



**General Certificate of Education  
June 2010**

**Religious Studies**

**RSS04**

**Religion, Philosophy and Science**

**AS Unit D**

**Final**

***Mark Scheme***

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## Examination Levels of Response

### Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor A01	Marks	AS Descriptor A02	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in A01 and A02
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	

## RSS04: Religion, Philosophy and Science

### Question 1 Miracles

0

1

**'A miracle is a violation of the laws of nature.'**

**Explain the implications of this statement for religious understandings of the way God interacts with the world.**

Candidates may refer to a wide range of ideas. Expect discussion along the lines that a violation of the laws of nature demonstrates God's power (omnipotence) and his willingness to respond to his creation (loving nature).

There may be reference to the difficulties of believing that God intervenes in this way. Does it show that God did not create perfectly in the first place? Why doesn't God intervene more often and why does he intervene when he does? Therefore, it is better to understand miracles in a different way, e.g. as events of religious significance.

Expect candidates to use examples.

**(30 marks)**

**AO1**

0

2

**'It is not reasonable to believe in God simply because of miracles.'**

**Assess this claim.**

#### **Is not reasonable**

Belief in miracles undermines the notion of a faithful, rational God.

Belief in miracles which is based on a purely subjective interpretation of events is not subject to rational analysis.

Science demonstrates more convincingly that miracles are highly unlikely given how the laws of nature work.

#### **Is reasonable**

God's interventions reinforce the credibility of theism. The definition of theism is that God responds in love to his creation.

Miracles do not have to disrupt natural laws so it is reasonable to see God working through nature.

Better candidates will recognise the significance of the word 'simply' in the question.

**(15 marks)**

**AO2**

**Question 2    Creation**

<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
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**Outline the theory of evolution and explain how it challenges religious belief.**

**Outline**

Some account of Darwin's theory to be expected: individual members of the species display variation. This variation is explained by better adaptation to changing environmental conditions. The variation will confer an advantage on those members who will, in turn, pass on these advantages to their offspring. This is called natural selection. The variation gives members of the species a competitive advantage and, where resources are scarce, that advantage leads to the survival of the fittest.

**Challenge**

- The fact of variation indicates that animals are not designed.
- The process of evolution has taken place over many millennia not seven days.
- Random variation is the explanation for design not the power of the Almighty.

Maximum Level 5 for either outline or challenge only.

**(30 marks)      AO1**

<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
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**'It is not possible to believe in God as Creator and accept the theory of evolution.'**  
**Assess this claim.**

**Is not possible**

The view of Dawkins. Evolution is a random, impersonal and often bloody process and this is far from the idea of a loving Creator.

The evidence for evolution is growing but the evidence for a Creator is non-existent.

The reaction of creationism and Intelligent Design to evolution demonstrates how defensive some religious believers are in the face of evolutionary theory.

**Is possible**

Many scientists happily accept both. The evidence is that many believers accepted Darwin from the outset.

Swinburne makes the point that evolution may explain the mechanics but not the whole framework of creation.

The story of creation in the Bible is a story about God's special concern for mankind. Evolution merely describes how that love is worked out in practice. There is therefore no conflict.

**(15 marks)      AO2**

**Question 3 The design argument**

<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
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**Explain the design argument as presented by Paley and by Swinburne.**

Expect the watch analogy with Paley’s own examples of the eye, nature and the movement of the planets.

Swinburne’s argument – regularity of co-presence and regularity of succession – which attempts to demonstrate that temporal and spatial order are still evidence of design.

Candidates may also refer to kidnapper analogy: the sheer amount of design in the universe is too improbable for there not to be a Designer.

Maximum Level 5 if only one philosopher covered.

**(30 marks) AO1**

<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
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**‘Swinburne’s argument deals successfully with the criticisms of the design argument.’ Assess this statement.**

**Is successful**

Evolution does not undermine Swinburne (as it does Paley). Many questions still unanswered in evolution.

Swinburne’s argument allows for God to be seen working through evolution. It is against theism to argue that God controls every step in creation so this also explains why there are so-called flaws in nature.

**Is not successful**

No evidence that the space-time framework *is* the work of a Creator.

Evil seems particularly to point against a Designer.

**(15 marks) AO2**

**Question 4 Quantum mechanics and a religious world view**

<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
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**Outline two ideas in quantum mechanics and examine the implications of quantum mechanics for religion.**

Candidates expected to pick two from:

- Quanta
- Wave / particle duality
- Nature of the electron
- Role of the observer in resolving uncertainty.

There may be other legitimate developments not listed in the Specification which can be credited.

Impact on religion:

- Quantum mechanics support the mystical notion of unity (no subjective / objective divide);
- It is in tune with the religious idea that human knowledge will always be partial or contingent;
- Quantum mechanics have manifest difficulties with description and this is mirrored in religion;
- The idea that quanta appear without causation challenges the religious notion of an ordered, purposeful creation.

Maximum Level 5 (20 marks) for only one of outline / examine.

**(30 marks) AO1**

<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
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**‘Science needs religion and religion needs science.’**

**To what extent is this an acceptable view?**

**Is acceptable**

Science without a personal element can be destructive (nuclear bombs, chemical weapons, etc.). Quantum mechanics appear to show that the personal judgement of the scientist in measuring quanta is as important as the quanta themselves.

Religion which is defensive about scientific development becomes more and more irrelevant in the modern age.

Quantum mechanics demonstrate that scientific knowledge is as much subject to change as religious belief has been.

**Is not acceptable**

Quantum mechanics still use the discipline of science: experimentation, empirical data, etc., and does not need to concern itself with religious beliefs.

Religion is not based on empirical data but is concerned with the metaphysical.

Science and religion, therefore, are two different ways of dealing with two different things.

**(15 marks) AO2**