



GCE A level

1349/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS4 HE - Studies in Religion and Human Experience

A.M. THURSDAY, 14 June 2012

1³/₄ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **one** question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of the question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 75 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

Part *(a)* of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part *(b)* of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

Answer one question.

1. Religious Authority

You must show knowledge and understanding of the use of sacred writings as a source of religious authority and be able to evaluate how far sacred writings are considered to be the most significant form of authority for religious believers.

- (a) Explain different ways in which sacred writings are used as a source of authority in religion. [45]
- (b) 'Sacred writings are the most important form of religious authority for religious believers.'
Evaluate this assertion. [30]

2. Religious Experience

You must show knowledge and understanding of the distinctive features of religious experiences and be able to evaluate whether a religious experience is only of value to the individual who experiences it.

- (a) Examine the distinctive features of religious experiences. [45]
- (b) 'A religious experience has no value to anyone other than the individual who experiences it.'
Evaluate this assertion. [30]

3. Life, Death and Life after Death

You must show knowledge and understanding of specific religious teachings about the nature of life after death and be able to evaluate whether there is compelling evidence for believing in life after death.

- (a) Examine specific religious teachings about the nature of life after death. [45]
- (b) 'There is no convincing evidence for believing in life after death.'
Evaluate this assertion. [30]