

BA EXAMINATION 2008

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (d): Philosophy of Religion

Thursday, 15 May 2008: 14.30-17.30

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'Anselm's ontological argument is convincing because it is *a priori*.' Discuss.
2. Must cosmological arguments always use the Principle of Sufficient Reason?
3. Critically compare any two versions of the design argument.
4. How does the search for the *archē* (first principle) in ancient Greek philosophy relate to the enterprise of natural theology?
5. Does Augustine offer a satisfactory response to the problem of evil?
6. Does God's omniscience determine my future decisions?
7. 'God's simplicity implies that God is not free.' Discuss.
8. Is it logically consistent to think of God as responding to prayer?
9. Evaluate Hume's rejection of miracles as a basis for faith.
10. Critically discuss the epistemological significance of religious experience.
11. 'It is more beneficial to believe in God than not to believe in God.' Discuss.
12. To what extent, if any, does fideism provide a plausible account of the nature of Christian faith? Draw on the work of Kierkegaard and/or Wittgenstein in your answer.
13. 'Plantinga's conception of basic belief provides an adequate understanding of the epistemology of religious faith.' Discuss.

TURN OVER

14. Is Swinburne right to claim that a plausible cumulative evidential case can be made for Christian belief?
15. 'God cannot be spoken of literally.' Discuss.
16. Can a human being have eternal life?

END OF PAPER