

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES** **RS05**  
**Unit 5 An introduction to Aspects of a Major World Faith**

Wednesday 16 January 2008 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 RS05.
- Choose **one Section** only.
  - Section A Buddhism page 2
  - Section B Christianity page 3
  - Section C Hinduism page 4
  - Section D Islam page 5
  - Section E Judaism page 6
  - Section F Sikhism page 7
- Answer **two** questions.
  - Answer **the first** question **and one other** from your chosen section.

**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.

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**SECTION A BUDDHISM**

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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

‘Theravada means “the way of the elders”. It is often claimed that Theravada holds the original teachings and discipline laid down by the historical Buddha. For this reason, many Theravadins believe their tradition represents historical Buddhism and that later traditions, such as Mahayana, have adapted the Buddha’s original teachings. Despite this, there are many similarities between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.’

- (a) Outline the key features of Mahayana Buddhism. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Outline the similarities between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. *(10 marks)*

**2** (a) Explain what Buddhism teaches about rebirth. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Outline Buddhist teachings on kamma (karma), and assess the view that ‘kamma (karma) is just a convenient law to encourage people to be good’. *(25 marks)*

**3** (a) Describe how meditation is practised in Zen Buddhism. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Outline the practice of Samatha meditation, and assess the claim that meditation is an essential practice for a Buddhist. *(25 marks)*

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**SECTION B CHRISTIANITY**

Answer Question 4 **and either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

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

‘During the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the early Christians met for worship at a variety of times and places and their worship took a number of different forms. Gradually, during the century, more formal patterns and styles of worship developed.’

- (a) Examine what may be known of the times and places at which the 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians worshipped. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Outline what may be known of the ways in which the early Christians worshipped and how this worship developed during the 1<sup>st</sup> century. *(10 marks)*

**5** (a) Explain how baptism is celebrated in a Roman Catholic church. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Outline the connection between baptism and Christian beliefs about the human condition, and assess how far this connection between baptism and beliefs about the human condition still has meaning for people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *(25 marks)*

**6** (a) Describe how the eucharist is celebrated in the Anglican tradition. *(15 marks)*

- (b) (i) Outline how the eucharist (Lord’s Supper) is celebrated in the Baptist Church.
- (ii) Assess the claim that, despite how it may appear, there are no real differences between the Anglican and Baptist forms of the eucharist. *(25 marks)*

**Turn over for SECTION C**

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**SECTION C HINDUISM**

Answer Question 7 **and either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

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

‘Hindus believe that there were nine occasions when the god Vishnu descended to earth in various forms to rescue the world from the forces of evil. These forms are known as avatars. Krishna and Rama are the most popular avatars and are worshipped everywhere in India.’

(a) Outline the main features of Rama as an avatar of Vishnu. *(10 marks)*

(b) Explain why many Hindus worship Krishna and Rama. *(10 marks)*

8 (a) Examine the main aims of the Hindu reform movements in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. *(15 marks)*

(b) Describe the work of Vivekananda and of the Ramakrishna Mission, and assess how far each was successful in reforming Hinduism. *(25 marks)*

9 (a) Examine the nature **and** purpose of puja in the home. *(15 marks)*

(b) Explain the role of rishis and gurus in Hinduism, and assess the claim that the way of life of the rishis and gurus is superior to any other role in Hinduism. *(25 marks)*

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**SECTION D ISLAM**

Answer Question 10 **and either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

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

‘For Muslims, the concept of God and the concept of prophecy are central to their faith. This can be summarised in the declaration of faith in Islam, that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.’

- (a) Explain briefly what the statement ‘there is no God but Allah’ expresses about the concept of God for Muslims. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain briefly what the statement ‘Muhammad is the messenger of Allah’ means for Muslims. *(10 marks)*

- 11** (a) Explain what the hijra was and why it was a turning point in the career of Muhammad. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Explain the various challenges faced by Muhammad in Madinah (Medina), and assess the claim that Muhammad was only able to succeed in Madinah (Medina) because of his role as a prophet of God. *(25 marks)*

- 12** (a) Outline the ways in which the month of fasting is observed, and explain how the month of fasting unites the Muslim community. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Explain how Muslims pray, and assess the claim that, because prayer is a duty, it has lost significance for Muslims today. *(25 marks)*

**Turn over for SECTION E**

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**SECTION E JUDAISM**

Answer Question 13 **and either** Question 14 **or** Question 15.

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

‘At the very heart of Judaism lies the belief that the Jews have a special relationship with God. This special relationship is especially expressed in the various covenants which are recorded in Jewish scripture. Today, Jews often remember the special relationship in the practice of Judaism.’

(a) Explain Jewish teaching about God’s special relationship with the chosen people. *(10 marks)*

(b) Outline how the teaching about God’s relationship with the chosen people is expressed in Jewish practices. *(10 marks)*

**14** (a) Examine the differences between Reform and Hasidic Judaism. *(15 marks)*

(b) Examine what makes Orthodox Jews orthodox, and assess how far it is true to say that Orthodoxy is the only legitimate form of Judaism. *(25 marks)*

**15** (a) Explain why the home is so important for maintaining Jewish life. *(15 marks)*

(b) Outline how Yom Kippur is observed in the synagogue, and assess the claim that Judaism can survive easily without the synagogue but not without the home. *(25 marks)*

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**SECTION F SIKHISM**

Answer Question 16 **and either** Question 17 **or** Question 18.

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

‘Seated on a high platform, the Guru Granth Sahib is the focal point of the Diwan Hall in all gurdwaras. As people enter the Diwan Hall, they bow in respect of the Book, which contains the God-given words uttered by Guru Nanak and some of his successors.’

- (a) Explain the meaning, and outline the different uses, of the word ‘Guru’ in Sikhism. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Sikhs believe that the Guru Granth Sahib is the ‘living Guru’. *(10 marks)*

**17** (a) Examine the contribution of Guru Har Gobind to Sikhism. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Guru Arjan commanded Guru Har Gobind to ‘sit fully armed on the throne and maintain an army to the best of his ability’.
  - (i) Outline the contribution of Guru Arjan to Sikhism.
  - (ii) Assess the extent to which Guru Har Gobind obeyed Guru Arjan’s command. *(25 marks)*

**18** (a) Examine Sikh worship in the gurdwara. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Examine the reasons why Guru Nanak introduced the practice of sewa, and assess the view that sewa is more important than worship in the lives of Sikhs today. *(25 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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