



*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)**  
**General Certificate of Education**  
**2017**

# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8

*assessing*

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion



SRE81

**[SRE81]**

**FRIDAY 2 JUNE, MORNING**

## TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

## 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 down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

## ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

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

## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Discuss Aquinas's version of the Cosmological argument for the existence of God. [25]
- (b) Comment on the claim that the "proofs" for the existence of God will always fail to convince the unbeliever. Justify your answer. [25]
- 2 (a) "It is impossible to justify the suffering of the innocent."  
Examine this statement with particular reference to the work of modern writers you have studied. [25]
- (b) Assess the claim that the Irenaean theodicy provides the best solution to evil and suffering. Justify your answer. [25]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

**3 (a)** Explain how different Christians understand the concept of miracle. [25]

**(b)** “A fully scientific understanding of the world has ruled out the possibility of miracles.”

Assess the truth of this claim with reference to other aspects of human experience.  
Justify your answer. [25]

**4 (a)** Explain and discuss John Hick’s views on religious pluralism. [25]

**(b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate the view that the solution to the world’s problems is to be found in atheism and secularisation.  
Justify your answer. [25]

