

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 6 An introduction to Religion and Science

RS06

Tuesday 3 June 2008 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 design argument seeks to answer the question ‘Why is the universe as it is?’ In particular, it examines the fact that the earth is suitable for human life. This could not have come about by chance, but by design.’

- (a) Explain ways in which the earth appears to have been designed to be suitable for human life. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain why the fact that the earth is suitable for human life may **not** be evidence for the design argument. *(10 marks)*

- 2** (a) Explain what the scientific theories of the Big Bang and Steady State tell us about the origin and nature of the universe. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Outline **one** religious understanding of ‘creation’, and assess to what extent a religious understanding of ‘creation’ conflicts with a scientific understanding of the origin and nature of the universe. *(25 marks)*

- 3** (a) Explain the following **two** definitions of ‘miracle’:
‘An amazing coincidence of a beneficial nature’, **and**
‘An event of religious significance’. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Explain the challenges to miracles from science, and assess the claim that it is philosophy, not science, that poses the main challenge to a belief in miracles. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS