

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490/04

Paper 4

October/November 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

‘The teaching and practice of the religions in relation to the roles of men and women’

Study the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the following questions.

- 1 Explain the rights which are described in Sources E and F. [10]
- 2 State in your own words the religious teachings about the roles of men and women which are given in Sources A, B and C. [15]
- 3 What important points about the roles of men and women are being made by the writers of Sources D and I? [10]
- 4 Read Sources G and H and look at Sources J and K. For each of these Sources, explain the ideas which they show about the roles of men and women. [40]
- 5 Look at **all** the Sources. How far do you think that religious people should try to treat men and women equally? Do you think that they are doing enough? Give reasons for your answer. [25]

Source A — Christianity

Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to enquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

1 Corinthians 14:34–35 (NIV)

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God.

Titus 2:3–5 (NIV)

Source B — Judaism

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Proverbs 31:29–30 (NIV)

Source C — Islam

O mankind! Reverence
 Your Guardian-Lord, ...
 And (reverence) the wombs
 (That bore you) ...

Qur'an, Sura IV 1

Source D — Islam

A man asked Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), 'O Messenger of Allah! Who deserves the best care from me?' The Prophet said, 'Your mother.' The man asked, 'Who then?' The Prophet said, 'Your mother.' The man asked yet again, 'Who then?' Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, 'Your mother.' The man asked once more, 'Who then?' The Prophet then said, 'Your father.'

Sahih al-Bukhari

'... the best among you is the one who is best towards his wife.'

Al-Tirmidhi

Source E

Introduction

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, ...

Article 16. (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Article 25. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Source F

19th Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America

Source G

Some people say that the traditional Jewish attitude towards women is sexist. In Orthodox Judaism, women sit separately from men in synagogue services and cannot take part. Only men are bound by the 613 mitzvot (laws).

At the Sabbath service on Friday night, husbands tell their wives how valuable they are to them:

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ... She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

(from Proverbs 31:10–30)

Some people claim that this attitude dates back to the punishment of Eve in the Garden of Eden when she picked the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge and gave it to Adam:

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

(Genesis 3:16)

Progressive Jews believe that the scriptures should be interpreted for the twentieth century and so they make no distinction between the way in which men and women are treated. They pray and worship together and women can become rabbis.

People and Their God – Jon Mayled

Source H

Islam teaches that men and women are equal and that Allah will judge them equally according to the way in which they have lived.

To help men value women for who they are, rather than for their bodies, women wear garments that leave only the hands and face exposed.

O Prophet, direct thy wives and daughters and the women of the believers that they should pull down their outer cloaks from their heads over their faces. This will make it possible for them to be distinguished so that they will not be molested.

(Surah 33:60)

Many non-Muslim Westerners cannot understand Islamic teaching about women and feel that the need for women to be covered up in public and the way in which they are brought up is wrong. According to Islam, the rights and responsibilities of a woman are equal to those of a man, but they are not identical and, therefore, they should be complementary to each other rather than competitive.

People and Their God – Jon Mayled

Source I

The Christian Church has sometimes been accused of sexism. The language of the Church has been in favour of men – God is referred to as male. Because some Christians take what the Bible says literally, and as having absolute authority, passages such as ‘God made *Man* in *his* own image’ are often used against those who demand greater equality in the Church and in society as a whole.

Paul says that women are to be quiet in church and keep their heads covered:

Now I want you to realise that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonours his head. And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head – it is just as though her head were shaved. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

(1 Corinthians 11:3–7)

The Bible was written in times very different from now when this was a normal way of seeing the different roles of men and women.

People and Their God – Jon Mayled

Source J



Men and women pray separately in Islam



Muslim woman wearing a burkah

Source K



a woman priest

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