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International Baccalaureate®
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**WORLD RELIGIONS
STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Thursday 3 May 2012 (morning)

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer one question.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[40 marks]*.

SECTION A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question is worth [20 marks].

Hinduism

1. Compare and contrast the key teachings concerning the relationship between Atman and Brahman found in Vedanta philosophy.
2. To what extent is there a variety of religious experience in Hinduism?

Buddhism

3. To what extent does Buddhism teach non-violence?
4. Examine in what ways Mahayana texts offer a different way of understanding the concept of Buddhahood.

Sikhism

5. Justify the statement that most Sikh rituals reflect the significance of the Guru Granth Sahib.
6. “The Guru Granth Sahib provides the main source of information on Sikh ethics and moral conduct.” Discuss.

Open-ended question

7. With reference to **one** religion, **either** Hinduism **or** Buddhism **or** Sikhism and using specific examples of rituals or festivals, discuss some of the purposes of worship/devotion in a communal place rather than in the home.

SECTION B

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question is worth [20 marks].

Judaism

8. “The concept of the Messiah from the scriptures is no longer appropriate for Judaism today.” Discuss.
9. To what extent does Judaism need both the Talmud and the Torah in order to survive?

Christianity

10. Evaluate the claim that the Eucharist expresses the unity of all Christians.
11. “The Christian Church should remove obsolete and irrelevant passages from the Bible.” Discuss.

Islam

12. Discuss why many Muslims state that performing the hajj is one of the most powerful and intense communal and personal religious experiences of their lives.
13. “Believers, fasting is decreed for you as it was decreed for those before you; that you may [learn] self-restraint ... Allah desires your well being, not your discomfort. He desires you to fast the whole month so that you may magnify Him and render thanks to Him for giving you His guidance.” (*Qur’an, Surat al-Baqarah* 2:183, 184)

Examine at least **two** purposes of sawm (fasting) and the effects sawm may have on the individual believer and/or on the umma.

Open-ended question

14. With reference to **one** religion, **either** Judaism **or** Christianity **or** Islam and by providing specific examples, discuss the statement that in marriage a woman has fewer rights than a man.