

552/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2b

An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 January 2007

(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

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 questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

1.

“The statements ‘God exists’ and ‘Evil and suffering exist’ are not compatible. To deny that evil and suffering exist conflicts with our experience of life. So it is clear that God cannot and does not exist.”

- (a) Explain why many philosophers regard the existence of God as *not compatible* with the existence of evil and suffering. [10]
- (b) Outline any **two** theodicies which argue against the view expressed in the passage above. [10]
2. (a) Explain how the cosmological argument tries to prove that God exists. [10]
- (b) ‘The cosmological argument is a strong argument for the existence of God.’ Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Explain criticisms of the teleological argument for the existence of God. [10]
- (b) ‘Criticisms of the teleological argument show that it is pointless trying to prove that God exists.’ Assess this view. [10]