

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (d): Philosophy of Religion

Answer THREE questions.

1. EITHER (a) 'If there is an all-good and all-powerful God, he would not allow evil'. Set out and evaluate the best argument you know in favour of this claim.

OR (b) 'If we suppose God permits evil for freedom's sake, we cannot explain why God permits evil that limits the freedom of others'. Discuss.

2. Might there be contingent truths that God could not make false?

3. Could God create a stone he cannot lift? Defend your answer.

4. 'Since a timeless being couldn't know what time it is now, a timeless being couldn't be omniscient'. Discuss.

5. 'If there is an omniscient God, then either the past is open or the future is fixed'. Is this statement true?

6. What, if anything, is wrong with Anselm's ontological argument?

7. 'Since there are no brute facts, there is a necessary being'. Discuss.

8. Must belief in God be based on evidence in order for it to be reasonable?

9. What is Swinburne's 'principle of credulity'? Can it be used to justify

beliefs about God on the basis of religious experience?

10. Could one wager one's spiritual destiny in the manner proposed by Pascal?
11. Describe and evaluate Hume's criticisms of the argument from design.
12. 'All religious statements are meaningless'. Discuss.
13. EITHER (a) Have we any reason to believe in a life after death?
(b) 'If one is committed to the idea of an immortal soul one must be a dualist of some persuasion'. Discuss.
14. Does so-called Reformed epistemology refute the claims of natural theology?
15. What is fideism? Can it be rationally defended?

END OF PAPER