



GCE AS/A Level

1343/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – RS1/2 PHIL

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

A.M. THURSDAY, 19 May 2016

1 hour 15 minutes 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, 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) Explain how the cosmological argument seeks to prove the existence of God. [30]**
- (b) 'The cosmological argument is a strong argument for the existence of God.'
Assess this view. [15]**
- 2(a) Explain how the teleological argument seeks to prove the existence of God. [30]**
- (b) 'The teleological argument is made ineffective by its counterarguments.'
Assess this view. [15]**

3(a) Explain what is meant by the 'problem of evil'. [30]

(b) 'Theodicies fail to solve the problem of evil for religious believers.'

Assess this view with reference to the theodicy of EITHER Augustine OR Irenaeus. [15]

4(a) Explain why problems of objectivity and authenticity present a challenge to mysticism. [30]

(b) 'Mysticism cannot overcome the challenges of the empirical world.'

Assess this view. [15]

END OF PAPER