

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 6 An introduction to Religion and Science

RS06

Thursday 7 June 2007 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 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.

‘The Big Bang theory argues for a scientific understanding of the origin of the universe. Despite this, many religious believers would not see a conflict between a religious understanding of ‘creation’ and a scientific understanding of the origin of the universe.’

- (a) Outline the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain why many religious believers see no conflict between a religious understanding of ‘creation’ and a scientific understanding of the origin of the universe. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Explain the following definitions of miracle:

‘A violation of a law of nature by a supernatural agent’, and
‘An amazing coincidence of religious significance’. *(15 marks)*

- (b) (i) Explain the difficulties raised for religious believers by defining miracle as ‘a violation of a law of nature by a supernatural agent’.
- (ii) Assess the extent to which defining miracle as ‘an amazing coincidence of religious significance’ overcomes these difficulties. *(25 marks)*

- 3 (a) Outline the design arguments for the existence of God as presented by **both** Aquinas **and** Swinburne. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Outline the ways in which science has challenged the design arguments, and assess how successful these challenges are. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS