

**January Exam 2009**  
**Mock Exam 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Unit 1 Religious Studies – FOUNDATIONS**  
**Area A: Philosophy of Religion**

***1. A study of philosophical arguments about the existence of God***

- **DESIGN (Teleological Argument)– Key ideas, strengths and weaknesses** (DF 4 weeks 8<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Argument from:**

Aquinas, Paley, Tennant, Swinburne

Empirical basis, interpretation of experience, role of analogy regarding cause and effect, cumulative effect of evidence, and notions of 'God' in this argument (a posteriori reasoning and inductive argument)

Supplemental:

Understanding and evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses.

Need to be able to identify the features of strengths and weaknesses from

**Criticisms from:**

Hume, Mill, Kant, Darwin, Dawkins

Open to alternative interpretations such as Intelligent Design debate.

**Counter arguments from:**

Alister McGrath

William Lane Craig

Norman Geisler etc...

**Resources:**

1. Text book pages 12-27

2. Shared area for articles and power points (Edexcel A level: Design Argument)

3. [www.tringre.co.uk](http://www.tringre.co.uk) for websites plus:

<http://www.counterbalance.org/> (search purpose and design)

<http://bethinking.org/> (Search design)

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/d/design.htm>

<http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/atheismintro.html>

[http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page\\_id=24](http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page_id=24)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/teleological-arguments/>

[http://post16.reonline.org.uk/tt\\_alinks.php?120](http://post16.reonline.org.uk/tt_alinks.php?120)

[http://www.josh.org/download/pdf/arguments\\_for\\_gods\\_existence.pdf](http://www.josh.org/download/pdf/arguments_for_gods_existence.pdf)

<http://www.carm.org/apologetics/teleological.htm>

[http://www.theopedia.com/Arguments\\_for\\_the\\_existence\\_of\\_God](http://www.theopedia.com/Arguments_for_the_existence_of_God)

[http://www.apologetics.com/default.jsp?bodycontent=/articles/theistic\\_apologetics/ross-watchmaker.html](http://www.apologetics.com/default.jsp?bodycontent=/articles/theistic_apologetics/ross-watchmaker.html)

## • **Cosmological – key ideas, strengths and weaknesses** (DF 4 weeks 29<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October)

### **Argument from:**

Aquinas  
Kalaam versions  
Leibniz  
Copleston

### **Key ideas:**

principle of sufficient reason, interpretation of experience, concepts such as movement, cause and effect, contingency, infinite regress, first cause, and necessary existence

### **Supplemental:**

Identifying, understanding and evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses. Make informed judgements about its merits, or otherwise, of these strengths and weaknesses.

### **Criticism from:**

Hume  
Kant  
Russell  
Alternative explanations

Notion of brute facts, Debates about infinite regress, Necessary existence, Type of 'God'

### **Counter argument:**

Alister McGrath  
William Lane Craig  
Norman Geisler  
Etc...

### **Resources:**

1. Text book pages 27-40
2. Shared area for articles and power points (Edexcel A level: Cosmological Argument)
3. [www.tringre.co.uk](http://www.tringre.co.uk) for websites plus:  
<http://www.counterbalance.org/> (search cosmological)  
<http://bethinking.org/> (Search cosmological)  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmological-argument/>  
[http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page\\_id=19](http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page_id=19) (see also the Contingence and Kalaam links)  
[http://www.josh.org/download/pdf/arguments\\_for\\_gods\\_existence.pdf](http://www.josh.org/download/pdf/arguments_for_gods_existence.pdf)  
[http://post16.reonline.org.uk/tt\\_alinks.php?121](http://post16.reonline.org.uk/tt_alinks.php?121)  
<http://www.carm.org/apologetics/cosmological.htm>  
[http://www.theopedia.com/Arguments\\_for\\_the\\_existence\\_of\\_God](http://www.theopedia.com/Arguments_for_the_existence_of_God)  
[http://www.apologetics.com/default.jsp?bodycontent=/articles/theistic\\_apologetics/beck-cosmology.html](http://www.apologetics.com/default.jsp?bodycontent=/articles/theistic_apologetics/beck-cosmology.html)

## ***2. A study of selected problems in the philosophy of religion***

- **Problems of evil and suffering, different types of problems and solutions**

(PT 8<sup>th</sup> Sept to 28th November)

