



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

552/02

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2b
An Introduction to
Philosophy of Religion**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2008
(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.

We live in a world that has much beauty and wonder. Nature shows patterns and forms that can quite literally leave us breathless. There is, however, a darker side to our existence, one that brings suffering sometimes on a huge scale. We often refer to this as the problem of evil and innocent suffering. The problem of evil is not just a problem for belief in a loving God; it is a problem that has much of its roots in human behaviour.

- (a) Explain, with examples, what is meant by evil **and** how the *problem of evil* challenges belief in God. [10]
- (b) Explain with reference to any **one** theodicy how the *problem of evil* may be overcome. [10]
2. (a) Give an account of the cosmological argument for the existence of God. [10]
- (b) ‘The cosmological argument is unconvincing as a proof for the existence of God.’ Assess this view. [10]
3. (a) Give an account of the teleological (design) argument for the existence of God. [10]
- (b) Assess how far the teleological (design) argument is a successful proof for the existence of God. [10]