



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490/23

Paper 2

October/November 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

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

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

This document consists of **4** printed pages and **1** Insert.

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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** of the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 1 (a) Give an account of the work done by **one** Christian international aid organisation to help those in need in the event of a natural disaster. [7]
- (b) Explain why Christians think it is important to support charitable organisations. [7]
- (c) 'Relieving suffering is more important than converting people to Christianity.'
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 **one** Christian ceremony in which believers confirm their faith. [7]
- (b) Explain why confirmation of faith is seen as an important stage in a Christian's religious life. [7]
- (c) 'Confession of sins need not be a part of all Christian public worship.'
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) Give an account of the temptations of Jesus that are remembered during Lent. [7]
- (b) Explain why observing Lent is important for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Expectations that people should practise self-denial at certain times of the year are not realistic 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]

3**Section B – Islam**

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

- 4** (a) Describe how Muslims make preparations for Salah (prayer). [7]
- (b) Explain the benefits for Muslims of the strong emphasis on communal religious activities in Islam. [7]
- (c) To what extent is preparing for prayer as important as actually praying?
Discuss this question. Give your opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- 5** (a) Outline the Muslim belief in Jihad. [7]
- (b) Explain some of the physical and mental obstacles that a Muslim might have to overcome in order to perform Hajj. [7]
- (c) 'Discussion about rules in religion should always be encouraged.'
Discuss this statement. Give your 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 different ways in which Muhammad (pbuh) received revelations. [7]
- (b) Explain the significance of the Shahadah (declaration of faith) for Muslims. [7]
- (c) 'Reciting verses of the Qur'an without understanding the full meaning is pointless.'
Discuss this statement. Give your opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]

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Section C – Judaism

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

- 7** (a) Describe the religious customs carried out at Shavuot (Feast of Weeks). [7]
- (b) Explain the reasons for the customs carried out at Shavuot and why they are important. [7]
- (c) 'The Law is the most important aspect of Judaism.'
Discuss this statement. Give your opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- 8** (a) Outline the events that take place at a Bar Mitzvah ceremony. [7]
- (b) Explain why a Bat Mitzvah or Bat Chayil ceremony might be held by some Jews. [7]
- (c) 'Growing up in a religious home encourages a person to continue in the religion.'
Discuss this statement. Give your opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- 9** (a) Describe Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial). [7]
- (b) Explain why visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem might be important for some Jews. [7]
- (c) 'Remembering the past strengthens belief.'
Discuss this statement. Give your 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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