

M.A. EXAMINATION 2004

for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY**Philosophy of Religion**

Thursday, 27 May 2004: 10.00 - 1.00.

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER (a) To what extent do Hume's criticisms undermine the argument from (or to) design?
OR (b) Does religious experience yield knowledge of God?
2. Is existence a perfection? What are the implications of your answer for the validity of the ontological argument?
3. '[I]f you win, you win everything; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager that [God] exists then, without hesitating' (Pascal). Is this a reasonable strategy?
4. Can a Reformed Epistemologist successfully differentiate between beliefs which may legitimately be regarded as properly basic, and those which may not?
5. On what grounds might one hold that God is simple? Can the difficulties associated with this view be overcome?
6. EITHER (a) Does Boethius's notion of conditional necessity enable us to say both that God is omniscient and that human beings are free?
OR (b) Are there any powers which an omnipotent God need not possess?
7. Critically assess any ONE scholar's response to the problem of evil.
8. 'The main function of petitionary prayer is to strengthen the relationship between the believer and God.' Discuss.
9. Is it possible for the soul to survive death?

10. Does Aquinas's doctrine of analogy successfully steer a middle course between univocal and equivocal uses of language applied to both God and human beings?

TURN OVER

11. The God-hypothesis has been 'killed by inches, the death by a thousand qualifications' (Flew). Assess any TWO responses to this claim.
12. Is it possible to believe in God without being committed to any 'supernatural' claims? Discuss with reference to ONE scholar whose work you have studied.

END OF PAPER