

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**RS10**

Thursday 21 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

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

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 100.
- 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 **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 1 (a) Outline the five moral precepts and examine the various ways in which Buddhists interpret them. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the importance of the Eightfold Path as a means to enlightenment, and assess the claim that meditation is the most important aspect of this path. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) Examine the teaching of paticcasamuppada in Theravada Buddhism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline Theravada teachings on nibbana, and assess the claim that it is **not** possible to describe nibbana. *(30 marks)*
- 3 (a) Explain the teachings of the Madhyamaka school in Mahayana Buddhism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) 'Mahayana Buddhism is more popular and widespread in the west because it is open to everyone.'

Describe **one** form of Mahayana Buddhism in the west, and assess this claim. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION B CHRISTIANITY**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 4 (a) Examine the nature of the work of religious orders within Christianity. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline the Christian understanding of vocation and service, and assess how far the work of religious orders is the best example of the Christian understanding of vocation and service. (30 marks)
- 5 (a) Explain what is meant by the 'continuing Christological debate' about the person of Jesus. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline the ways in which the work of Jesus is understood today, and assess the claim that debates about the person and work of Jesus are of little interest to the majority of Christians. (30 marks)
- 6 (a) Explain why and how Christians are concerned with issues of peace and justice. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline the relationship between peace and justice in Christian thought, and assess the claim that justice is more important than peace for the majority of Christians. (30 marks)

**Turn over for SECTION C**

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**SECTION C HINDUISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 7 (a) Examine the nature and purpose of caste duties in Varnasrama Dharma. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain the moral principles of Sanatana Dharma, and assess how far these principles contradict the caste duties expressed in Varnasrama Dharma. (30 marks)
- 8 (a) Examine the similarities and differences between karma yoga and bhakti yoga as ways of achieving the final goal of liberation (moksha). (20 marks)
- (b) Explain the path of jnana yoga, and assess the view that, for most Hindus, the hope for a better reincarnation is more important than the final goal of liberation. (30 marks)
- 9 (a) Examine the main teachings and activities of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Britain. (20 marks)
- (b) (i) Outline other ways in which Hinduism is expressed in Britain.
- (ii) 'It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Hindu community to maintain their religious traditions in the non-religious culture of British society.'
- Assess this claim. (30 marks)

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**SECTION D ISLAM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 10** (a) Examine the nature and importance of the concept of Jihad in Islam. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the role of the Shari'a as guidance for Muslims today, and assess the claim that Shari'a law has more limitations than strengths as a means of guidance for Muslims today. *(30 marks)*
- 11** (a) Examine the distinctive emphases of Shi'ism within Islam. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the significance of suffering within Shi'ism, and assess the claim that suffering is the most important of the distinctive ideas within Shi'ism. *(30 marks)*
- 12** (a) Examine the importance of the mosque for Muslims in Britain. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Outline the issues related to practising Islam in a secular society.
- (ii) Assess the claim that the challenge to Islam from secular society unites the Muslim community. *(30 marks)*

**Turn over for SECTION E**

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**SECTION E JUDAISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 13** (a) Outline the rituals and explain the beliefs associated with bar and bat mitzvah. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Outline the Jewish rituals associated with birth and circumcision.
- (ii) ‘Rituals such as circumcision and bar / bat mitzvah are irrelevant for Jews in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.’
- Assess this claim. *(30 marks)*
- 14** (a) Explain the ways in which the Holocaust has caused serious challenges to Jewish teaching about God. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Explain how different Jewish theologians have attempted to meet these challenges.
- (ii) ‘The Holocaust was an event of such enormous horror for Jews that no theological response is adequate.’
- Assess this claim. *(30 marks)*
- 15** (a) Examine the concerns about Jewish identity and assimilation in Britain **and** in the United States of America (USA). *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Outline the main concerns in Israel about Jewish identity.
- (ii) Assess the view that the issue of Jewish identity in Israel is totally different from the issue of Jewish identity in Britain and the USA. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION F SIKHISM**

Answer **two** questions from this section.

There are 50 marks for each question.

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- 16** (a) Examine the concepts of amritdhari and keshdhari. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the Sikh concept of the Just War, and assess the claim that Sikhs fighting in a Just War must be amritdhari. *(30 marks)*
- 17** (a) Examine the concept of mukti. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the Sikh practices of nam simran and vand kako, and assess the claim that nam simran is the most important practice for a Sikh. *(30 marks)*
- 18** (a) Explain why marriage and family life are important in Sikhism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the teachings of the Gurus on gender, and assess the view that equality of gender is not practised by Sikhs in Britain today. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**