



GCE AS/A level

1344/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 BS - Introduction to Biblical Studies

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 May 2012

1¼ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

The use of a Bible is NOT permitted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 45 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

Part (*a*) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (*b*) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

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

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

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

Section A: Introduction to the Old Testament (AS)

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the Old Testament myths and legends that you have studied. [30]
(b) 'Old Testament myths and legends have no relevance today.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Describe the effects of the Babylonian Exile on Israelite religion. [30]
(b) 'The Exile was a blessing for Israel.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Examine the covenant with Noah. [30]
(b) 'The covenant with Noah is the least important of the Old Testament covenants.'
Assess this view. [15]

4. (a) Examine the origin of the Hebrew monarchy. [30]
(b) 'The accounts of how Saul became king show that the biblical writers hated Saul.'
Assess this statement. [15]

Section B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the key features of the Birth Narratives of Jesus. [30]
(b) 'The Birth Narratives are myths.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Explain the Parable of the Good Samaritan. [30]
(b) 'The parables are the work of the early church.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Explain the purposes of Jesus' miracles. [30]
(b) 'The accounts of Jesus' miracles are too similar to be true.'
Assess this statement. [15]

4. (a) Outline Luke's account of the resurrection. [30]
(b) 'One can be a Christian without believing in the resurrection.'
Assess this view. [15]