



GCE A level

1348/07



S15-1348-07-R1

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS3 WR
Studies in Western Religions

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 10 June 2015

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 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 50 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: Studies in Islam

Answer **two** questions.

1. (a) Explain the importance of fiqh within Islam. [30]
(b) 'The teachings within the Qur'an are relevant for all times.'
Assess this view. [20]
2. (a) Examine distinctive Shi'a beliefs and practices. [30]
(b) 'It is devotion to Husayn that makes Shi'a Islam unacceptable to Sunni Muslims.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Examine challenges of being Muslim in Britain. [30]
(b) 'It is not possible for a Muslim to assimilate to secular Britain.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine the impact within Islam of the Kharijite assassination of Ali. [30]
(b) 'Lesser jihad is not an appropriate course of action in modern society.'
Assess this view. [20]

Section B: Studies in Judaism

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine Hasidic understanding of the function and status of the rebbe (tzaddik). [30]
(b) 'It is the great importance given to the rebbe that separates Hasidism from other forms of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [20]
2. (a) Explain the importance of Torah study as an expression of Jewish faith. [30]
(b) 'It is Torah study that maintains the survival of Judaism.'
Assess this view. [20]
3. (a) Examine different understandings of what covenant means to Jews today. [30]
(b) 'Matrilineal descent is the only thing that really matters in defining Jewish identity.'
Assess this view. [20]
4. (a) Examine Jewish opposition to Zionism. [30]
(b) 'It is the duty of every Jew to support the state of Israel.'
Assess this view. [20]

END OF PAPER