

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 11 Studies in the Philosophy of Religion

RS11

Thursday 21 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 RS11.
- Answer **two** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 100.
- 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 **two** questions.

1 ‘The cosmological argument is an *a posteriori* argument; the ontological argument is an *a priori* argument.’

- (a) Explain the contrasting approaches taken to the challenge of proving the existence of God by the cosmological and ontological arguments. (20 marks)
- (b) ‘Faith does not need proof.’

Explain why this claim might be made, and assess the view that the cosmological and ontological arguments for God’s existence have no value for religious believers today. (30 marks)

- 2 (a) Explain what the Augustinian Theodicy and process thought teach about the nature and origin of evil. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain why the existence of evil is a challenge to faith, and assess the view that the Augustinian Theodicy meets that challenge, but process thought does not. (30 marks)

- 3 (a) Examine the variety of mystical experiences. (20 marks)
- (b) ‘The essence of a mystical experience is beyond description.’

Explain this statement, and assess the view that only those who have had a mystical experience are able to judge them. (30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS