

General Certificate of Education
January 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 6 An introduction to Religion and Science

RS06

Wednesday 16 January 2008 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is RS06.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘Hume defined a miracle as a violation of a law of nature. According to Hume, since laws of nature have been established over many hundreds of years, it will always be more reasonable to believe that a law of nature has not been broken than to accept testimony claiming that a law of nature has been broken.’

- (a) Outline **three** reasons that Hume gave as to why testimony about a miracle was not reliable. *(10 marks)*
- (b) State and explain **one** definition of miracle, other than ‘a violation of a law of nature’. *(10 marks)*

- 2**
- (a) Outline **both** the Steady State theory of the origin and nature of the universe, **and** the main characteristics of a religious understanding of creation. *(15 marks)*
 - (b) Outline the Big Bang theory of the origin and nature of the universe, and assess the view that, if the Big Bang theory is accepted, a religious understanding of creation must be denied. *(25 marks)*

- 3**
- (a) Explain how the design argument uses observations of nature as evidence that God exists. *(15 marks)*
 - (b) Outline how science explains those features of nature that suggest design, and assess the view that it is science alone, not religion, that explains those features of nature that suggest design. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS