



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**0490/04**

Paper 4

**October/November 2010**

**2 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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



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This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



## The teachings and practice of the religions in relation to the roles of men and women.

Study the sources carefully and then answer **all** the following questions.

- 1 From Source A, state in your own words the teachings given in **each** religion about the creation of men and women. [10]
- 2 Read Sources B, C and D and for **each** religion describe in your own words what is taught about the roles of men and women. [15]
- 3 Read Sources E and F. What important points are being made about the roles of men and women in family life? [10]
- 4 Read Sources G, H and I and look at the pictures for Sources J and K. Explain how the roles of men and women have developed in religious life today. [40]
- 5 Look at all the Sources. Do you think men and women should be of equal importance in religion? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about more than one point of view. [25]

### Source A

#### Christianity

So God created man  
 in his own image,  
 in the image of God  
 he created him;  
 male and female  
 he created them.  
 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and  
 increase in number..."

*Genesis 1:27*

#### Islam

O mankind! reverence  
 Your Guardian-Lord,  
 Who created you  
 From a single Person,  
 Created, of like nature,  
 His mate, and from them twain  
 Scattered (like seeds)  
 Countless men and women.

*Surah 4:1*

#### Judaism

G-d created the first human being half male,  
 half female. He then separated the two parts to form a man and woman.

*Midrash*

**Source B – Christianity.**

I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent.

*1 Timothy 2:12*

“Over the last few decades a force has arisen within the Christian Church which questions the male-dominated language and sexist attitudes within the religion. In the past women have had little power in the Church. Now, in some churches the struggle is almost over, women are ordained as priests and even bishops.”

*Quote from a leaflet campaigning for the ordination of women.*

**Source C – Islam.**

Men are the protectors  
And maintainers of women,  
Because God has given  
The one more (strength) ...  
Therefore the righteous women  
Are devoutly obedient...

*Surah 4:34*

Marry women of your choice,  
Two, or three, or four;  
But if ye fear that ye shall not  
Be able to deal justly (with them),  
Then only one...

*Surah 4:3*

**Source D – Judaism.**

In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, there is either a partition screen which separates them or the women sit in an upstairs gallery. They do not take part in the prayers or read from the Torah. This is based on teaching in the Talmud.

A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.  
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.  
She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

*Proverbs 31:10-12.*

**Source E**

Honour your father and your mother.

*Exodus 20:12.*

A man asked Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), ‘O Messenger of Allah! Who deserves the best care from me?’

The Prophet said ‘Your mother.’

The man asked ‘Who then?’

The Prophet said ‘Your mother.’

The man asked yet again ‘Who then?’

Prophet Muhammad said ‘Your Mother.’

The man asked once more, ‘Who then?’

The Prophet then said ‘Your father.’

*Sahih al-Bukhari*

**Source F**

In Orthodox Judaism a person is Jewish only if their mother is Jewish.

The home is vitally important in Judaism. It is women who bear great responsibility for Jewish home life. They are not expected to do anything which might interfere with this role. They are exempt from positive mitzvah (obligations) which have to be carried out at specific times of day because they have to care for the home and children. The Jewish man has the mitzvah (obligation) to pray three times a day and to provide for his family.

**Source G**

In traditional Christian homes, marriage and family life are based on Christian principles. The responsibility of parenthood is often shared, as are responsibilities for maintaining the household and nurturing the children. Both men and women have equal responsibility to worship in public and private and set an example to the children. In the late twentieth century the ordination of women as priests caused debates and divisions amongst Christians. Some devout Anglicans could not accept this change and left the Anglican Church to join the Roman Catholic Church where only men are allowed to be religious leaders and they have to remain celibate (not marry). Also the teachings of the Pope (the head of the Roman Catholic Church) reinforce the woman's role as wife, mother and home-maker.

**Source H**

Men and women have equal spiritual worth. Every instruction given to Muslims in the Qur'an applies equally to male and female believers. They have the same religious duties and will be judged the same on Judgement Day. Also, to acquire knowledge is the duty of every Muslim male and female. Islam accepts that women are equal to men but also takes account of the physical differences between the sexes and women have the right to be comfortable and protected.

Both men and women are instructed in the Qur'an to dress and behave modestly. Muslim women have the right to be provided for and should not be forced to work if they do not wish to do so. However, there is no instruction that prevents a woman from seeking work if it does not prevent her fulfilling her duties to her husband and the family. The Prophet's wife Khadijah was a successful business woman.

**Source I**

In Orthodox Judaism the roles of men and women are considered to be different but equal in their importance. The woman, as wife and mother, has responsibility for the observance of the festivals, preparation of food and lighting candles. It is her responsibility to nurture and teach the children the rituals of kashrut. Orthodox women dress modestly. They observe the laws of family purity. They do not see any conflict between their role and modern life today. The man carries out the mitzvot outside the home such as prayers and synagogue attendance and earning the family income. Orthodox Judaism recognizes that new situations and circumstances arise in life today but they should not dictate the terms of Jewish living.

In Progressive Judaism the position on these matters is that times have changed and women should share with men the obligations and privileges of Judaism. Progressive Judaism thinks that women should participate in the religion as equals with men and counts women as part of a minyan, allows them to read in the synagogue and become cantors and rabbis as well as carrying out the traditional roles in the home.

**Source J**

In many Christian churches women are now ordained as priests, deacons and bishops. The three bishops here are preparing to serve communion bread and wine to a large congregation.

**Source K**

These Muslim girls are not only getting a traditional education but are also taking an interest in technical education.

The college they attend is providing a diploma course in computer application. "Of 80 places, 40 are occupied by girls. Of them, 35 are Muslim girls" says Zahid Ahmed, an official with the college's computer section. Most of the Muslim girls doing the course are either graduates or undergraduates.





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**Copyright Acknowledgements:**

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Question 4 Source K      © Photograph of Muslim girls and computer;  
   [http://www.twocircles.net/2008nov23/muslim\\_girls\\_azamgarh\\_getting\\_higher\\_education\\_giving\\_tough\\_fight\\_to\\_boys](http://www.twocircles.net/2008nov23/muslim_girls_azamgarh_getting_higher_education_giving_tough_fight_to_boys).

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