

General Certificate of Education
January 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 6 An introduction to Religion and Science

RS06

Tuesday 17 January 2006 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 are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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

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

‘One definition of a miracle is an event that breaks the laws of nature. Laws cannot be broken, or they would not be laws. Therefore, it would appear that an event that breaks the laws of nature cannot happen.’

- (a) Explain how some religious believers might argue that an event that breaks the laws of nature **can** happen. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Choose and explain **one** definition of a miracle, other than “an event that breaks the laws of nature”’. *(10 marks)*

- 2** (a) With reference to **two** scientific theories, explain what science tells us about the origin and nature of the universe. *(15 marks)*
- (b) ‘A scientific understanding of the origin and nature of the universe contradicts a religious understanding of ‘creation’.’

Explain why this claim might be made, and assess how far you agree with it. *(25 marks)*

- 3** (a) ‘There are both classical (e.g. Aquinas, Paley) and modern (e.g. Swinburne) presentations of the design arguments for the existence of God.’

Outline **one** classical and **one** modern presentation of the design arguments for the existence of God. *(15 marks)*

- (b) Explain the challenges to the design arguments from philosophy, and assess how far these challenges are successful. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS