

General Certificate of Education
January 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES **RS01**
Unit 1 An introduction to Religion and Human Experience

Wednesday 17 January 2007 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is RS01.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘Ask people who practise a particular religion why they are Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jew, Muslim or Sikh, and you will get many different answers. Some believers will say “because of a religious experience”. When they try to describe the religious experience that has changed their lives, however, many find it very difficult to find the right words, as if whatever has inspired their faith is beyond ordinary description.’

(a) Explain how religious experience can inspire faith. *(10 marks)*

(b) Explain why a religious experience may be “beyond ordinary description”. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Select **one** religion you have studied and explain the nature of its scriptures. *(15 marks)*

(b) Explain how a believer’s life can be guided by scriptures, and assess the view that scriptures provide the only guide a believer needs. *(25 marks)*

3 (a) Explain the meaning of the term religious experience, illustrating your answer with reference to mystical experiences. *(15 marks)*

(b) Explain why some religious experiences have no authority for believers, and assess the view that religious experience is irrelevant in religion today. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS