



GCE A LEVEL

A120U20-1



TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025 – AFTERNOON

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – A level component 2
Philosophy of Religion

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **two** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer, for example

0	1
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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 50 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

You are reminded of the need to:

- reflect on, select and apply specified knowledge
- understand, interpret and evaluate critically religious concepts, texts and other sources
- account for the influence of social, religious and historical factors on the developments in the study of religions and belief
- identify, investigate and critically analyse questions, arguments, ideas and issues arising from within this component, including the views of scholars and academics
- identify and analyse the nature of connections between the components you have studied
- construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence.
- present responses to questions which are clear and coherent
- engage in debate in a way that recognises the right of others to hold a different view
- use specialist language and terminology appropriately.

Component 2 – Philosophy of Religion

Part **a)** of each question tests your knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

Part **b)** of each question tests your skills of analysis and evaluation, with regards to aspects of and approaches to religion and belief.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

0	1
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a) Examine ways in which religious experience is of value for religious communities. [20]

b) ‘Religious communities are entirely dependent on religious experience.’
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

0	2
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a) Explain the challenges identified by Caroline Franks Davis to the objectivity and authenticity of religious experience. [20]

b) ‘The challenges to religious experience are valid.’
Evaluate this view. [30]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|
- a) Examine the following alternative scientific explanations as a challenge to inductive arguments for the existence of God:
- i) the Big Bang theory
- and**
- ii) Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. [20]
- b) 'Scientific explanations are much more persuasive than philosophical explanations for the universe's existence.'
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|
- a) Explain what is meant by 'Irenaean type theodicy' as a religious response to the problem of evil. [20]
- b) 'Irenaean type theodicies are completely unsuccessful in defending the God of Classical Theism.'
Evaluate this view. [30]

Or,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|
- a) Examine the following deductive arguments by St Anselm:
- i) God as the greatest possible being (Proslogion 2)
- and**
- ii) God has necessary existence (Proslogion 3). [20]
- b) 'The most persuasive arguments for God's existence are '*a priori*'.'
Evaluate this view. [30]

END OF PAPER

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