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World religions
Standard level
Paper 1

13 May 2025

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** afternoon

Candidate session number

1 hour 15 minutes

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Instructions to candidates

- 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. Just as in this body the embodied (soul) passes into childhood, youth and old age, so also does he pass into another body; the firm man does not grieve thereat.

Bhagavad Gita 2:13 (adapted)

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

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- (b) Explain the Hindu belief that humans are caught in an endless cycle of reincarnation. [6]

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Buddhism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 2. The basic meaning of compassion is not just a feeling of closeness, or just a feeling of pity. With genuine compassion we not only feel the pains and suffering of others but we also have a feeling of determination to overcome that suffering. One aspect of compassion is some kind of determination and responsibility. Therefore, compassion brings us tranquillity and also inner strength. Inner strength is the ultimate source of success.

The Nobel Evening Address. Fourteenth Dalai Lama. Oslo, Norway, 11 December 1989.

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

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- (b) Explain how Buddhists develop wisdom to achieve Enlightenment. [6]

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Sikhism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 3. Suffering is the medicine, and pleasure the disease, because where there is pleasure, there is no desire for God. You are the Creator Lord; I can do nothing. Even if I try, nothing happens. I am a sacrifice to Your almighty creative power which is pervading everywhere.

Guru Granth Sahib 469 (adapted)

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

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- (b) Explain Sikh beliefs about the role of God in creating the human condition. [6]

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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. Anyone who does not believe in him [the Messiah] or does not await his coming, denies not only the statement of the other prophets, but those of the Torah and Moses, our teacher.

Melachim uMilchamot Ch11:1 (Laws of Kings)

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

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- (b) Explain what Jews believe about a Messianic Age. [6]

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Christianity

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 5. Not everyone who calls out to me [Jesus], "Lord! Lord!" will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, "Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name." But I will reply, "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."

Matthew 7:21-23 (adapted)

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

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- (b) Explain Christian beliefs about hell. [6]

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Islam

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 6. Muhammad is no more than an Apostle: many were the Apostles that passed away before him. If he died or were slain will ye then turn back on your heels [turn around]? If any did turn back on his heels not the least harm will he do to God; but God [on the other hand] will swiftly reward those who [serve him] with gratitude.

Qur'an 3:144 (adapted)

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

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- (b) Explain how following the teachings of the prophets helps Muslims to attain salvation. [6]

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Jainism

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 8. The soul is now as motionless as a mountain rock. All the remaining karmas are eliminated. This stage of absolute motionlessness is the fourteenth and the last stage of spiritual development in the instant before death. The soul then frees itself of the sensation, body, lifespan and status karmas and attains disembodied eternal liberation.

Umāsvāti, Devanandī., Siddhasenagaṇi, Singhvi, L. M., & Jaini, P. S. (1994). *That which is = Tattvārtha Sūtra* (N. Tatia, Trans.; 1st Yale University Press ed). Yale University Press. Reproduced with permission of the Licensor through PLSclear. Source adapted.

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

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- (b) Explain Jain teachings and beliefs about moksha (liberation). [6]

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Bahá'í Faith

Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

- 9. When they [human beings] are illumined* by the rays of the Sun of Truth and endowed with every human virtue, they reckon this as the greatest reward and regard it as the true paradise. In like manner, they consider spiritual punishment ... to consist in subjection to the world of nature; in being veiled from God.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions

*illumined

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

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- (b) Explain what Bahá'is believe about heaven. [6]

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2. Shiromany, A.A. (ed.), 1995. *The spirit of Tibet, Universal Heritage: Selected speeches and writings of HH the Dalai Lama XIV*. Mumbai: Allied Publishers, p. 142. Source adapted.
3. Used with permission from Singh Sahib Sant Khalsa MD. <https://www.sikhithothemax.org/ang?ang=469&source=G>.
4. Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon ("Maimonides"), n.d. *Melachim uMilchamot Ch11: 1*. [online] Available at: https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1188356/jewish/Melachim-uMilchamot-Chapter-11.htm [Accessed 24 October 2022]. Source adapted.
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9. *Some Answered Questions* | Bahá'í Reference Library. (2025). Bahai.org. <https://www.bahai.org/library/authoritative-texts/abdul-baha/some-answered-questions/10#356035276>. Copyright © Bahá'í International Community. Source adapted.



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Answers written on this page
will not be marked.



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