



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2025

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

FRIDAY 6 JUNE, MORNING

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)** Describe the challenges to the Ontological argument. [25]
- (b)** Evaluate the view that the main purpose of the arguments for the existence of God is to convince doubters and unbelievers. Justify your answer. [25]
- 2 (a)** Examine the main characteristics of mystical experiences. [25]
- (b)** “Religious visions should not be dismissed as unreasonable or delusional.”
To what extent do you agree with this claim? Justify your answer. [25]



Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** “Evil is the consequence of human sin.”

Discuss this statement with particular reference to the Augustinian theodicy. [25]

- (b)** “Religion provides the strongest motivation to overcome evil and suffering.”

With reference to other aspects of human experience, assess this claim.

Justify your answer.

[25]

- 4 (a)** “There are rational explanations for events that are claimed as miracles.”

Discuss this statement with particular reference to the contribution of Holland. [25]

- (b)** “Belief in miracles is an essential feature of religious faith, because they bring hope.”

With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate this view.

Justify your answer.

[25]

[Turn over





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

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

Examiner Number

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