

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**RS10**

Monday 16 June 2008 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 black ink or black 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) Explain the meaning of the Eightfold Path. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the role of morality in the path to enlightenment, and assess the claim that morality is the most important aspect of the Eightfold Path. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) Examine the **three** characteristics of existence as presented in Theravada Buddhism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the meaning of the Bodhisattva concept, and assess the claim that devotion to Bodhisattvas is the essential basis of Mahayana Buddhism. *(30 marks)*
- 3 (a) Choose **one** form of Buddhism and describe how it became established in the west. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Buddhism has become popular in the west, and assess the claim that the original teachings of Buddhism have been distorted in order to adapt to western society. *(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 forms and understandings of ordained ministry which are found in the Christian Churches today. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the forms of lay ministry which are found in Christian Churches today, and assess the claim that, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, lay ministry is more important than ordained ministry. *(30 marks)*
- 5 (a) Explain the concerns of feminist theology. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline how Christians today understand the person of Jesus, and assess the claim that, for Christians today, debates about feminist theology are of more importance than debates about the person of Jesus. *(30 marks)*
- 6 (a) Examine the variety of views on the purposes of Christian overseas mission today. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Outline the variety of purposes of Christian mission in inner city areas in Britain today.
- (ii) 'In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, mission in inner cities in Britain is far more important than overseas mission work.'
- Assess this claim. *(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 meaning of arta, kama and moksha as goals in life for Hindus. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline how Hindus fulfil their dharma through the stages of life, and assess the claim that, in order to attain the highest goal, Hindus must renounce all worldly responsibilities and duties. (30 marks)
- 8 (a) Explain the Hindu teaching on reincarnation with reference to karma and samsara. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain the means to liberation prescribed by Advaita philosophy, and assess the claim that Advaita philosophy has little relevance to most Hindus as it is too difficult to understand. (30 marks)
- 9 (a) Examine the ways in which Hindu religious and cultural traditions are expressed by the Hindu community in Britain. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain the popularity of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in the west, and assess the claim that one can only be a Hindu if one is born a Hindu. (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 formation and importance of the Shari'a. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Examine Islamic teaching relating to traditional family life, and assess the claim that this teaching is no longer relevant for Muslims living in 21<sup>st</sup> century society. *(30 marks)*
- 11** (a) Examine how God can be considered both transcendent and immanent in Islamic thought. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the issues raised for Muslims by the belief that 'God guides whom He wills and leads astray whom He wills', and assess how successfully these issues have been resolved. *(30 marks)*
- 12** (a) Examine the nature of the Muslim community in Britain. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline the main problems faced by the Muslim community in Britain, and assess the claim that there is no conflict in being both Muslim and British today. *(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) Explain the role of family life for Jews in Britain. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Outline Jewish teaching about marriage, and assess how significant the family is for Jews living in Britain in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *(30 marks)*
- 14** (a) Examine the theological issues raised for Jews by the holocaust. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Explain the concerns of Jewish communities in Israel today.
- (ii) Assess how far theological issues raised by the holocaust are the most important concerns of Jewish communities in Israel today. *(30 marks)*
- 15** (a) Examine Jewish teaching and practice concerned with the role and status of women. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain the different views of Jewish identity, and assess the view that Jewish ideas about women and identity alienate Jews from the rest of humankind. *(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 issues affecting Sikhs in Britain today. *(20 marks)*

(b) 'A Sikh is someone who believes in the importance of Amrit.'

Examine the events at an amrit sanskar ceremony, and assess the view that a Sikh needs only to believe in the importance of amrit, and does not have to be amritdhari. *(30 marks)*

**17** (a) Examine the Sikh concept and practice of nam simran. *(20 marks)*

(b) Outline the Sikh concept and practice of vand kako, and assess how far you agree that truthful living is the highest ideal for a Sikh. *(30 marks)*

**18** (a) Examine the teachings of the Gurus on religious tolerance. *(20 marks)*

(b) Examine the changing role of the gurdwara in Britain today, and assess the view that the gurdwara alone cannot meet the needs of Sikh young people. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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