



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**GCE**

**Religious Studies**

**H173/01: Philosophy of religion**

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

**Mark Scheme for November 2020**

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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Indicative content – Responses might include:	Guidance
<p data-bbox="213 237 1075 304"><b>1. To what extent does Plato’s view of the Forms explain the nature of reality?</b></p> <p data-bbox="165 338 1023 409"><b>AO1</b> Candidates may demonstrate knowledge and understanding through the use of some of the following materials:</p> <ul data-bbox="213 443 1082 1025" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plato’s view that the material world in which we live is one of corruption, changeability and shadows while true reality is to be found in the realm of Forms or Ideals</li> <li>• Plato’s contention that the Forms are eternal, unchangeable and perfect and every particular in this world is a dim reflection of a perfect Form of that thing</li> <li>• Plato’s emphasis on abstract concepts, such as beauty, truth and justice, rather than concepts such as chairs, tables and beds</li> <li>• Plato’s understanding of the Forms themselves being in a hierarchy, all under the Form of the Good</li> <li>• Plato’s idea that objects in this world participate in the Forms</li> <li>• Plato’s illustration of this concept in the analogy or allegory of the cave, which illustrates the journey of a philosopher, breaking free from the realm of shadows and discovering that of the Forms.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="165 1055 1043 1122"><b>AO2</b> Candidates may demonstrate evaluation and analysis through the use of some of the following arguments.</p> <ul data-bbox="213 1151 1082 2016" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some candidates might argue that Plato successfully explains the nature of reality through his view of the Forms because: <ul data-bbox="280 1227 1082 1727" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the material world is evidently corrupt and so the quest for truth must look beyond this world</li> <li>○ the work of the philosopher in prioritising thought emphasises the need to reach beyond this world</li> <li>○ Plato’s own argument from opposites suggests that if there is an opposite of all things then there is an opposite to life, which is death; and if death is a reality there must be an eternal soul that establishes an eternal realm</li> <li>○ our senses may be said to be unreliable in establishing reality and so we must look beyond them</li> <li>○ in observing different particulars we are able to recognise the same sort of thing even if we cannot explain why that is; thus, there must be a Form of that thing that our souls knew before they entered the body.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Some candidates might argue that Plato does not successfully explain the nature of reality through his view of the Forms because: <ul data-bbox="280 1883 1062 2016" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ there is no proof or evidence of the existence of another realm</li> <li>○ it is not clear how the two realms interact or relate to each other</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>Indicative content – Responses might include:</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ resemblance might be explained not by participation in a Form, but by there being a series of overlapping characteristics</li> <li>○ the idea of there being a Form for everything can lead to postulating the Form of bad things (e.g. illness) and/or the Forms of absurd ideas</li> <li>○ the Forms do not have value in observing and studying the world.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some candidates may combine these views and argue that Plato offers insights into metaphysics but that the detail of his view has been better developed or replaced over time.</li> </ul>	

Indicative content – Responses might include:	Guidance
<p data-bbox="213 237 995 300"><b>2. Evaluate Aquinas’ cosmological argument for God’s existence.</b></p> <p data-bbox="165 338 1023 409"><b>AO1</b> Candidates may demonstrate knowledge and understanding through the use of some of the following materials:</p> <ul data-bbox="213 445 1075 1025" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="213 445 1034 546">• Aquinas’ first three ways (of five) are now known as cosmological arguments that are <i>a posteriori</i> arguments for the existence of God</li> <li data-bbox="213 557 1075 696">• the first way is from motion and suggests that as all things move because they are acted upon by something else, and as this motion cannot go back to infinity, there must be an Unmoved Mover, which people understand to be God</li> <li data-bbox="213 707 1054 846">• the second way is from causation and suggests that as all effects come from a cause and the chain of cause and effect cannot be said to be infinite, there must be an Uncaused Causer or First Cause which people understand to be God</li> <li data-bbox="213 857 1075 1025">• the third way is from necessity and contingency and suggests that nothing could have existed without a necessary being and there could not have been an infinite regress of necessary beings; thus, there must be a being that has in itself its own necessity, which people understand to be God.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="165 1088 1043 1160"><b>AO2</b> Candidates may demonstrate evaluation and analysis through the use of some of the following arguments.</p> <ul data-bbox="213 1184 1075 2016" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="213 1184 1075 1653">• Some candidates might argue that the cosmological argument from Aquinas is strong because: <ul data-bbox="280 1256 1075 1653" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 1256 1075 1357">○ it moves from clear observation of motion, causation and existence in this world to a valid conclusion and thus is based on empirical evidence</li> <li data-bbox="280 1368 1075 1469">○ it explains the existence of the universe and rejects the notion that the universe has simply always existed, thus providing a sufficient reason for its existence</li> <li data-bbox="280 1480 1075 1581">○ it acknowledges the idea that motion and causation cannot be in infinite series and must have definite start and end points</li> <li data-bbox="280 1592 1075 1653">○ the idea that there is one simple cause is more straightforward than other possible explanations.</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="213 1700 1075 2016">• Some candidates might argue that the cosmological argument from Aquinas is weak because: <ul data-bbox="280 1771 1075 2016" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 1771 1075 1843">○ modern understandings of the origins of the universe remove the need for a creator God</li> <li data-bbox="280 1854 1075 1955">○ the argument might postulate a first mover or cause but makes a leap in logic to presume that this first mover is the God of classical theism</li> <li data-bbox="280 1966 1075 2016">○ it is a leap in logic to move from the idea that every effect has a cause to the idea that the entire universe must</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>Indicative content – Responses might include:</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<p>have a cause or reason to exist (i.e. the fallacy of composition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the argument is self-contradictory because its conclusion requires a special case that goes against its starting point (that everything has a cause or explanation)</li> <li>○ it could be said to be an assumption that everything has a cause.</li> </ul> <p>Some candidates may combine these views and argue that modern scientific theories explain everything since the creation of the universe, but that the cosmological argument remains a valid explanation for the universe as a whole.</p>	

