OUNDLE

School

2016 Academic Scholarship

Religious Studies

Time Allowed: **1 hour and 30 minutes**

- Answer Section 1 and **two** questions from Section 2

Section 1: Comprehension 20 marks

Read the following article and answer the questions that follow.

In 1966 an American historian, Mr. Lynn White, lectured to the American Association for the Advancement in Science on 'the historical roots of our environmental crisis'. His lecture was published the following year. White's diagnosis was blunt. Basing himself on the text in Genesis 1:26-28 that God gave humans "dominion over the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and cattle, all wild animals, on land, and everything that creeps on the earth", he argues that this had led to an attitude that "we are superior to nature, contemptuous of it, willing to use it for our slightest whim. We shall have a worsening environmental crisis until we reject the Christian teaching that nature's sole purpose is to serve man".

White's arguments have become part of a widespread belief that Christianity has been the major cause of damaging attitudes towards the environment. It is also a fact that no religion has in practice been effective in preventing or even slowing-up environmental destruction. Thirty or forty years ago it was fashionable to claim that 'Eastern' religions (Hinduism, Buddhism) were more environmentally friendly than 'Western' ones (Christianity, Islam). This is not borne out of practice: greed dominates in the East just as much as in the West.

Extract from R. J. Berry, 'Is religion bad for the environment?'

a) Give an account of one of the biblical creation stories 6 marks

b) Explain why, according to the above article, Lynn White believed that Christianity has been bad for the environment. 7 marks

c) "Religious people should be 'greener' than non-religious people". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. 7 marks

Section 2: Essay writing – 10 marks each

Choose 2 questions from the following choice of 4:

1. Religious Stories

With reference to any religious story that you have studied, explain how following the teaching from that story might affect how people take care of the weak and vulnerable in society. (10)

2. Religion in the modern world

Consider whether or not religion currently has an effect on British society. (10)

3. Worship

With reference to a religion you have studied, describe and explain in detail how followers of that religion worship their God/Gods. (10)

4. Religion and War

'Religious people should never be involved in wars'. Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (10)

Section 1: 20 marks

Section 2: 20 marks (10 marks for each of the two essay questions)

Total: 40 marks