



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2013

Religious Studies
Assessment Unit AS 7
assessing
An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
[AR171]



THURSDAY 24 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Candidate Number and Centre 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 question or part question in allocating the available examination time.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Describe the contribution of Thomas Merton to mysticism. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that there is nothing extraordinary about mystical experiences. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Explain the views of materialism concerning the concept of life after death. [35]
- (b) Comment on the view that only belief in the resurrection can give humanity hope. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 “All evil serves a good purpose.”
- (a) With particular reference to **one** theodicy discuss this statement. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that suffering can never be fully explained. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Describe and explain the Teleological argument with particular reference to the contribution of William Paley. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that in a scientific age, belief in God must be abandoned. Justify your answer. [15]