Indicative content – Responses might include:	Guidance
<p data-bbox="213 300 973 367"><b>3. ‘Augustine’s interpretation of the Fall successfully explains the problem of evil.’ Discuss.</b></p> <p data-bbox="164 436 1023 504"><b>AO1</b> Candidates may demonstrate knowledge and understanding through the use of some of the following materials:</p> <ul data-bbox="213 544 1078 1167" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Augustine’s discussion of evil being a lack or privation of goodness that detracts from the perfect creation by the perfect God</li> <li>• the Fall, for Augustine, was a key turning point in the history of the world because both angels and humans misused their free will to destroy the harmony of creation and the harmonious relationship between God and humanity</li> <li>• as a result of the Fall, humans, while being created perfectly by God, are tainted with Original Sin, which is contracted through being the descendants of Adam</li> <li>• moral evil is a result of the disorder of relationships and the continued misuse of human free will which can all be explained by the Fall and so the problem of evil is perpetuated</li> <li>• natural evil, which is a central concern for theodicy, is an ongoing punishment for the events of the Fall and is a reflection of the disharmony in nature</li> <li>• thus, for Augustine, all evil is either sin or punishment for sin.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="164 1189 1043 1256"><b>AO2</b> Candidates may demonstrate evaluation and analysis through the use of some of the following arguments.</p> <ul data-bbox="213 1285 1078 1937" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some candidates might argue that Augustine’s understanding of the Fall does successfully explain the problem of evil because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ his approach seems to fit well with our experience of this world in which suffering is caused by free will</li> <li>○ the idea of privation and the Fall, emphasises the ultimate goodness of God</li> <li>○ if Genesis is to be understood as being true then the Fall’s effects are likely to be as far-reaching as Augustine suggests</li> <li>○ it successfully demonstrates why God is not responsible for evil and suffering as the emphasis is on ongoing human action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Some candidates might argue that Augustine’s use of the Fall does not successfully explain the problem of evil because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ it requires Genesis to be read literally, which is challenged by textual study and by the theory of evolution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	









<b>Indicative content – Responses might include:</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the idea that humans are all in some way seminally present in the loins of Adam does not seem to cohere with the idea of a fair, loving God</li> <li>○ even if there is truth behind Augustine’s approach, the God who allowed the Fall to happen does not seem worthy of worship</li> <li>○ human nature may be said to be flawed because of its essence, rather than an event in history</li> <li>○ natural disasters can be explained by natural events such as plate tectonics, rather than an angelic fall.</li> </ul> <p>Some candidates may combine these views and argue that with a non-literal interpretation of Genesis, humans might be said to fall individually and break their own perfect relationship with God, thus perpetuating evil and suffering.</p>	



