



Independent Schools
Examinations Board

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 13+

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SYLLABUS A

Wednesday 4 November 2015

Please read this information before the examination starts.

- You should answer **one** question from Section 1 and **one** question from Section 2.
- If you have not previously submitted coursework, you should also answer **three** questions from Section 3. Your examination is 60 minutes long.
- If you have previously submitted coursework, your examination is 40 minutes long and you should **not** do Section 3.
- Answer each section on a separate piece of paper.
- Handwriting and presentation are important.



SECTION 1: INTERPRETING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Answer ONE question from this section.

God, Human Nature and Covenant

1. The Creation Accounts

- (a) What was the earth like before God began creation? (2)
- (b) Briefly outline the order of creation in Genesis 1. (6)
- (c) Explain what Genesis 1 teaches about God and creation. (6)
- (d) 'God made the world.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

2. The Near Sacrifice of Isaac

- (a) What is sacrifice? (2)
- (b) Describe what the Angel of the Lord said to Abraham. (6)
- (c) Explain what this story teaches about faith. (6)
- (d) 'True faith always involves sacrifice.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

Leaders and Prophets of the Old Testament

3. Moses

- (a) What is justice? (2)
- (b) Outline what happened when Moses saw the burning bush. (6)
- (c) Explain what this story teaches about Moses. (6)
- (d) 'Great people must always help the oppressed.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

4. Elijah

- (a) What is Horeb? (2)
- (b) Describe how God provided for Elijah during his journey to Horeb. (6)
- (c) Explain what the events at Horeb teach about God. (6)
- (d) 'Bible stories prove that God exists.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

(Total marks for this section: 21)

SECTION 2: INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Answer ONE question from this section.

Use a new piece of paper for this section.

Jesus' Teaching

1. The Lost Son

- (a) What is salvation? (2)
- (b) Describe the father's response to his Lost Son. (6)
- (c) Explain why the elder son was angry. (6)
- (d) 'Forgiveness is the most important teaching of Jesus.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

2. The Calming of the Storm

- (a) What is a disciple? (2)
- (b) Outline the story of the Calming of the Storm. (6)
- (c) Explain what this story teaches about who Jesus is. (6)
- (d) 'For those who have faith, miracles are possible.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection

3. The Birth of Jesus

- (a) What does Messiah mean? (2)
- (b) Outline the story of the birth of Jesus. (6)
- (c) Explain why Joseph is said to be a righteous man. (6)
- (d) 'The birth stories of Jesus are unbelievable.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

4. The Sentence, Crucifixion and Burial

- (a) What is the Sabbath? (2)
- (b) Outline the arrangements made for Jesus' burial. (6)
- (c) Explain the significance of Joseph of Arimathea in this story. (6)
- (d) 'Dying for your beliefs is always the right thing to do.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (7)

(Total marks for this section: 21)

SECTION 3: WORLD RELIGIONS AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Do NOT answer this section if you have submitted coursework.

Answer any THREE questions.

Use a new piece of paper for this section.

Contemporary Issues

1. Outline the beliefs and work of A Rocha. (6)
2. Explain, with examples, the purpose of human rights. (6)
3. Outline the reasons why many oppose the death penalty. (6)
4. Outline the Christian teaching on wealth and treatment of the poor. (6)
5. Describe how one Christian leader has worked for social justice. (6)

Christianity

6. Outline what is meant by the Trinity. (6)
7. Outline some of the different types of prayer used by Christians. (6)
8. Describe the main features in a typical Anglican church. (6)
9. Outline Christian teaching on marriage and divorce. (6)
10. Explain the purpose of Harvest Festival. (6)

Judaism

11. Outline the contents of the Tenach. (6)
12. Outline Jewish beliefs about God. (6)
13. Outline the central beliefs of Orthodox Judaism. (6)
14. Describe the Jewish food (kosher) laws. (6)
15. Outline what happens in the Seder meal at the festival of Pesach (Passover). (6)

Islam

16. Describe Muslim beliefs about God's prophets. (6)
17. Describe how Muslims pray. (6)
18. Outline how Muslims observe Ramadan. (6)
19. Describe three events from the Hajj pilgrimage. (6)
20. Explain the role of parents in Muslim family life. (6)

Hinduism

21. Outline the story of the Mahabharata. (6)
22. Describe Hindu beliefs about Brahman. (6)
23. Outline Hindu teaching about ahimsa and the environment. (6)
24. Describe the Hindu ceremonies which take place after the birth of a child. (6)
25. Describe the festival of Dassehra. (6)

Buddhism

26. What is the Triple Way? (6)
27. What does it mean for a person to 'go to refuge'? (6)
28. Describe a typical Buddhist shrine in a home or temple. (6)
29. Outline how Buddhists may celebrate the New Year. (6)
30. Describe the Five Precepts. (6)

Sikhism

31. Describe how Lehna (Guru Angad) was appointed as successor to Guru Nanak. (6)
32. Outline the Five Ks. (6)
33. Describe how the Guru Granth Sahib came to be written. (6)
34. Describe the teachings of the Mul Mantra. (6)
35. Describe any one Sikh festival. (6)

(Total marks for this section: 18)

(Total marks: 60, or 42 if you have submitted coursework)

