



GCE A level

556/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES - RS 6α

WESTERN RELIGIONS:

Studies in either Islam or Judaism

P.M. FRIDAY, 6 June 2008

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 how the Qur'an, Sunna, qiyas and ijma contribute towards the formation of Islamic Law (Shari'a). [15]
- (b) 'Qiyas and ijma are not reliable as sources of Shari'a.'
Assess the validity of this view. [10]

2. (a) Examine the main beliefs and practices within Sufi Islam. [15]
- (b) 'Sufism is a corruption of true Islam.'
Evaluate this view. [10]

3. (a) Examine the role of women in Islam. [15]
- (b) 'The role of women within Islam has not developed in line with the demands of the modern world.'
Assess this contention. [10]

SECTION B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Outline Baal Shem Tov's contribution to the development of Hasidism. [15]
- (b) 'The Mitnagdim were entirely correct to oppose the growth of Hasidism.'
Assess this view. [10]

2. (a) Examine the development of the Reform Movement **and** why some Jews saw this change as necessary. [15]
- (b) 'The main change within Reform Judaism was equality for women.'
Evaluate this contention. [10]

3. (a) Explain **three** Jewish theological responses to the Holocaust. [15]
- (b) Assess which of these responses is the most convincing. [10]