



**GCE AS/A level**

1347/01

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RS1/2 WR - Introduction to Western Religions**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 May 2012

1¼ hours

#### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

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

#### **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 Islam**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain the relevance of the Qur'an to Muslims in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. [30]  
(b) 'It is impossible to understand the concept of Allah as revealed in the Qur'an.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain how Muhammad became a prophet of Allah. [30]  
(b) 'The example of Muhammad is all that Muslims need to guide them through life.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Explain the role of the mosque in Islam. [30]  
(b) 'Worship at the mosque is not necessary for Muslims.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Explain Muslim beliefs and practices in relation to death. [30]  
(b) 'Observance of traditional life cycle rituals is essential for the survival of Islam in modern Britain.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Judaism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Explain Orthodox and Reform attitudes towards the Torah. [30]  
(b) 'The Torah was given to Moses by God.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Explain what Jews mean when they describe themselves as the 'chosen people'. [30]  
(b) 'Keeping a Jewish home is the most important part of belonging to the 'chosen people.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Explain the nature of Shabbat. [30]  
(b) 'Shabbat observance keeps Judaism alive.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Explain Jewish teaching about divorce. [30]  
(b) 'Jewish divorce laws are unjust.'  
Assess this view. [15]