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World religions Standard level Paper 1

12 May 2026

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C afternoon

Session number

1 hour 15 minutes

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Instructions to students

- Write your session number in the boxes above.
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer a total of five questions selecting at least one question from:
Section A
and
Section B
and
Section C.
- Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.
- Each question is worth **[9 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[45 marks]**.



Answer a total of **five** questions, selecting **at least one** from **each** section. Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.

Section A

Answer **at least one** question. Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.

Hinduism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

1. Truly, there is no purifier in this world like knowledge. The person who has perfected Yoga finds it [knowledge] in the Self in time. One who is full of faith, who is devoted to it, and who has subdued all the senses, obtains this knowledge; and, having obtained the knowledge, goes at once to the supreme peace.

Bhagavad Gita 4:38-39 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage. [3]

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- (b) Explain the importance of Jnana (path of knowledge) to Hindus. [6]

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Buddhism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

2. It is difficult to find one word to explain the whole concept of the term *dukkha/dukha* as the First Noble Truth, and so it is better to leave it untranslated than to give an inadequate and wrong idea of it by conveniently translating it as “suffering” or “pain”.

What the Buddha Taught, p. 17 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

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- (b) Explain Buddhist teachings about the causes of *dukkha/dukha*.

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Sikhism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

3. I claimed for myself the possessions of others, sucked into the whirlpool of reincarnation.
All are travellers, who have gathered under the tree, held by their many bonds.
The Company of the Holy is stable and permanent; there, the Lord's Praises are sung.
Nanak seeks Sanctuary.

Guru Granth Sahib 537 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

[3]

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- (b) Explain how reaching the sach khand (realm of truth) is freedom for Sikhs.

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Section B

Answer **at least one** question. Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.

Judaism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

4. They say that for the first thirteen years of a person's life the Evil Urge is greater than the Good Urge. There in his mother's womb, a person's Evil Urge grows with him. After he emerges into the world he starts breaking the Sabbath and nothing is there to stop him. After thirteen years the Good Urge is born.

Avot D'Rabba Natan 16:2 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage. [3]

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- (b) Explain Jewish beliefs about free will. [6]

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Christianity

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

5. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbour as yourself.’”

“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Matthew 19-21 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

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- (b) Explain why living by the teachings of Jesus is not the only thing needed for salvation within Christianity.

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Islam

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

6. When death comes, a person says: “O my Lord! send me back to life, so that I may work righteousness in the things I neglected.”
“By no means! It is but a word they say.”
Before them is a Partition until the Day they are Raised up.

Qur'an 23:99-100 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

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- (b) Explain why Muslims believe Allah punishes some for a period of time after death.

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Section C

Answer **at least one** question. Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.

Taoism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

7. The Great Virtue is to follow the Tao and only the Tao.
The Tao is shadowy and intangible.
Intangible and evasive, and yet within it is a form.
Evasive and intangible, and yet within it is a substance.
Shadowy and dark, and yet within it is a vital force.
This vital force is real and can be relied upon.

Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching 21 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

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- (b) Explain the connection between the fu and the Tao.

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Jainism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

8. Jains believe harmful action (himsa) result in karmic bondage; this means the soul is invaded and weighted down by subtle matter which ensures that at death the jiva is reborn in this or another world (samsara).

Harmless Souls: Karmic Bondage and Religious Change in Early Jainism
with Special Reference to Umasvati and Kundakunda, p. 1 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage.

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- (b) Explain Jain teachings about samsara.

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Bahá'í Faith

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

9. You are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal with one another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Daystar of Truth bears Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knows all things, Himself testifies to the truth of these words.

Bahá'u'lláh, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 14 (adapted)

- (a) Identify **three** teachings in this passage. [3]

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- (b) Explain how Baha'is work towards achieving salvation. [6]

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5. Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
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8. Johnson, W.J. and Kundakunda, 1995. *Harmless souls: karmic bondage and religious change in early Jainism with special reference to Umāsvāti and Kundakunda*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. Source adapted.
9. Bahá'u'lláh, n.d. *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, (translated by Shogi Effendi) Available through Bahá'í Reference.



Please **do not** write on this page.

Answers written on this page
will not be marked.



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