

Pearson Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Thursday 19 May 2016 – Morning

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS01/01

You must have:

Answer Book (enclosed)

Instructions

- Answer **three** questions. For each question you may only answer **either** part a **or** part b but **not** both.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Do not return this question paper with the Answer Book.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication will be taken into account in the marking of all your responses
– *you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.*

Advice

- The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (assessed in part (i) of each question for 70% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (assessed in part (ii) of each question for 30% of the marks).

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Philosophy

EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) Examine the importance of experience and analogy for understanding the design argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that experience and analogy are the weakest features of the design argument. (9)

(Total for Question 1 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **three** concepts that are basic to understanding the cosmological argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the effectiveness of **two** challenges to the cosmological argument. (9)

(Total for Question 1 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) What is meant by the problem of suffering? Examine the view that suffering provides strong evidence against the existence of God. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that there are convincing solutions to the problem of suffering. (9)

(Total for Question 2 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine a range of meanings associated with the term 'miracle' and **three** reasons to believe in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that it is far more likely that belief in miracles is false. (9)

(Total for Question 2 (b) = 30 marks)

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Outline the main strengths of Utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent do criticisms of Utilitarianism detract from its value? (9)

(Total for Question 3 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main concepts of Situation Ethics. (21)
- (ii) To what extent does Situation Ethics help in ethical decision making? (9)

(Total for Question 3 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the ways in which the Just War Theory tries to justify war. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these justifications cannot be sustained. (9)

(Total for Question 4 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important issues raised by **two** dilemmas in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the value of appeals to religious belief as a way of resolving dilemmas in sexual ethics. (9)

(Total for Question 4 (b) = 30 marks)

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5 (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following topics relating to the time of the Buddha and their influences on his life and teaching:
- religious groups
 - religious practices
 - social context.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the ways in which the Buddha reacted to these influences.
- (9)

(Total for Question 5 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the concept of the Middle Way as a basis for understanding the life of the Buddha.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that the Middle Way was a new development.
- (9)

(Total for Question 5 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 6 (a) (i) Examine the importance of the three refuges for the laity.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on some of the challenges facing the three refuges.
- (9)

(Total for Question 6 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine **three** purposes of meditation.
- (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that meditation is of overriding importance to Buddhists.
- (9)

(Total for Question 6 (b) = 30 marks)

Christianity

EITHER

7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings about the Person and work of Jesus from **one** of the following periods:

- Early Church
- Reformation.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Christians.

(9)

(Total for Question 7 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Outline key teachings on the life and work of Jesus from **one** historical, social and religious context.

(21)

(ii) To what extent are these teachings significant for Christians?

(9)

(Total for Question 7 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

8 (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as creator.

(21)

(ii) To what extent are beliefs about God as creator more important than beliefs about God as personal?

(9)

(Total for Question 8 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Give an account of the practices of baptism in **two** Christian Churches.

(21)

(ii) Comment on the meaning and significance of these practices for Christian belief.

(9)

(Total for Question 8 (b) = 30 marks)

Hinduism

EITHER

9 (a) (i) Examine the view that there is continuity between the Indus Valley culture and later Hinduism. (21)

(ii) Comment on the difficulties associated with this view. (9)

(Total for Question 9 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the key features of **either** Vedic beliefs **or** Vedic practices. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that the authority of the Veda is particularly important for Hindus. (9)

(Total for Question 9 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

10 (a) (i) Examine the importance of yogic practices for understanding key teachings about yoga. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that the practice of yoga may be far more important than its teachings. (9)

(Total for Question 10 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the emphases of beliefs about **either** Krishna **or** Rama. (21)

(ii) Comment on the significance of Sakti for devotees. (9)

(Total for Question 10 (b) = 30 marks)

Islam

EITHER

11 (a) (i) Examine the distinctive features of Muhammad's life in Makkah. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that this part of Muhammad's life is of limited significance for Muslims. (9)

(Total for Question 11 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the view that the hijrah was the turning point in Muhammad's life. (21)

(ii) Comment on some of the controversies between Muhammad and his opponents in Madinah. (9)

(Total for Question 11 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

12 (a) (i) Examine **three** key emphases about Allah found in the Six beliefs. (21)

(ii) Comment on the implications of these emphases for Muslim practice. (9)

(Total for Question 12 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

(b) (i) Examine the key teachings associated with zakah, sawm and hajj. (21)

(ii) Comment on the view that these three pillars are equally important as ways of submitting to Allah. (9)

(Total for Question 12 (b) = 30 marks)

Judaism

EITHER

- 13** (a) (i) Examine the key contributions to Judaism of Rashi and his school. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the diaspora for Jewish thought. (9)

(Total for Question 13 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main themes of the teachings of Moses Maimonides. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Moses Maimonides for Jews. (9)

(Total for Question 13 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 14** (a) (i) Examine the importance within Orthodox Judaism of understanding and following the correct tradition. (21)
- (ii) Comment on an Orthodox response to the claim that revelation is a continuous process. (9)

(Total for Question 14 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the contributions of Reform Judaism to diversity within the Jewish tradition. (21)
- (ii) How far have attempts by Reform Jews to bring Judaism into line with modern ways of thought and custom been successful? (9)

(Total for Question 14 (b) = 30 marks)

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15** (a) (i) Examine the effect of the religious context on the life and teaching of Guru Nanak. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of Guru Nanak for the Sikh way of life. (9)

(Total for Question 15 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib and its role in the Sikh community. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is the Guru Granth Sahib the only Guru a Sikh needs? (9)

(Total for Question 15 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 16** (a) (i) Examine the Sikh practice of devotion. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Nit Nem is the most important devotional practice for a Sikh. (9)

(Total for Question 16 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the main principles of the Rahit Maryada. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Khalsa is the basis of Sikh identity and discipline. (9)

(Total for Question 16 (b) = 30 marks)

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine the significance for Christians of **either** Jesus' teachings concerning wealth and poverty (Luke's Gospel) **or** of Jesus' sayings 'I am the Bread of Life' and 'I am the Light of the World' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that **either** these teachings **or** the 'I am' sayings deal with the most important themes of the Gospel. (9)

(Total for Question 17 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) With reference to **either** Luke's Gospel **or** the Fourth Gospel, examine the key beliefs and teachings of any **two** miracles or signs. (21)
- (ii) Discuss the view that these miracles or signs express ideas that are essential to understanding the whole Gospel. (9)

(Total for Question 17 (b) = 30 marks)

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) What can be learned from **either** Jesus' teaching on worship (Luke's Gospel) **or** any **two** conversations between Jesus and women in the Fourth Gospel? (21)
- (ii) To what extent is **either** Jesus' teaching on worship **or** his conversations with women vital to understanding the whole Gospel? (9)

(Total for Question 18 (a) = 30 marks)

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important ideas in the Gospel regarding the nature of discipleship. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Holy Spirit is central to the ministry of Jesus. (9)

(Total for Question 18 (b) = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 90 MARKS

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Answer Book

Do not return the question paper with the answer book.

Total Marks

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Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **three** questions. For each question you may only answer **either** part a **or** part b but **not** both.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- You should indicate your first question choice on page 2 and answer it on pages 2–9.
- You should indicate your second question choice on page 10 and answer it on pages 10–17.
- You should indicate your third question choice on page 18 and answer it on pages 18–25.

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