

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 6 An introduction to Religion and Science

RS06

Thursday 8 June 2006 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

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.

‘Scientists have made great progress in understanding the origins and nature of the universe. The Big Bang theory is the most popular scientific model and attempts to explain what happened at the very beginning of our universe. The religious understandings of ‘creation’ sometimes seem to conflict with scientific views.’

- (a) Explain the main characteristics of religious understandings of ‘creation’. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain how some religious understandings of ‘creation’ appear to conflict with scientific views. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) ‘Miracles do happen.’

Explain this statement, referring to **two** definitions of ‘miracle’ in your answer.

(15 marks)

- (b) With reference to David Hume, explain how belief in miracles has been challenged, and assess the effectiveness of this challenge. *(25 marks)*

3 (a) Outline the design arguments for the existence of God as presented by **both** Paley **and** Swinburne. *(15 marks)*

(b) ‘The design arguments have been seriously weakened by science.’

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

END OF QUESTIONS