

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Religious Studies – Foundations

Wednesday 16 May 2012 – 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 in the Answer Book.
– *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 with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression, on these questions.*

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).

Turn over ►

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PEARSON

Philosophy

EITHER

- 1 (a) (i) 'The design argument explains the purpose found in the natural world.'
Examine this description of the design argument. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that this argument is successful as a proof for the existence of God. (9)
- (Total for Question 1(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the evidence used to support the cosmological argument. (21)
- (ii) 'Challenges to this argument show that it is a failure.'
Comment on this claim. (9)
- (Total for Question 1(b) = 30 marks)**
-

EITHER

- 2 (a) (i) In what ways may suffering be seen as a problem for a religious believer? Give an account of **two** solutions to this problem. (21)
- (ii) To what extent is one of these solutions more convincing than the other? (9)
- (Total for Question 2(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key problems of believing in miracles. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that it is justifiable to believe in miracles. (9)
- (Total for Question 2(b) = 30 marks)**
-

Ethics

EITHER

- 3 (a) (i) Examine the arguments for and against the view that morality is independent of religion. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these arguments convincing? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the important concepts of **either** Situation Ethics **or** Utilitarianism. (21)
- (ii) To what extent are these important concepts undermined by relevant criticisms? (9)

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) (i) Examine the view that it may be possible to justify involvement in war on some occasions. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that no war can ever be justified. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Outline the ways in which religious beliefs can be used to clarify dilemmas in sexual ethics. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that religious beliefs about sexual ethics are no longer relevant to most people today. (9)

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

Buddhism

EITHER

- 5** (a) (i) Examine **two** of the following, with reference to the time prior to the Buddha:
- historical context
 - religious context
 - social context.
- (21)
- (ii) Why did the Buddha accept some aspects of these contexts and reject others?
(9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the importance of the enlightenment and death of the Buddha for an understanding of his life.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance for Buddhist practice of one of his final sayings: 'Work out your salvation with diligence.'
(9)

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

EITHER

- 6** (a) (i) Examine the essential features of the Three Refuges.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that these three are all of equal importance.
(9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key teachings about meditation within the Eightfold Path.
(21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the main purpose of meditation is to improve moral behaviour.
(9)

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

Christianity

EITHER

- 7 (a) (i) Examine the differing teachings during the modern period, about the person and work of Jesus. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings for Christians. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the Church's teaching on the life and work of Jesus in one historical context. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this teaching for Christians. (9)

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

EITHER

- 8 (a) (i) Examine Christian beliefs about God as personal and as creator. (21)
- (ii) How far are these beliefs challenging for Christians today? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine differing understandings of the Eucharist within **two** different Churches. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the impact of these different understandings of the Eucharist on Christians. (9)

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

Hinduism

EITHER

- 9 (a) (i) Examine **three** key features of the Indus Valley culture. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these three features for Hindu belief and/or practice. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the major, distinctive features of Vedic beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that an acceptance of the authority of the Vedas is a defining feature of Hindu belief. (9)

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

EITHER

- 10 (a) (i) In what ways may yoga help devotees to attain liberation? (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of understanding yoga primarily as a form of mental and physical control. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the different emphases of those who worship Siva and those who worship Krishna. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of the avatar (a god in human form) tradition in Hinduism. (9)

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

Islam

EITHER

- 11** (a) (i) 'Pre-Islamic Arabia featured a range of religious traditions.'
Examine this description of the time before Muhammad. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the possible influence of this varied religious background on Muhammad's teaching. (9)
- (Total for Question 11(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine some of the key problems during Muhammad's time in Madinah and his responses to them. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of this period for Muslims. (9)
- (Total for Question 11(b) = 30 marks)**
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EITHER

- 12** (a) (i) Examine the key teachings about akhirah (life after death) in the context of the six beliefs. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of akhirah for Muslims. (9)
- (Total for Question 12(a) = 30 marks)**
-

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key ideas of salat and its links with shahada. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of sawm for Muslims. (9)
- (Total for Question 12(b) = 30 marks)**
-

Judaism

EITHER

- 13 (a) (i) Examine the key teachings associated with Rashi and Judah Halevi. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Judah Halevi for Jewish thought. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of the life and work of Moses Maimonides. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that Maimonides successfully combined philosophy with Jewish belief. (9)

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

EITHER

- 14 (a) (i) 'Orthodoxy affirms the divine basis of Judaism.'
Examine the implications of this claim for Orthodox belief and practice. (21)
- (ii) Comment on selected controversies arising from this claim about the divine basis of Orthodoxy. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive teachings and practices of Reform Judaism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that there is ongoing antagonism between Orthodoxy and Reform Judaism. (9)

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

Sikhism

EITHER

- 15** (a) (i) Examine the religious context of the life of Guru Gobind Singh. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Guru Gobind Singh for Sikhs. (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the different uses of the term 'Guru' in Sikhism. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. (9)

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

EITHER

- 16** (a) (i) Give an account of the role of devotion in the Sikh way of life. (21)
- (ii) How far is it true to say that the practice of devotion is the most important element in the Sikh way of life? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the code of conduct of the Khalsa. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the Khalsa is out of date. (9)

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

New Testament

EITHER

- 17 (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus concerning riches (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the good shepherd' and 'I am the resurrection and the life' (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Why were these teachings or sayings so controversial for Jesus' hearers? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important features of **either** the calming of the storm and the raising of Jairus' daughter (Luke's Gospel) **or** the healing of the lame man and the healing of the blind man (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the miracles of Jesus were of little importance to his ministry. (9)

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

EITHER

- 18 (a) (i) Examine **either** Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine Jesus' conversations with his mother at Cana and with the woman caught in adultery (Fourth Gospel). (21)
- (ii) To what extent was Jesus' teaching on prayer and praise **or** his conversations with women important to the gospel? (9)

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

OR

- (b) (i) Examine the important teachings of Jesus regarding the life of a disciple. (21)
- (ii) Comment on the view that the ministry of John the Baptist was crucial to Jesus' own ministry. (9)

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

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS

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