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World religions
Standard level
Paper 2

13 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer one question.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question is worth [15 marks].

Hinduism

1. Discuss the importance of diet, fasting and vegetarianism to Hindus.
2. “Samsara is the most important doctrine in the lives of Hindus.” Discuss.

Buddhism

3. To what extent is karuna (compassion for all) Buddhism’s most important teaching about ethics and moral conduct?
4. Examine the contributions of the monastic sanghas (monastic communities) to the development and composition of the Pali Canon (first written Buddhist scripture).

Sikhism

5. Examine ways in which Sikh religious experiences reflect the belief in gender equality.
6. Explain the importance of the Vaisakhi and Gurburb festivals for Sikhs.

Open-ended question

7. With reference to **one** religion—Hinduism **or** Buddhism **or** Sikhism—explain how different types of religious authority are sometimes constant and sometimes change over time.

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question is worth [15 marks].

Judaism

8. “Olam Ha-Ba (the world to come) is the most important belief in Judaism.” Discuss.
9. Discuss attitudes to conversion in Judaism.

Christianity

10. “Abortion is contrary to the moral law.” Discuss with reference to different Christian teachings about the right to life.
11. Explain the inclusion of the Old Testament in the canon of Christian Sacred Texts.

Islam

12. Discuss the roles of female mystics in Islam.
13. Explain how Hadiths and, for Shias, the sayings of the Imams, clarify the messages of revelation for Muslims.

Open-ended question

14. With reference to **one** religion—Judaism **or** Christianity **or** Islam—discuss the importance of rituals associated with marriage.
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