

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0110

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy of Religion

Friday 22 May 2009 : 10.00 – 1.00 pm

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

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1. What are the significant objections to any one form of the cosmological argument. Can they be overcome?
2. To what extent can the Principle of Testimony and the Principle of Credulity support belief in God?
3. 'The moral law leads to religion' (Kant). Assess this claim.
4. 'The ontological argument makes an unjustified leap from a concept to reality.' Discuss with reference to any two versions of the argument.
5. Can Reformed Epistemologists offer a satisfactory response to the Great Pumpkin objection?
6. Is it possible to defend the doctrine of divine simplicity?
7. 'Divine omniscience can be reconciled with human freedom only if God exists timelessly.' Discuss.
8. EITHER a) Is there anything which an omnipotent God cannot do?

OR b) 'God is an underachiever' (Woody Allen). Discuss with reference to one response to the problem of evil.
9. Is it more defensible to believe in miracles defined as extraordinary coincidences than to believe in miracles defined as violations of a natural law by a deity?
10. 'The main difficulties for belief in life after death are concerned with the nature of personal identity.' Discuss.
11. 'There is no single, true religion'. Discuss with reference to the views of John Hick.
12. 'The limitations of our language render us capable of describing God only in terms of what he is not'. Assess this claim.

13. EITHER a) What is the relationship between 'metaphor' and 'model'? To what extent does an understanding of these terms give us a better grasp of the function of religious language?

OR b) Could an understanding of the nature of metaphor help a religious believer to explain what is meant by 'divine personhood'?

14. 'Religious belief is a language-game.' Discuss.

15. Are there any adequate philosophical arguments in favour of belief in Iris Murdoch's 'ethical religion'?

END OF PAPER