RELIGION AND SOCIETY
Written examination

Monday 17 November 2014
Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

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• Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
• Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
• No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied
• Question and answer book of 19 pages.
• Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

Instructions
• Write your student number in the space provided above on this page.
• All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.
SECTION A

Instructions for Section A
Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (6 marks)
Explain what ‘religious belief’ is and why people hold religious beliefs.

Question 2 (4 marks)
Why do religious traditions need to maintain continuity of religious beliefs?
Question 3 (4 marks)
List four general sources of historical challenges to religious traditions.

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Question 4 (6 marks)
Explain two different ways in which religious traditions respond to challenges in modern society.

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SECTION B

**Question 1** (20 marks)

a. Describe internal or external factors that have prompted a religious tradition that you have studied to maintain continuity of its beliefs.  

8 marks
b. Explain how the religious tradition referred to in part a. has maintained continuity of a particular belief through specific aspects of religion. 12 marks
Question 2 (20 marks)

a. Give three examples of contemporary challenges faced by religious traditions in general. 3 marks

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In parts b., c. and d. below, refer to one religious tradition that you have studied and a specific contemporary challenge.

Religious tradition __________________________________________________________

Contemporary challenge ____________________________________________________

b. Explain how the religious tradition’s vision for society is in conflict with wider society in regard to the contemporary challenge. 4 marks

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c. Outline the main way(s) in which the religious tradition has responded to the contemporary challenge. 8 marks

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d. Discuss whether the response of the religious tradition has made a difference to the contemporary challenge. 5 marks

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SECTION C – Essay

Instructions for Section C
Answer one of the following questions in the space provided.

Question 1 (20 marks)
With reference to a religious tradition that you have studied, discuss the relevance of beliefs about ultimate reality in dealing with the big questions of life.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)
‘Religious beliefs give people the strength to deal with significant life experiences. At the same time, their belief in and understanding of the religious beliefs of the tradition are strengthened by the experience.’
Discuss this statement as it applies to an individual or group from a religious tradition that you have studied.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)
‘Throughout the course of history, when religious traditions have been confronted by the pressure to change, their usual tendency has been to do nothing.’
Respond to this claim from the perspective of a religious tradition that you have studied, with reference to a significant historical challenge that has confronted various aspects of the tradition.
An answer book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete your answer. Please ensure you write your student number in the space provided on the front cover of the answer book. At the end of the examination, place the answer book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.