BA EXAMINATION 2002

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (d): <u>Philosophy of Religion</u>

Friday, 10 May 2002: 10.00 – 1.00

Answer <u>THREE</u> questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1.   Can it be shown that there is a necessary first cause of all contingent beings?

2.   'The fine-tuning version of the argument from design, unlike Paley's, is invulnerable to Humean objections.' Discuss.

3.   Is the existence of apparently pointless evil a good reason to disbelieve in an all-good and all-powerful God?

4.   Is omnipotence just the ability to actualize any possible world? If not, what is it?

5.   Could God be both omniscient and immutable?

6.   Can divine omniscience be reconciled with human freedom?

7.   'The concept of divine simplicity is meaningless.' Discuss.

8.   Is belief in God 'properly basic'? Illustrate your answer with reference to the work of Alvin Plantinga.

9.   Is there a philosophically acceptable defence of petitionary prayer?

10.   Outline and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the case for natural theology in the justification of theistic belief.

11.   Must God be maximally great?

12.   EITHER   (a)   Is there a plausible argument for the immortality of the soul?

        OR   (b)   Could a person survive his own death?

TURN OVER

13. To what extent, if at all, can the idea of a rational soul illuminate the concept of personal identity?

14. Must someone who belongs to a faith believe the doctrines of that faith?

END OF PAPER