

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**577 0110**

**MA Examination**  
for Internal Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy of Religion**

Thursday 29 May 2008: 2.30 – 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Either (a) Do we need to appeal to God's creative activity to explain why the universe exists?  
Or (b) How far do versions of the design argument based on the regular functioning of the universe address difficulties with the version put forward by Paley?
2. Is it reasonable to believe in God on the basis of religious experience?
3. Formulate and evaluate one version of the ontological argument.
4. 'Pascal's Wager no more supports belief in God than belief in Zeus.' Discuss.
5. What does it mean to say that religious beliefs are properly basic? Evaluate this claim.
6. How defensible is the view that terms that refer to God and terms that refer to his properties are co-referential?
7. If God knows that Tom will murder Tim next week, is it still in Tom's power not to murder Tim?
8. What, in your view, is the best solution to the paradox of the stone?
9. 'There are some evils for which the theist can provide no adequate explanation.' Discuss.
10. If God knows our needs, what is the purpose of petitionary prayer?
11. 'The main difficulties for belief in life after death are concerned with the nature of personal identity.' Assess this claim.
12. 'John Hick's pluralism fails to take seriously the differences between the world's religions.' Discuss.
13. Is there a distinctively feminist philosophy of religion?

14. Does metaphor enable us to say things about God which can be said in no other way?
15. Does Basil Mitchell offer an effective response to Antony Flew's 'falsification challenge'?
16. Is religion a language-game?
17. What, for Iris Murdoch, is the relationship between God and 'the Good'? How far is Murdoch's 'belief' in the Good vulnerable to the same objections as belief in God?

END OF PAPER