



GCE AS/A level

1343/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 PHIL - STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 May 2012

1¼ hours plus your additional time allowance

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen or your usual method.

Answer TWO questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 45 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

Part (a) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (b) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

Answer TWO questions.

1.
 - (a) **Examine the arguments against the cosmological argument for the existence of God. [30]**
 - (b) **‘The cosmological argument fails to demonstrate that God’s existence is probable.’
Assess this view. [15]**

2.
 - (a) **Examine the arguments against the teleological argument for the existence of God. [30]**
 - (b) **‘The teleological argument for the existence of God is a strong argument.’
Assess this view. [15]**

3. (a) Explain how the Irenaean theodicy addresses the problem of evil. [30]
- (b) 'There has never been a successful theodicy in responding to the problem of evil.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain why some people question whether mystical experiences are authentic. [30]
- (b) 'A mythical experience should not be devalued by the challenge of authenticity.'
Assess this view. [15]