First exam in June 2026

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number | | | | | | Candidate number | | | | |

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE (Short course) RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Section 5: Themes

Specimen assessment materials Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
TOTAL	

Materials

Before you open this booklet, you must ensure you have the question paper/answer booklets for the **two** religion sections you are entered for (Christianity/Islam/Judaism/Buddhism).

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at both the top of all booklets.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.

Information

- The maximum mark for this option is 48.
- The marks for the questions are shown in brackets.

Advice

You will have 1 hour 45 minutes to complete **all** question paper/answer booklets. You are advised to spend 50 minutes on the religion options and 50 minutes on Themes.

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SECTION B: THEMES

0 1 **Theme A: Relationships and families**

0 1 . 1 Which one of the following best expresses the religious view that one purpose of marriage is to have children?

[1 mark]

Put a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct answer.

A Procreation. ☐

B Contraception. ☐

C Stability. ☐

D Polygamy. ☐

0 1 . 2 Give **one** religious belief about the nature of the family.

[1 mark]

_____

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0 1 . 3 Explain **two** different beliefs in contemporary British society about the use of artificial contraception within marriage.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0 1 . 4 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the role of parents in a religious family.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

12

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0 1 . 5 ‘Divorce is never right.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

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PLEASE TURN OVER FOR NEXT QUESTION.

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0 2 **Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict**

0 2 . 1 Which one of the following best expresses the religious ideal that there should be no violence in the world?

[1 mark]

Put a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct answer.

A Defence. ☐

B Justice. ☐

C Peace. ☐

D Terrorism. ☐

0 2 . 2 Give **one** way in which religious believers help victims of war.

[1 mark]

_____

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0 2 . 3 Explain **two** different beliefs in contemporary British society about weapons of mass destruction.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0 2 . 4 Explain **two** religious beliefs about forgiveness.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

12

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0 2 . 5 'War is never right.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:
- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

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END OF QUESTIONS

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