Level (Mark)	<b>Levels of Response for AS Level Religious Studies: Assessment Objective 1 (AO1)</b> <i>Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching</i></li> <li>• <i>Approaches to the study of religion and belief</i></li> </ul>	<b>Note: The descriptors below must be considered in the context of all listed strands of Assessment Objectives 1 (AO1) and the indicative content in the mark scheme.</b>
<b>5</b> (13–15)	A <b>very good</b> demonstration of knowledge and understanding in response to the question : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focuses on the precise question throughout</li> <li>• very good selection of relevant material which is used appropriately</li> <li>• accurate, and detailed knowledge which demonstrates very good understanding through either the breadth or depth of material used</li> <li>• accurate and appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a very good range of scholarly views, academic approaches, and/or sources of wisdom and authority are used to demonstrate knowledge and understanding</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b> (10–12)	A <b>good</b> demonstration of knowledge and understanding in response to the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addresses the question well</li> <li>• good selection of relevant material, used appropriately on the whole</li> <li>• mostly accurate knowledge which demonstrates good understanding of the material used, which should have reasonable amounts of depth or breadth</li> <li>• mostly accurate and appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a good range of scholarly views, academic approaches, and/or sources of wisdom and authority are used to demonstrate knowledge and understanding</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b> (7–9)	A <b>satisfactory</b> demonstration of knowledge and understanding in response to the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generally addresses the question</li> <li>• mostly sound selection of mostly relevant material</li> <li>• some accurate knowledge which demonstrates sound understanding through the material used, which might however be lacking in depth or breadth</li> <li>• generally appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> </ul> A satisfactory range of scholarly views, academic approaches, and/or sources of wisdom and authority are used to demonstrate knowledge and understanding with only partial success	
<b>2</b> (4–6)	A <b>basic</b> demonstration of knowledge and understanding in response to the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• might address the general topic rather than the question directly</li> <li>• limited selection of partially relevant material</li> <li>• some accurate, but limited, knowledge which demonstrates partial understanding</li> <li>• some accurate, but limited, use of technical terms and appropriate subject vocabulary.</li> </ul> A limited range of scholarly views, academic approaches, and/or sources of wisdom and authority are used to demonstrate knowledge and understanding with little success	
<b>1</b> (1–3)	A <b>weak</b> demonstration of knowledge and understanding in response to the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• almost completely ignores the question</li> <li>• very little relevant material selected</li> <li>• knowledge very limited, demonstrating little understanding</li> <li>• very little use of technical terms or subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• very little or no use of scholarly views, academic approaches and/or sources of wisdom and authority to demonstrate knowledge and understanding</li> </ul>	
<b>0</b> (0)	No creditworthy response	

Level (Mark)	<b>Levels of Response for AS Level Religious Studies: Assessment Objective 2 (AO2)</b> <i>Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study</i>	<b>Note: The descriptors below must be considered in the context of all elements of Assessment Objective 2 (AO2) and the indicative content in the mark scheme.</b>
5 (13–15)	<p>A <b>very good</b> demonstration of analysis and evaluation in response to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear and convincing argument</li> <li>• successful and clear analysis and evaluation</li> <li>• views very well stated, coherently developed and justified</li> <li>• answers the question set competently</li> <li>• accurate and appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a very good range of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority used to support analysis and evaluation</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Extended Response:</b> <i>There is a well-developed and sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant and logically structured.</i></p>	
4 (10–12)	<p>A <b>good</b> demonstration of analysis and evaluation in response to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• argument is generally successful and clear</li> <li>• generally successful analysis and evaluation</li> <li>• views well stated, with some development and justification</li> <li>• answers the question set well</li> <li>• mostly accurate and appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a good range of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority are used to support analysis and evaluation</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Extended Response:</b> <i>There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear, relevant and logically structured</i></p>	
3 (7–9)	<p>A <b>satisfactory</b> demonstration of analysis and/evaluation in response to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some successful argument</li> <li>• partially successful analysis and evaluation</li> <li>• views asserted but often not fully justified</li> <li>• mostly answers the set question</li> <li>• generally appropriate use of technical terms and subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a satisfactory range of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority are used to support analysis and evaluation with only partial success</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Extended Response:</b> <i>There is a line of reasoning presented which is mostly relevant and which has some structure.</i></p>	
2 (4–6)	<p>A <b>basic</b> demonstration of analysis and evaluation in response to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some argument attempted, not always successful</li> <li>• little successful analysis and evaluation</li> <li>• views asserted but with little justification</li> <li>• only partially answers the question</li> <li>• some accurate, but limited, use of technical terms and appropriate subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• a limited range of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority to support analysis and evaluation with little success</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Extended Response:</b> <i>There is a line of reasoning which has some relevance and which is presented with limited structure.</i></p>	
1 (1–3)	<p>A <b>weak</b> demonstration of analysis and evaluation in response to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very little argument attempted</li> <li>• very little successful analysis and evaluation</li> <li>• views asserted with very little justification</li> <li>• unsuccessful in answering the question</li> <li>• very little use of technical terms or subject vocabulary.</li> <li>• very little or no use of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority to support analysis and evaluation</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Extended Response:</b> <i>The information is communicated in a basic/unstructured way.</i></p>	
0 (0)	No creditworthy response	

