



OUNDLE

School

2015 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 newspaper article and answer the questions that follow.

Turin shroud goes on display



Christians from around the world head for Italy to catch rare sighting of 14ft sheet said to be burial cloth in which crucified body of Christ was wrapped

More than a million people from as far afield as Argentina and China are expected to head for Turin in the coming weeks to catch a glimpse of one of Christianity's most controversial relics, which has gone on display for the first time in five years.

The shroud has been subject to more scientific scrutiny than perhaps any other Christian relic. Believers see in it a faint image that resembles a dead man. But like many such artefacts, it pits faith against science.

Scientists weighed in on the debate in 1988 with tests they said showed the relic originated around the 13th century, and was therefore not authentic. Since then, however, other theories have emerged, including a suggestion that the fibres tested in 1988 were from a patch in the shroud and not part of the original cloth.

Vendors sell trinkets, including postcards and magnets with the image of the shroud. Maria and Constantino Lazzaro from Venice are two of the visitors who have arrived in Turin to see it. The couple were strolling along Piazza San Giovanni together in the drizzle on Saturday evening, but did not seem completely in sync when asked why they had come.

Maria said she was curious about the shroud, with the detached interest that a historian might afford the occasion. Her husband was drawn to the emotions of seeing the shroud, whether it truly bore the mark of Christ after his crucifixion or not.

"We cannot say whether it is true or not. Whether we believe it or not. For those who think it is true, it is significant," Constantino said. "We know it is the image of a person who suffered."

- a) Describe everything that Christians believe happened to the body of Jesus after his death
6 marks
- b) In your own words, explain why a Christian might choose to go and see the Turin shroud when it comes on display.
6 marks
- c) “The more that science discovers, the less there is for religious people to believe in. Science will eventually remove the need for religion”. 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. Sacred Texts

“Religious texts were written a long time ago so they have no use or value in life today”. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view.

You may refer to one or more religions you have studied. (10)

2. Religion in the modern world

Consider the view that religion is a force for good in the world. (10)

3. Religion and Morality

Consider the view that in personal issues such as marriage and divorce, religions should mind their own business and let people get on with their lives. (10)

4. Religious People

With reference to any religious person who has lived in the past 200 years, explain how their religious beliefs affected the society in which they lived. (10)

Section 1: 20 marks

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

Total: 40 marks