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Surname

Other names

Pearson
Edexcel GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Religious Studies

Advanced

Unit 4: Implications – Christianity

Monday 11 June 2018 – Morning

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

Although men may hope to have contact with, and participate in, the invisible world through ritual, personal religion normally involves the hope of, or realization of, experience of that world. The Christian who prays to God believes normally that God answers prayer – and this not just ‘externally’ in bringing about certain states of affairs, such as a cure for illness, but more importantly ‘internally’ in the personal relationship that flowers between the man who prays and his Maker. The prayerful Christian believes that God does speak to men in an intimate way and that the individual can and does have an inner experience of God. Hence, personal religion necessarily involves what we have called the experiential dimension.

The factor of religious experience is even more crucial when we consider the events and the human lives from which the great religions have stemmed... examples can be given of the crucial part played by religious experience in the genesis of the great faiths.

There is a special difficulty, however, in undertaking a description of a religious experience. We have to rely upon the testimony of those who have the experience, and their reports must be conveyed to us either by telling or writing... for the most part, the individual religious experiences that have influenced large segments of mankind occurred in cultures that knew the art of writing.

This means that the experience occurred in the context of the existing religions which already had a doctrinal dimension. This raises a problem for us in our attempt to understand the unique religious experience of the prophets or founders of religions, for their experiences are likely to be interpreted in the light of existing doctrines, as well as clothed in the mythological and symbolic forms of the age. There is less difficulty when we consider the ‘lesser’ figures of the religions – not the founders, but those saints and visionaries who come after. They interpret their experiences in terms of received doctrines and mythologies.

For these reasons, it is not easy to know about a given report which of the elements in it are based, so to say, purely on the experience itself, and which are due to doctrinal and mythological interpretation.

(Source: adapted from Smart N. *The Religious Experience of Mankind*, Collins, 1977, 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

