

Paper Reference(s)

6581/01

Edexcel GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1: Foundations

Tuesday 3 June 2008 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials required for examination

Nil

Items included with question papers

Answer book

Instructions to Candidates

In the boxes on the answer book, write your centre number, candidate number, your surname, initial(s) and your signature.

Answer THREE questions.

Do not return the question paper with the answer book.

Information for Candidates

The marks for individual questions and parts of questions are shown in round brackets: e.g. (20).

There are 18 questions in this question paper. The total mark for this paper is 120.

All questions carry 40 marks.

There are 12 pages in this question paper. Any blank pages are indicated.

Advice to Candidates

You must ensure that your answers to parts of questions are clearly numbered.

You will be assessed on your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (for 70% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (for 30% of the marks).

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Answer THREE questions.

Philosophy

Either:

1. (a) (i) Examine the significant ideas of the design argument for the existence of God. (28)

(ii) To what extent is this a convincing argument? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine the strengths of the cosmological argument for the existence of God. (28)

(ii) Comment on the view that the strengths and weaknesses are equally balanced. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

2. (a) (i) What is meant by the problem of suffering for religious believers? Examine **two** solutions to this problem. (28)

(ii) Consider the view that these solutions fail to solve the problem of suffering. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine the philosophical arguments for and against miracles. (28)

(ii) Comment on the view that arguments in support of miracles are stronger than those against. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Ethics

Either:

3. (a) (i) Identify the arguments for and against the view that morality is dependent on religion. (28)
- (ii) To what extent is it more reasonable to argue that morality is independent of religion? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Examine the key features of utilitarianism and identify its weaknesses. (28)
- (ii) Consider the view that these weaknesses render it useless as an approach to ethical decision making. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

4. (a) (i) Examine the key features of the Just War theory and pacifism. (28)
- (ii) How far are the Just War theory and pacifism compatible? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Outline **two** ways in which religious beliefs may help to resolve matters of sexual ethics. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the claim that religious attitudes to sexual ethics are outdated. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Christianity

Either:

7. (a) (i) Give an account of the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus in **one** historical context. (28)

(ii) Why was this teaching significant for Christians at that time? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine the Church's teaching about the life and work of Jesus in **one** social context. (28)

(ii) Why is this teaching significant for Christians in this context? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

8. (a) (i) Examine **one** aspect of Christian teaching about God. (28)

(ii) To what extent is this teaching significant for Christians today? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine the beliefs of **two** Christian Churches concerning **one** significant Christian practice. (28)

(ii) To what extent are the beliefs of these Churches reflected in their practice? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Hinduism

Either:

9. (a) (i) Examine the religious features of the Indus Valley culture. (28)
- (ii) Comment on their significance for Hindus. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Identify **two** key features of Vedic beliefs and **two** key features of Vedic practices. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these Vedic beliefs for Hindus. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

10. (a) (i) Examine the key features of yoga. (28)
- (ii) Comment on **two** aims of yoga. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive characteristics of Krishna and Siva. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of **one** of these for Hindu belief and practice. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Islam

Either:

11. (a) (i) Examine the religious context prior to the time of Muhammad. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the key differences between this religious context and the life of Muhammad in Makkah (Mecca). (12)
- (Total 40 marks)**

Or:

- (b) (i) Examine the key prophetic features of Muhammad in Makkah (Mecca) and the key political features of Muhammad's work in Madinah (Medina). (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of Muhammad as the Prophet for Muslims. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)**
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Either:

12. (a) (i) Examine Muslim beliefs about angels, the day of judgement and paradise. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of predestination for Muslims. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)**

Or:

- (b) (i) In what ways is the first pillar of Islam fundamental to the remaining four pillars? (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance for Muslims of salat (prayer). (12)
- (Total 40 marks)**
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Judaism

Either:

13. (a) (i) Examine the key teachings of Rashi and his school, and Judah Halevi. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of these teachings within Judaism. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Examine the religious context of Moses Maimonides and his key teachings. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the contribution of Moses Maimonides to Judaism. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)
-

Either:

14. (a) (i) Examine the distinctive features of Orthodox Judaism. (28)
- (ii) Comment on **two** of the main differences between Orthodox and Reform Judaism. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)

Or:

- (b) (i) Examine the distinctive features of Reform Judaism. (28)
- (ii) Comment on the significance of diversity in Judaism. (12)
- (Total 40 marks)
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Sikhism

Either:

15. (a) (i) Examine the process by which the Adi Granth became the final and lasting Guru of the Sikhs. (28)

(ii) Comment on the differences in context between the lives of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine Guru Nanak's teaching about God as the True Guru. (28)

(ii) Comment on the view that Guru Nanak's understanding of God is based on Islam. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

16. (a) (i) Outline Sikh teaching about how God may be known to human beings. (28)

(ii) Comment on the view that both devotion and action are essential in the Sikh way of life. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Outline the obligations placed on Sikhs by initiation into the Khalsa. (28)

(ii) Comment on the treatment of Sikhs who fail to live by the rules of the Khalsa. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

New Testament

Either:

17. (a) (i) Examine **either** the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke's Gospel) **or** examine the meaning of the sayings 'I am the bread of life' and 'I am the gate for the sheep' (Fourth Gospel). (28)

(ii) With regard to your answer in (i), consider why these teachings/sayings were so controversial at that time. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) What can be learned about the ministry of Jesus from **either** the healing of the demon-possessed man and the raising of Jairus' daughter (Luke's Gospel) **or** the healing of the blind man and walking on water (Fourth Gospel)? (28)

(ii) To what extent was the performing of miracles a crucial aspect of Jesus' ministry? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Either:

18. (a) (i) Examine **either** the teaching of Jesus, in Luke's Gospel, concerning prayer and the Sabbath **or** examine the importance of women in the ministry of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel. (28)

(ii) To what extent did Jesus' teaching on prayer and the Sabbath in Luke's Gospel **or** his approach towards women in the Fourth Gospel reflect the practices of Judaism at that time? (12)

(Total 40 marks)

Or:

(b) (i) Examine the significant features of Jesus' teaching concerning the nature and demands of discipleship, with reference to the Gospel you have studied. (28)

(ii) Consider the importance of the Holy Spirit to the ministry of Jesus. (12)

(Total 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 120 MARKS

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