



General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2010

Religious Studies **40554**
(Specification B)
Religious Studies (Specification B)
(Short Course)

Unit 4 Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions

Tuesday 8 June 2010 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is 40554.
- Answer **four** questions. Each questions has 5 parts.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **four** questions.

There are 18 marks for each question.

Each question has **five** parts. Answer **all** five parts of each question chosen.

Question 1

The Existence of God

Read the passage below, which describes a religious experience.

“One dark autumn afternoon I was sitting alone. I suddenly became aware of a holy presence in the room. I heard the words, ‘Follow me’... I knew that this was God calling me.”

- 0 | 1** Explain briefly how an atheist might explain the experience described above. (2 marks)
- 0 | 2** ‘Religious experiences prove that God exists.’
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- 0 | 3** Explain the First Cause argument for the existence of God. (4 marks)
- 0 | 4** Explain the arguments against the idea that God is the First Cause of the universe. (3 marks)
- 0 | 5** ‘The design of the world shows that God created it.’
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6 marks)

Question 2**Revelation**

Look at the photograph below.



- 0 6** Explain how nature might reveal God to some people. *(3 marks)*
- 0 7** Explain what people might learn about God from scripture (holy books). *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** 'The best way to know God is through your conscience.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- 0 9** Explain briefly what religious believers mean when they say that God is omnipotent. *(2 marks)*
- 1 0** 'God does not seem to be making himself known today.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. *(6 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Question 3**The Problems of Evil and Suffering**

Read the newspaper headlines below.

Villagers flee war zone

Floods leave thousands homeless

Murderer given life sentence

Earthquake destroys hospital

1 | 1

Explain, using examples, the difference between natural suffering and man-made suffering. *(3 marks)*

1 | 2

Explain what religious believers might do when faced with suffering. *(4 marks)*

1 | 3

'God cannot be loving if he lets people suffer.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*

1 | 4

Explain briefly where evil comes from. *(2 marks)*

1 | 5

'There will always be evil.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. *(6 marks)*

Question 4**Immortality**

Look at the photograph below.



- 1 6** Give **two** ways in which some people believe that humans can be immortal. (2 marks)
- 1 7** Describe the evidence for immortality found in scripture (holy books). (4 marks)
- 1 8** At the moment of death, the soul returns to God.
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- 1 9** Explain why some people say there is no life after death. (3 marks)
- 2 0** 'Ghosts prove that there is life after death.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6 marks)

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Question 5**Miracles**

Look at the statement below.

**Woman with cancer
is cured through prayer**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Give **two** reasons why some people believe that God performs miracles. *(2 marks)*
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Describe **one** miracle from scripture (holy books) or religious tradition. *(4 marks)*
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 3 |
|---|---|

 'Humans can perform miracles.'
- What do you think? Give reasons for your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 4 |
|---|---|

 Explain why miracles might cause problems for believers in God. *(3 marks)*
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 5 |
|---|---|

 'Miracles are impossible.'
- Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. *(6 marks)*

Question 6**Science and Religion**

Look at the image below.



- 2 6** Explain briefly the Big Bang theory. *(2 marks)*
- 2 7** Give an account of a religious creation story. *(4 marks)*
- 2 8** 'It is possible to believe both in the Big Bang theory and in God.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- 2 9** Explain how the discovery that the earth is **not** the centre of the universe challenged religious belief. *(3 marks)*
- 3 0** 'Scientific truth is more important than religious truth.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. *(6 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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