

## **Religious Studies**

**Time Allowed – 1.5 hours**

**Candidates should answer TWO questions, no more than ONE from any one Section.**

**The use of a Bible is not permitted.**

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### **SECTION A**

#### **NEW TESTAMENT**

1. Different titles are given to Jesus in the Gospels. Examine any two of these titles and explain their meaning and significance.
2. What do the parables contribute to the teaching of Jesus?
3. From reading the New Testament what do we learn about the nature of the Christian Church in the first century?
4. Examine carefully Paul's ethical teaching.

### **SECTION B**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

1. What do you believe to be the most notable features of the portrayal of God in the Old Testament?
2. Describe the events that led to Saul becoming king and assess his reign.
3. 'The prophets of Israel were always ignored'. Assess this view.
4. Has the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament any religious value for today?

### **SECTION C**

#### **STUDIES IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**

1. Examine the proposition that it is only through revelation that God is known.
2. Discuss the view that a person cannot believe in both predestination and free-will.
3. 'A religious experience is not a reliable way to understand the nature of God/Ultimate Reality'. Evaluate this statement.
4. 'Belief in life after death is the single most important influence on how religious believers live their lives'. Evaluate this statement.

### **SECTION D**

#### **RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, INCLUDING ETHICAL MATTERS**

1. 'Religious and scientific views of the origins of human life are incompatible'. Discuss this view.
2. Are religious believers free to make their own moral decisions?
3. To what extent is divorce compatible with religious teaching
4. Is Freud's theory the best explanation of religious belief?

## **SECTION E**

### **ASPECTS OF CHRISTIANITY**

1. What is meant by 'Feminist Theology'? What does it contribute to contemporary Christian thought?
2. Is it worth celebrating today what Martin Luther did exactly five centuries ago?
3. Assess the life and contribution of the recently canonized St.(Mother) Teresa.
4. Is Christian Unity a forlorn hope?

## **SECTION F**

### **JUDAISM**

1. How significant do you believe Abraham to be for Jews ?
2. 'Yom Kippur is the most important festival in Judaism'. Assess this view.
3. 'Men have a superior role to women in Judaism'. Discuss this statement.
4. Is criticism of the modern state of Israel a form of anti-Semitism ?

## **SECTION G**

### **ISLAM**

1. 'The Qur'an is still the main source of authority within Islam'. Assess this view.
2. Explain the significance of key events in the life of Muhammad after his call to be prophet.
3. Assess the influence of Sufism on the spread of Islam.
4. Evaluate Islamic teaching on the rights and status of women.

## **SECTION H**

### **HINDUISM**

1. Assess the importance of the Upanishads in Hinduism.
2. Examine the role the home plays in Hindu devotion.
3. Explain Hindu teaching about *karma*.
4. Examine and give an account of the special characteristics of Hinduism in the modern period.

## **SECTION I**

### **BUDDHISM**

1. Evaluate the view that the most important doctrine in Buddhism is the Four Noble Truths.
2. Evaluate the view that the single most important event in the history of Buddhism was the Buddha's experience under the *bodhi* tree.
3. Consider the history of the lay and monastic ideas of Therava Buddhism.
4. Examine some of the possible reasons why Buddhism is a popular religion in the West today.