

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0110

BA EXAMINATION 2009

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (d): Philosophy of Religion

Thursday, 14 May 2009: 2.30pm -5.30pm

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER Critically compare two versions of the cosmological argument.
OR What are the main objections to Anselm's ontological argument?
Can they be overcome?
2. What is meant by saying that God is simple? Can the claim that God is simple be adequately defended?
3. EITHER Should God's eternity be conceived as timelessness or as omnitemporality?
OR Can divine foreknowledge be reconciled with human freedom?
4. Critically discuss Swinburne's cumulative case for the existence of God.
5. Explain the difference between the logical and evidential versions of the problem of evil. Critically assess one of these versions of the problem.
6. Does Pascal's wager provide a justification for Christian belief?
7. What does Alston mean by the notion of a 'doxastic practice'? Does his use of this notion contribute to an adequate defence of the rationality of Christian faith?
8. Can any sense be made of the claim that God has all the power there is?

TURN OVER

9. What is the Euthyphro dilemma? Does it cast any light on attempts to base morality upon divine commands?
10. What was Hume trying to show in his essay 'Of Miracles'? Did he succeed?
11. What does Kierkegaard mean by 'truth is subjectivity'? How plausible is such a view with respect to Christian faith?
12. Can language be used successfully to speak about God?
13. Can a human being have eternal life?
14. To what extent does disagreement between adherents of different religions undermine religious pluralism?
15. 'The religious person, experiencing life in terms of the divine presence, is rationally entitled to believe what he or she experiences to be the case – namely that God is real, or exists' (Hick). Discuss.
16. Critically examine some of the philosophical problems raised by petitionary prayer.

END OF PAPER