

552/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 2b

An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2006

(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.

There are points of agreement between the theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus. Both agree that God permits evil. Both think that God is just and loving. However, whereas Augustine stresses God's justice, Irenaeus stresses God's love.

- (a) Summarise the main points of the theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus. [10]
- (b) Explain the main weaknesses of these theodicies. [10]
- 2.** (a) Explain the argument for God's existence based on apparent design in the universe. [10]
- (b) 'The argument based on design is a strong one.'
Assess this view. [10]
- 3.** (a) Explain why it is difficult to prove that God exists. [10]
- (b) Assess how far arguments for God's existence that you have studied reduce these difficulties. [10]