



## 13+ Scholarship Examinations 2018

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1 hour

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Answer both parts of the question in Section A
- Choose one question from Section B
- Spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B
- Write your name clearly on every sheet of paper

## Section A

*Read the extract below and then answer all the instructions. You are not expected to have seen this passage before.*

I pick up the daily paper and fresh challenges to the idea of the world's goodness assault my eyes: senseless murders, fatal practical jokes, young people killed in automobile accidents on the way to their wedding or coming home from their high school prom. I add these stories to the personal tragedies I have known, and I have to ask myself: Can I, in good faith, continue to teach people that the world is good, and that a kind and loving God is responsible for what happens in it?

People don't have to be unusual, saintly human beings to make us confront this problem. We may not often find ourselves wondering, "why do totally unselfish people suffer, people who never do anything wrong?" because we come to know very few such individuals. But we often find ourselves asking why ordinary people, nice friendly neighbors, neither extraordinarily good nor extraordinarily bad, should suddenly have to face the agony of pain and tragedy. If the world were fair, they would not seem to deserve it. They are neither very much better nor very much worse than most people we know; why should their lives be so much harder? To ask "Why do the righteous suffer?" or "Why do bad things happen to good people?" is not to limit our concern to the martyrdom of saints and sages, but to try to understand why ordinary people—ourselves and people around us—should have to bear extraordinary burdens of grief and pain.

Extract from 'When Bad Things Happen to Good People' by Harold S. Kushner

- a) Outline and explain the argument(s) set out in the passage above. [10 marks]
- b) Write a response to this passage, challenging some or all of the elements of the argument(s). [10 marks]

## **Section B**

*Choose one essay from those listed below. You need to show that you have considered more than one point of view.*

1. 'The idea of a religious scientist is a contradiction.' Discuss. [20 marks]
  
2. 'The commandment "Do not kill" can have no exceptions when applied to human life.' How far would you agree with this statement? Give reasons and you must refer to religion in your answer. [20 marks]
  
3. 'Christians have hindered rather than helped the poor.' To what extent do you agree? [20 marks]
  
4. Discuss why religious believers think that death is not the end of human existence. [20 marks]