

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 11 Studies in the Philosophy of Religion

RS11

Wednesday 21 June 2006 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 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 **two** questions.

- 1 (a) Outline the ontological argument as presented by Anselm, and explain why this argument is considered a 'proof' of the claim 'God exists'. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain what this argument shows about the relationship between reason and faith, and assess the view that this argument is useless for the non-believer and pointless for the believer. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) 'In the Irenaean Theodicy, the purpose of suffering is soul-making.'
Explain this view. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain why the existence of pointless suffering would challenge faith in God, and assess the view that a God who intends us to suffer cannot be an all-loving God. *(30 marks)*
- 3 (a) Explain what is meant by a near-death experience and what it means to say that such experiences are 'purely subjective'. *(20 marks)*
- (b) 'The experiences are real, but the interpretation of them as religious experiences is mistaken.'
Explain why some people may hold this view of near-death experiences, and discuss how far you agree with it. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS