



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2023

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

assessing

An Introduction to the
Philosophy of Religion



[SRE81]

SRE81

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE, AFTERNOON

TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Do not write outside the boxed area on each page or on blank pages.

Complete in black ink only. **Do not write with a gel pen.**

Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

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

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) For what reasons is the problem of evil difficult for both the religious believer and the atheist? [25]
- (b) “Augustine offers the best solution to the problem of evil.”
Assess this claim. Justify your answer. [25]
- 2 (a) How is Teresa of Avila’s understanding of religious experience similar and different to that of Martin Buber? [25]
- (b) Assess the claim that religious experience can never be a “proof” for the existence of God. Justify your answer. [25]



Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** “Existence can only be defined as a predicate.”

With reference to this statement, explain the Ontological argument. [25]

- (b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, assess the claim that without religious belief humanity cannot be morally good. Justify your answer.

[25]

- 4 (a)** “The laws of nature are stable and unalterable.”

With reference to this statement, give an account of Hume’s critique of miracles. [25]

- (b)** “Miracles are not just a problem for atheists but also for religious believers.”

With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate this view. Justify your answer. [25]

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For Examiner's use only	
Question Number	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	

Total Marks	
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Examiner Number

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