**Annotations**

<b>Annotation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
	Level one – to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	Level two – to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	Level three – to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	Level four – to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	Level five – to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	(H573 only) Level six - to be used at the end of each part of the response in the margin.
	Highlighting a section of the response that is irrelevant to the awarding of the mark.
	Point has been seen and noted, e.g. where part of an answer is at the end of the script.

## **SUBJECT–SPECIFIC MARKING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **H173, H573 AS and A Level Religious Studies**

#### **Introduction**

Your first task as an Examiner is to become thoroughly familiar with the material on which the examination depends. You should ensure that you have copies of these materials:

- the specification, especially the assessment objectives
- the question paper and its rubrics
- the mark scheme.

Please ask for help or guidance whenever you need it. Your first point of contact is your Team Leader.

#### **Information and instructions for examiners**

The practice scripts provide you with *examples* of the standard of each band. The marks awarded for these scripts will have been agreed by the Lead Marker and Team Leaders.

The specific task-related indicative content for each question will help you to understand how the band descriptors may be applied. However, this indicative content **does not** constitute the mark scheme: it is material that candidates **might** use, grouped according to each assessment objective tested by the question. It is hoped that candidates will respond to questions in a variety of ways. Rigid demands for 'what must be a good answer' would lead to a distorted assessment. Candidates' answers must be relevant to the question. Beware of prepared answers that do not show the candidate's thought and which have not been adapted to the thrust of the question. Beware also of answers where candidates attempt to reproduce interpretations and concepts that they have been taught but have only partially understood.

## Using the Mark Scheme

Please study the Mark Scheme carefully. The Mark Scheme is an integral part of the process that begins with the setting of the question paper and ends with the awarding of grades. Question papers and Mark Schemes are developed in association with each other so that issues of differentiation and positive achievement can be addressed from the very start.

This Mark Scheme is a working document; it is not exhaustive; it does not provide 'correct' answers. The Mark Scheme can only provide 'best guesses' about how the question will work out, and it is subject to revision after we have looked at a wide range of scripts.

Please read carefully all the scripts in your allocation and make every effort to look positively for achievement throughout the ability range. Always be prepared to use the full range of marks.

The Mark Scheme contains a description of possible/content only; all legitimate answers and approaches must be credited appropriately. Learners are expected to make use of scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority to support their argument.

The Levels of Response must be used in conjunction with the outlined indicative content.

## Assessment Objectives

**Two** Assessment Objectives are being assessed in all questions:

**AO1** (Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief) and

**AO2** (Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study).

Responses are credited for **AO1** for selection, detail and accuracy of the knowledge and understanding of religion and belief deployed.

Responses are credited for **AO2** for how well the response addresses the question, for candidates using their knowledge and understanding to draw, express and support conclusions in relation to the question posed. Candidates will be assessed on the quality of the conclusions and points they argue and the clarity and success of their argument.

## Levels of Response

Questions in this paper are marked using a levels of response grid. When using this grid examiners must use a **best fit** approach. Where there are both strengths and weaknesses in a particular response or particularly imbalanced responses in terms of the assessment objectives, examiners must carefully consider which level is the best fit for the performance.

Note that candidates can achieve different levels in each assessment objective, for example a Level 3 for AO1, and a Level 2 for AO2.

Please note that the Assessment Objectives being assessed are listed at the top of the mark scheme. Where a candidate does not address all of the Assessment Objective strands listed, the candidate cannot achieve the top level of response.

### **Assessment of Extended Response**

The GCE General Conditions of Recognition state that:

GCE 5.1 In designing and setting the assessments for a GCE qualification which it makes available, or proposes to make available, and awarding organization must ensure that, taken together, those assessments include questions or tasks which allow Learners to -

- a) provide extended responses

As such, the quality of extended responses are assessed in all questions. While marks are not specifically given for this, descriptors for extended responses can be found in the AO2 Levels of Response *in italics*.

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