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Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2016

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 7
assessing
An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

[AR171]
MONDAY 27 JUNE, AFTERNOON

MV18

Time

1 hour 20 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

Instructions to candidates

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

Information for candidates

The total mark for this paper is 100.
Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.
Figures in brackets printed at the end of each question indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

Advice to candidates

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

Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

1 **(a)** Explain the Ontological argument for the existence of God with reference to any **two** thinkers you have studied. [35 marks]

(b) Comment on the claim that the only weakness of the Ontological argument is that "existence" is not a real predicate. Justify your answer.   [15 marks]

2 **(a)** Explain the contribution of Martin Buber to mysticism. [35 marks]

(b) Explore the view that mysticism may help unify believers. Justify your answer.   [15 marks]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

3 **(a)** Give an account of the origins of evil and explain why evil is a problem for the religious believer. [35 marks]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that suffering is both necessary and rewarding. Justify your answer. [15 marks]

4 **(a)** "Miracles are merely the product of superstitious thinking and can no longer be taken seriously."

With reference to this claim, describe atheism's rejection of miracles. [35 marks]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that denying God's interventions leaves the world without hope. Justify your answer. [15 marks]