



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2025

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Religious Studies

Assessment Unit A2 8

assessing

Themes in the Philosophy
of Religion



[ARE81]

ARE81

THURSDAY 19 JUNE, MORNING

TIME

2 hours.

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 **two** questions from Section A and the compulsory question in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

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 **two** questions from this section

- 1 (a)** In what ways does Wittgenstein's theory of 'language games' affect how religious language is understood? [20]
- (b)** Critically assess the claim that in the modern secular age, all religious language continues to have meaning and relevance. [30]
- 2 (a)** Explain Hick's replica theory. [20]
- (b)** "The evidence to support the concept of life after death is no longer convincing."
How far do you agree with this view? [30]
- 3 (a)** "That humans are innately moral is evidence of the existence of God."
With particular reference to Aquinas' moral argument, present a case for this statement. [20]
- (b)** "Morality has purpose and relevance without God and religion."
Critically evaluate this view. [30]



Section B

Synoptic Assessment

Theme: Faith, Freedom and Atheism

You **must** answer this question

- 4 (a) "Humans must shape their own destiny in a meaningless universe."

Present a case for this statement.

You must support your answer with reference to at least **one** other unit of study. [20]

- (b) "Religion alone offers humanity the greatest level of freedom and hope."

To what extent do you agree with this claim?

You must refer to other aspects of human experience in your answer. [30]





Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page.

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THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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

Examiner Number

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