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Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2018

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 8
assessing
An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

SRE81

[SRE81]
FRIDAY 1 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)** Examine the nature of the problem of evil and suffering for religious believers and explain **one** solution to the problem. [25]

(b) Comment on the claim that theism fails to offer a solution to this problem. Justify your answer. [25]

2 **(a)** "All miracles are simply coincidences."

With particular reference to this claim, discuss the central criticisms that have been levelled against miracles. [25]

(b) Assess the claim that there are very good reasons for believing in the possibility of miracles. Justify your answer. [25]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

3 **(a)** Examine the nature of the Ontological argument with particular reference to the contribution of Descartes. [25]

(b) "The process of secularisation has been good for religion and society."

With reference to other aspects of human experience, consider the truth of this statement. Justify your answer. [25]

4 **(a)** Discuss the ideas of Rudolf Otto for an understanding of religious experience. [25]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, consider how far reason and faith stand in opposition to one another. Justify your answer. [25]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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