. [10]

(b) Explain the importance of education in Judaism. [10]

2. (a) Describe how Jewish people observe Yom Kippur. [10]

(b) ‘Yom Kippur is the most important festival in Judaism.’
Assess this view. [10]

3. (a) Outline the character and authority of the Talmud. [10]

(b) ‘Judaism is a religion that changes with the times.’
Assess this view. [10]