



GCE AS/A level

1343/01

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS1/2 PHIL - Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2012

1¼ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **two** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 45 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

Part (*a*) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (*b*) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine the following ideas in the cosmological argument:
first cause, motion, contingency, and sufficient reason. [30]
(b) 'The strengths of the cosmological argument clearly outweigh its weaknesses.'
Assess this view. [15]
2. (a) Examine how the teleological argument for the existence of God has developed. [30]
(b) 'Scientific evidence strongly supports the teleological argument.'
Assess this view. [15]
3. (a) Explain why the existence of evil poses a challenge to a belief in the existence of God. [30]
(b) 'Religious solutions to the problem of evil fail to convince anyone.'
Assess this view. [15]
4. (a) Explain what is meant by mystical experience. [30]
(b) 'Mysticism can never have a positive effect on religious belief and practice.'
Assess this view. [15]