

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
ARTS FACULTY
MA EXAMINATION
for Internal Students
PHILOSOPHY NEW REGULATIONS

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Answer THREE questions.

1. Critically assess one version of the cosmological argument.
2. 'The crucial flaw in the ontological argument is the assumption that all propositions of the form *the F is F* are true.' Discuss.
3. 'Once we see that "God cannot create a stone He cannot lift" is equivalent to "Every stone God can create He can lift", we see that God's not being able to create a stone He cannot lift is no threat to His omnipotence.' Discuss.
4. '*Someone is omniscient* is incompatible with *The future is open*.' Is this true? Defend your view.
5. Is there a coherent definition of 'miracle'?
6. Does the most plausible account of our essence and persistence conditions leave room for life after death?
7. 'The free will defence implies that there are possibilities within my power to actualize, but not God's. Therefore it implies that I have powers that God does not have. So it saves God's perfect goodness at the cost of abandoning His omnipotence.' What, if anything, is wrong with this argument?
8. Are any beliefs that entail God's existence properly basic?
9. Is religious belief a language game?
10. EITHER (a) 'A revisionary account of religious belief is acceptable to the extent to which it makes a determinate claim and defends its truth.' Can such a view be rationally defended?

OR (b) Is there a defensible revisionary account of religious belief?
11. 'For all we know, this is the best possible world.' Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

12. Does God's omniscience and providence raise insuperable obstacles for the rationality of petitionary prayer?

END OF PAPER