



GCE AS/A level

1344/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 BS
Introduction to Biblical Studies

A.M. TUESDAY, 13 May 2014

1 hour 15 minutes

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

Section A: Introduction to the Old Testament

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the purpose of the Genesis stories of:
- Creation (chapter 1)
 - Adam and Eve
 - the Tower of Babel. [30]
- (b) 'The stories in Genesis are literally true.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain why the date of the Exodus is disputed. [30]
- (b) 'The biblical account of the route of the Exodus is greatly exaggerated.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the covenant with Abraham. [30]
- (b) 'Some Old Testament covenants are more important than others.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Examine the successes and failures of Solomon as king. [30]
- (b) 'Israelites disliked monarchy.'
Assess this view. [15]

Section B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the key features of Matthew's Birth Narrative of Jesus (Matthew 1-2). [30]
(b) 'Matthew's account of Jesus' birth is unacceptable today.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Explain the main themes of Jesus' parables. [30]
(b) 'Jesus did not deliver the parables as we know them.'
Assess this statement. [15]
3. (a) Examine the miracle of raising the Widow's Son at Nain. [30]
(b) 'The accounts of his miracles deter people from believing in Jesus.'
Assess this statement. [15]
4. (a) Outline the main differences between the biblical accounts of the crucifixion. [30]
(b) 'The crucifixion has no importance except for Christian believers.'
Assess this view. [15]

END OF PAPER