

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**Unit 11 Studies in the Philosophy of Religion**

**RS11**

Monday 16 June 2008 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 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 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.

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Answer **two** questions.

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- 1 (a) Summarise the cosmological argument for the existence of God as presented by Aquinas and by the Kalam tradition. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain what is meant by ‘proof’, and assess the view that the cosmological argument has no value as a proof of the existence of God. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) Explain the main themes of the Irenaean theodicy with special reference to Hick’s vale of soul making theodicy. *(20 marks)*
- (b) Explain why it is important for religion to explain the presence of evil in God’s world, and assess how successful the Irenaean theodicy is in explaining why evil exists in God’s world. *(30 marks)*
- 3 (a) Examine what is meant by mysticism. *(20 marks)*
- (b) ‘Mystical experiences raise issues of authenticity and objectivity.’

Explain what this means, and assess the view that mystical experiences are simply projections of the mind. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**