

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 12 Studies in Religion and Human Experience

RS12

Thursday 19 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

You must **not** use additional materials and texts.

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 RS12.
- Answer **one** question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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 **one** question.

Religious Experience

- 1 (a) Examine scholars' attempts to describe religious experience. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline some of the ways used to verify religious experience, and assess how true it is to say that religious experience can neither be described nor defined adequately and so can have no value. (30 marks)
- 2 (a) Examine the influence of religious experience as a source of faith, religious practice and moral behaviour. (20 marks)
- (b) (i) Outline how religious experience could be regarded as the foundation for religious movements.
- (ii) Assess the statement, 'Without religious experience there would be no religion in the 21st century.' (30 marks)

Religious Authority

- 3 (a) Examine **three** different types of authority within religion. (20 marks)
- (b) (i) Explain what is meant by the term 'source of authority' within religion.
- (ii) Assess how far it is true to say that religious authority has no significance in the 21st century. (30 marks)
- 4 (a) Examine challenges to religious authority and the ways in which religion has responded to them. (20 marks)
- (b) (i) Outline some of the challenges religion has made to secular authority.
- (ii) Assess the claim that religious authority is beyond human challenge. (30 marks)

Life, Death and Beyond

- 5** (a) Examine religious perspectives on the nature and value of human life. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Explain what is meant by the phrase ‘concepts of spiritual life’.
- (ii) Assess the relevance for people today of ideas about the nature and value of human life and about spiritual life. *(30 marks)*
- 6** (a) Examine what religion teaches about the relative importance of life on earth and life after death. *(20 marks)*
- (b) (i) Examine briefly how life and death are symbolised in religion.
- (ii) Assess the claim that people in the 21st century are only interested in the present and the material world. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page