



**GCE AS/A level**

1347/01



S15-1347-01-R1

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 WR**

**Introduction to Western Religions**

A.M. THURSDAY, 14 May 2015

1 hour 15 minutes

### **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 only, **either** Section A or Section B.

**Section A: Introduction to Islam**

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Examine the significance of the sunna of Muhammad in relation to shari'a law. [30]  
(b) 'The imam and teaching at the mosque are more relevant for Muslims today than the Qur'an.' Assess this view. [15]
  
2. (a) Examine the events in his early life which prepared Muhammad for prophethood. [30]  
(b) 'Muhammad's background and upbringing were the main reasons for the success of Islam.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
3. (a) Examine the roles of salah and hajj in the Muslim ummah. [30]  
(b) 'Prayer is the only pillar of Islam that matters in Muslim daily life.'  
Assess this view. [15]
  
4. (a) Explain how Islam may be misunderstood in the 21st Century. [30]  
(b) 'The traditions of Muslim family life in modern Britain must change.'  
Assess this view. [15]

**Section B: Introduction to Judaism**

*Answer two questions.*

1. (a) Examine the role of Abraham as ‘Father of the nation’. [30]  
(b) ‘Moses is far more important than Abraham for Jews today.’  
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine the diversity of practice in the observance of mitzvot within Judaism. [30]  
(b) ‘Focus on rules is the strength of Judaism.’  
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Examine the nature and the role of Yom Kippur in Judaism. [30]  
(b) ‘Yom Kippur is the most relevant festival for Jews today.’  
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain how life cycle rituals may be seen as showing that men have higher status than women in Judaism. [30]  
(b) ‘Judaism is a religion that changes with the times.’  
Assess this view. [15]

**END OF PAPER**