

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced

Unit 4: Implications – Christianity

Friday 14 June 2013 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS04/1D

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

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.
- Read the passage carefully.
- Answer **BOTH** part (a) and part (b) of the question.
- Answer the question in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- 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.*

Advice

- The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (for 60% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (for 40% of the marks).

Turn over ►

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PEARSON

Christianity

Christianity's attitude towards philosophy has been ambivalent. One strand of the tradition is openly hostile. Its seminal figure is Tertullian (155-222).

Tertullian does not deny that the writings of the philosophers contain truths. Nor does he deny that God can be (imperfectly) grasped without the aid of revelation. For He can be known from His works and by the interior witness of our souls. Philosophy is none the less repudiated.

'What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem? The Academy and the Church? What concord is there between heretics and Christians? Our instruction comes from the porch of Solomon, who had himself taught that the Lord should be sought in simplicity of heart. Away with all attempts to produce a mottled Christianity of Stoic, Platonic, and dialectical composition. We want no curious disputation after possessing Christ, no inquisition after enjoying the Gospel.'

Tertullian's objection is threefold. First the introduction of philosophy among Christians has resulted in heresy. Second, whereas schools of philosophy have human founders, the school of the Gospel is founded by God. Christianity is a *revealed* doctrine that demands obedience and submission. Philosophy, by contrast, relies on *human* wisdom, and is an expression of self-seeking and of a fallible and corrupt reason. Finally (and most profoundly) the mysteries of faith *repel* reason.

'The Son of God died; it is by all means to be believed because it is absurd. And he was buried, and rose again; the fact is certain because it is impossible.'

Christian philosophy is a contradiction in terms because Christianity's truths are impenetrable to reason.

(Source adapted from: 'Christianity' – Wainwright W. in Quinn P and Taliaferro C. (eds) – *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, Blackwell, 2002, p 181, Edexcel anthology)

- 1 (a) Examine the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. (30)
- (b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. (20)

(Total for Question 1 = 50 marks)

Start your answer on page 3.



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TOTAL FOR PAPER 1D = 50 MARKS

