

General Certificate of Education  
June 2005  
Advanced Level Examination



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**Unit 10 Studies in Religion and Culture**

**RS10**

Wednesday 22 June 2005      Morning Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**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 RS10.
- 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 7Answer **two** questions from your chosen section.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 100.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

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**SECTION A BUDDHISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 1** (a) Describe the main features of the Bodhisattva path as found in Mahayana Buddhism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the importance of the Eightfold Path as a means to enlightenment, and assess the claim that the Theravada ideal of the Eightfold Path is easier to follow than the Mahayana Bodhisattva path. *(30 marks)*
- 2** (a) Outline the variety of forms of Buddhism that can be found in the west. *(20 marks)*
- (b) “Buddhism is so popular in the west because it has adapted so well to its surroundings.”
- Describe how **one** form of Buddhism has adapted to its surroundings in the west, and assess this claim. *(30 marks)*
- 3** (a) Explain what Buddhism teaches about the three characteristics of existence. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline what Theravada Buddhism teaches about nibbana (nirvana), and assess the claim that it is impossible to achieve enlightenment without a full understanding of the three characteristics of existence. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION B CHRISTIANITY**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 4 (a) Describe the various forms of lay ministry which may be found in Christian churches today. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the impact of feminist theology on the Churches' understanding of ministry, and assess the claim that the greatest challenge to the Churches' understanding of ministry in recent years has been the impact of feminist theology. *(30 marks)*
- 5 (a) Examine, with appropriate examples, what is meant by 'prophetic witness for peace and justice' in Christianity. *(20 marks)*
- (b) "For Christians, peace is much more important than justice."  
Explain why this claim may be made, and assess how far it is true. *(30 marks)*
- 6 (a) Examine the ways in which Christians today understand the person and work of Jesus. *(20 marks)*
- (b) "The debates about the person and work of Jesus are of little importance to most Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."  
Examine the evidence for this statement, and assess how far the statement is true. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION C HINDUISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 7 (a) Examine the four goals in life for Hindus as expressed in the concepts of arta, kama, moksha and dharma. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the essential moral principles enshrined in Sanatana Dharma, and assess the view that the goals of moksha and dharma are completely opposed to the goals of arta and kama. *(30 marks)*
- 8 (a) Examine the meaning of samsara and the law of karma in relation to the Hindu view of human destiny. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the meaning of reincarnation for Hindus, and assess the claim that most Hindus simply hope for a better reincarnation rather than aim for the ultimate goal of liberation. *(30 marks)*
- 9 (a) Give an account of the development of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) from its beginnings in America in the 1960s, and examine its teachings and work in the present day. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Explain why ISKCON is a popular religious movement in the west.
- (ii) Despite ISKCON's popularity with some people in Britain, Hinduism in general has very limited appeal in Britain.
- Assess this view. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION D ISLAM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 10** (a) Examine the nature and formation of the Shari'a law in Islam. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain how Shari'a law guides Muslims today, and assess the claim that Shari'a law is the only guidance Muslims need to fulfil God's will. *(30 marks)*
- 11** (a) Explain the views within the Shi'a tradition regarding the Imamate. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain why the festival of Ashura is significant for Shi'i Muslims, and assess the claim that the distinctive emphases of Shi'ism show that it is a religious movement rather than a political movement. *(30 marks)*
- 12** (a) Examine the importance of family life in Islam. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the reasons for diversity within the British Muslim community, and assess the claim that the British Muslim community is essentially a cohesive, united community. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION E JUDAISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 13** (a) Examine the reasons why Jews practise circumcision. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the rituals and beliefs associated with bar and bat mitzvah, and assess how relevant the rituals of bar and bat mitzvah are for Jews today. *(30 marks)*
- 14** (a) Explain the theological issues raised by the Holocaust for Jews. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain **three** different responses to these issues, and assess how far they provide solutions to problems arising from the Holocaust for Jews today. *(30 marks)*
- 15** (a) Examine how religious practice in the Jewish home supports the importance of the family for Jews. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the role of women in Orthodox Judaism, and assess how far it is true to say that the role and status of women in Judaism is inferior to that of men. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION F SIKHISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Each question carries 50 marks.

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- 16** (a) Examine the concepts of miri and piri. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Examine Guru Gobind Singh's concept of the Just War, and assess the truth of the claim that Guru Gobind Singh changed Sikhism from a religious path to a military path. *(30 marks)*
- 17** (a) Examine the main features of the amrit sanskar ceremony. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the meanings of the terms keshdhari and sahadhari, and assess the view that unless Sikhs are amritdhari they are not true Sikhs. *(30 marks)*
- 18** (a) Examine the teachings of the Gurus on religious tolerance. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Examine the teachings of the Gurus on equality of birth, and assess the view that these teachings are largely ignored by Sikhs in Britain today. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**