



**General Certificate of Education
June 2010**

Religious Studies

RSS03

Philosophy of Religion

AS Unit C

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS03: *Philosophy of Religion*

Question 1 The Cosmological argument

0	1
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Explain the cosmological argument with particular reference to:

- (i) the rejection of infinite regress, and
- (ii) God as the necessary being.

Answers should focus on the actual areas listed in the question and how they relate to the cosmological argument rather than on a general presentation of the cosmological argument.

e.g. explanation of 'infinite regress' and its significance to the argument; the need for a start to a series / need for explanation.

Expect explanation of 'necessary being' and philosophical need for God to be necessary rather than contingent.

(30 marks) AO1

0	2
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Assess how far the cosmological argument proves that God exists.

The focus will be on identifying the persuasiveness of the argument / strength of the argument. Expect either some criticisms of argument and / or some positive arguments to support cosmological / responses to criticisms.

Candidates may also enter into some discussion of 'proof' and what is required.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 2 Religious experience

0	3
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Examine how religious experience might be challenged by philosophy and by science.

Expect reference to such features as:

For **philosophy**: Can finite experience infinite, problems of verifying, e.g. subjectivity.

For **science**: Natural explanations, e.g. drugs, ability to simulate experiences.

Expect clear explanation as to why these areas challenge religious experience, i.e. clear linking back to focus.

If only one of philosophy / science answered then maximum Level 5 (23).

(30 marks) AO1

0	4
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How successful are these challenges?

Successful

Discussion on strength of the challenges identified in part (a).

Not successful

Expect either some replies to challenges and / or some positive arguments to support validity of religious experiences.

Expect some candidates to weigh up philosophy challenges and science challenges separately. Expect the trigger 'how successful' to be considered.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 3 Psychology and religion

0	5
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Examine Freud's view of religious belief.

Candidates might examine through explanations of key terms, such as wish fulfilment and Oedipus complex.

Expect a more overall view of Freud's view of religion rather than just lists of terms.

Candidates should give reference both to religion as a collective neurosis and religion as a response to Oedipus complex and repressed guilt.

(30 marks) AO1

0	6
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'There is a strong relationship between religion and unbalanced mental health.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Agree with view

Freud – religion is a neurosis and could be seen as a cause of mental illness. Can heighten guilt and reduce self esteem.

Disagree with view

Expect some critique of Freud's views. Freud saw that religion can bring comfort therefore can help mental health and / or source of religion as reasoned / objective. Candidates may also refer to Jung who had a positive view.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 4 Atheism and postmodernism

0

7

Examine reasons which have been suggested for the rise of atheism.

Expect candidates either to cover a breadth of reasons such as problem of evil, awareness of other faiths, science, empiricism and the rebellion against moral absolutes, or to focus in depth on several reasons.

Some reference to how these various reasons gave rise to atheism should be discussed.

(30 marks)**AO1**

0

8

**‘Religion has responded successfully to the challenge of atheism.’
Assess this claim.**

The focus will be on the success or otherwise of religion to respond to challenges.

Support claim

Responses to the challenges of atheism, e.g. to science / to empiricism / to problem of evil / to moral absolutes / to religious pluralism.

Expect some reference to all religions being equal, emphasis on living faith rather than intellectual faith. Some candidates may refer to postmodernist view of religion.

Challenge claim

Failure of religion to respond to rise of atheism. Growth of secularism. Criticisms of religion not been answered.

(15 marks)**AO2**