**The problem of suffering in Christianity:  
Moral and non-moral, issues about the type of 'God'.**

### **Solutions to the problem:**

#### **Theodicies:**

Augustine, Irenaeus, Hick and Process Theology

#### **Key concepts:**

Free will defence (Platinga)

Vale of soul making (Hick)

Best of all possible worlds ([http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page\\_id=54](http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page_id=54))

#### **Evaluation:**

Weighing up of the strengths and weaknesses of the scholarly approaches both of the problems and the solutions

#### **Resources:**

1. Text book pages 41-55
2. Shared area for articles and power points (Edexcel A level: Evil and Suffering)  
[http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page\\_id=52](http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page_id=52)  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/evil/>  
<http://www.theopedia.com/Evil>  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14569a.htm> (theodicy)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05649a.htm> (evil)  
<http://www.theopedia.com/Theodicy>  
<http://www.philosophyonline.co.uk/pages/evil.htm>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodicy>  
[http://www.christiancadre.org/topics/evil\\_suffering.html](http://www.christiancadre.org/topics/evil_suffering.html)  
<http://www.str.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=7507> (see also video resources)

- **A study of philosophical debates about miracles** (DF 4 weeks 3<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November)

**a) Concepts of miracle, reasons to believe in miracles;**

'laws of nature': Hume

'interventionist God': Biblical (see Fruchtenbaum)

'contingency principle': R F Holland

**Philosophical reasons and evidence to believe in miracles**

Philosophical problems with reference to Hume

**Debate:** Proof and probability

**Possible further reference to:**

Locke  
Moore  
Swinburne  
Wiles

***This section will be studied alongside the Area I: New Testament 1. The meaning and significance of the miracles (Fourth Gospel)***

Significance of miracles: the power of God, mighty works, and signs.

E.g. 1. Water into wine, 2. the Official's son, 3. healing at the pool, 4. walking on water.

(bear in mind the religious, social, cultural and historical background to life at the time of Jesus Christ.)

You will need to be able to discuss the importance of these miracles for Jesus and the views of scholars.

**Resources:**

1. Text book pages 56-64

Miracles: Advanced Religious Studies, pages 369-405, Philip Allen Updates

2. Shared area for articles and power points (Edexcel A level: Miracles)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/miracles/>

[http://www.carm.org/evidence/Jesu\\_miracles.htm](http://www.carm.org/evidence/Jesu_miracles.htm)

[http://www.bible.org/topic.php?topic\\_id=79](http://www.bible.org/topic.php?topic_id=79)

[http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page\\_id=46](http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/?page_id=46)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10338a.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle>

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/m/miracles.htm>

(see you tube and John's Gospel)

[www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com)

<http://bethinking.org/search.php?q=miracles>

## Area I: New Testament

### 1. ***Key issues in the study of the teachings of Jesus Christ (using the New International Version: NIV)***

#### • **The 'I am' sayings (Fourth Gospel)**

**(Summer holiday, half term and Christmas holiday project in for 28<sup>th</sup> November)**

Present a 2000 word typed document with references to books, websites used, etc. (see library site for referencing)

Examination and evaluation of the meaning and significance of the sayings:

1. I am the bread of life
2. I am the light of the world
3. I am the good shepherd
4. I am the gate for the sheep
5. I am the resurrection and the life
6. I am the way, the truth and the life
7. I am the true vine

A knowledge and understanding of Jesus' teaching, the background and the context of the sayings.

Links to the Old Testament (references)

Description and meaning of the symbolism and the views of various scholars

#### **References:**

Advanced Religious Studies, pages 369-405, Philip Allen Updates

[http://www.bible.org/series.php?series\\_id=241](http://www.bible.org/series.php?series_id=241)

<http://www.bibletexts.com/terms/i-am.htm>

<http://www.acns.com/~mm9n/iam/iam.htm>

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rsposse/iamintro.htm>

<http://www.crivoice.org/IAM.html>

John's Gospel (Methodist site): <http://www.crivoice.org/biblestudy/bbjohn.html>

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) (check out all the various study tools and resources for John)

<http://www.biblegateway.com/> (check out all the various study tools and resources for John)

#### **E.g. Exam Question:**

**Examine the meaning of the saying 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (21)**

**With regard to your answer consider why this saying was so controversial at that time. (9)**