

New
Specification



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2017

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8
assessing

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion



SRE81

[SRE81]

FRIDAY 2 JUNE, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.
Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.
Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each part question in allocating the available examination time.

Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Discuss Aquinas's version of the Cosmological argument for the existence of God. [25]
- (b) Comment on the claim that the "proofs" for the existence of God will always fail to convince the unbeliever. Justify your answer. [25]
- 2 (a) "It is impossible to justify the suffering of the innocent."
Examine this statement with particular reference to the work of modern writers you have studied. [25]
- (b) Assess the claim that the Irenaean theodicy provides the best solution to evil and suffering. Justify your answer. [25]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** Explain how different Christians understand the concept of miracle. [25]
- (b)** “A fully scientific understanding of the world has ruled out the possibility of miracles.”
- Assess the truth of this claim with reference to other aspects of human experience.
Justify your answer. [25]
- 4 (a)** Explain and discuss John Hick’s views on religious pluralism. [25]
- (b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate the view that the solution to the world’s problems is to be found in atheism and secularisation.
Justify your answer. [25]

