



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**0490/23**

Paper 2

**October/November 2013**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Choose **two** of Sections A, B and C and answer **two** of the questions in each of your chosen sections.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Choose **two** of Sections A, B and C and answer **two** of the questions in each of your chosen sections.

### Section A – Christianity

If you have chosen this section, answer **all** the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 1 (a) Why is Good Friday an important day for Christians? [7]
- (b) Explain why a church service on Easter Sunday is a joyful occasion. [7]
- (c) 'Christian festivals are not celebrated enough today.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the Christian story of the birth of Jesus. [7]
- (b) Explain the importance of Christian beliefs about the birth of Jesus. [7]
- (c) 'All Christians should believe the Bible stories about the birth of Jesus.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]
- 3 (a) Outline the teachings in the Two Greatest Commandments. [7]
- (b) Explain why Christians think it is essential that they should live according to the Commandments. [7]
- (c) 'Forgiving others is the most important Christian duty.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

**Section B – Islam**

If you have chosen this section, answer **all** the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 4 (a) Describe how Muslims keep the fast during Ramadan. [7]
- (b) Explain why observing Ramadan is important for Muslims. [7]
- (c) 'Religious duties that are difficult to carry out should not be compulsory.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- 5 (a) Give an account of the origins of Sunni and Shi'ah Muslims. [7]
- (b) Explain what jihad means for Muslims. [7]
- (c) 'The beliefs all Muslims share are more important than any differences.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- 6 (a) Describe the first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad (pbuh). [7]
- (b) Explain the relationship between the Qur'an and the Sunnah (Ahadith) of the Prophet. [7]
- (c) How easy is it for Muslims today to follow the example of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?  
Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]

**Section C – Judaism**

If you have chosen this section, answer **all** the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 7 (a) Give an account of a Pesach (Passover) celebration in the home. [7]
- (b) Explain why the events of the first Passover are important for Jews. [7]
- (c) 'If people suffer it is usually their own fault.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- 8 (a) Describe what Jews believe about the nature of God. [7]
- (b) Explain why the Shema is important for Jews. [7]
- (c) 'It is pointless to keep repeating the same prayers.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- 9 (a) Describe what happens at a Brit Milah. [7]
- (b) Explain why Brit Milah is important for the Jewish community. [7]
- (c) 'Children should not be made to follow their parents' religion.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]

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