



**General Certificate of Education
January 2012**

Religious Studies

RSS03

Philosophy of Religion

AS Unit C

Final

Mark Scheme

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS03: *Philosophy of Religion*

Question 1 The cosmological argument

0	1
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 Explain Aquinas' cosmological argument with particular reference to:

- God as the first mover
- God as the necessary being.

Answers should focus on the actual areas listed in the question and how they relate to the cosmological argument rather than a general presentation of the cosmological argument.

Expect reference to the First and Third Way.

First Way – idea of move/change. Illustration of potentiality and actuality. Explanation of a mover that is not itself moved. Rejection of infinite regression.

Aquinas' idea of initiator of change whose continued existence is depended upon.

Third Way – idea of contingency and necessity. Nothing would come into existence if everything contingent since everything contingent has a dependency. There must exist a being who is not dependent on any other for its existence.

Maximum level 5 (23) if only one aspect answered.

(30 marks)

AO1

0	2
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 'The cosmological argument proves that God exists.'
How far do you agree?

The focus will be on weighing up the argument in terms of its strength of proof. Possible discussion might include:

Agree

Logic of argument

Argument requires God as explanation (nature of God such as necessary being)

Failure of criticisms

Disagree

Success of criticisms

Other possibilities for explanation besides God

Probability rather than proof

An appropriate conclusion should be in terms of 'How far.'

(15 marks)

AO2

Question 2 Religious experience

0	3	Examine the main characteristics of visions and of mystical experiences.
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Focus is on highlighting the characteristics rather than just descriptive accounts.
For visions expect characteristics such as an image/event in which there is a message, variety of images (religious figures/places/fantastic creatures/end of world), types of visions (group, individual, corporeal, imaginative).

For mysticism expect characteristics such as ineffability, noetic, transiency, passivity.
For depth account expect illustration of characteristics, wide range of characteristics and different types of mysticism (monistic/theistic).

Maximum level 5 (23) if only one discussed.

(30 marks) AO1

0	4	'Science has fully explained religious experience.' To what extent do you agree?
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Possible discussion might include:

Agree

Reference to scientific explanations providing natural explanations (such as drugs, temporal lobe epilepsy)
Stimulating religious experiences (such as Persinger's helmet)

Disagree

Criticisms of those examples from science
Defence of validity of religious experiences (such as group visions)
Not all can be explained by science
Appropriate conclusion will be in terms of 'to what extent they fully explain'.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 3 Psychology and religion

0	5	Examine ways in which Freud challenged belief in God.
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The focus should be on challenging belief in God by reference to Freud's views of religion. Expect examples to illustrate:

Belief in God as aid to overcoming inner psychological conflict (e.g. collective neurosis/repressed sexual trauma memories/Oedipus complex)

Belief in God as an illusion (e.g. reason to submit to authority)

Belief in God as help to overcome fear of natural forces (e.g. belief that religion can control these forces)

The illustrations need to make clear how 'belief in God' is challenged.

(30 marks) AO1

0	6
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'Religious faith is necessary for good mental health.'
How far do you agree?

Expect both Jung and Freud.

Expect Jung's theories to be seen as positive to mental health (such as quest for integration)

Expect Freud's theories to be seen as negative to balanced mental health (such as neurosis). However both link to mental health.

An appropriate conclusion should be in terms of 'how far' (e.g. Freud positive in seeing it as overcoming inner psychological conflicts and fear of natural forces)

(15 marks) AO2

Question 4 Atheism and postmodernism

0	7
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Explain what is meant by:

- 'There is no God'
- 'God is dead'.

There is no God – discussion about meaning of 'atheism'

Expect reference to different types of atheism such as positive and negative atheism.

God is dead – Nietzsche and the madman. God no longer relevant to society. Modern development of this e.g. Honest to God, Sea of Faith and Dawkins.

Maximum level 5 (23) if only one discussed.

(30 marks) AO1

0	8
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'Religion has not responded successfully to the challenge of atheism.'
To what extent do you agree?

Expect agreement to claim to include evidence of growing atheism and decline of religion. Atheism more vocal and persuasive.

The counter claim might include responses to atheism and evidence of growing numbers in religions and how religion has refocused.

An appropriate conclusion should be in terms of 'to what extent.' Expect some discussion about degree of failure.

(15 marks) AO2

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