

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Edexcel GCE**

# Religious Studies

**Advanced**

## Unit 4: Implications – The Study of Philosophy of Religion

Wednesday 15 June 2011 – Morning

**Time: 1 hour 15 minutes**

Paper Reference

**6RS04/1A**

**You do not need any other materials.**

Total Marks

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Read the passage carefully.
- Answer **BOTH** part (a) and part (b) of the question.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication will be taken into account in the marking of all your responses.  
– *you should take particular care with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression, on these questions.*

### Advice

- The assessment of your answers will be based on your knowledge and understanding of the topic in question (for 60% of the marks) and your evaluative skills (for 40% of the marks).

Turn over ►

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## Philosophy of Religion

Modern philosophy of religion grew out of a deep dissatisfaction with historic Christianity. But the response of Hume and his followers was very different from that of Kant and his followers. Instead of seeking an alternative religion, inoffensive to modernity, they looked to see whether the problem might not lie at the very heart of religion and not in the disposable husks.

Suspicion, rather than scepticism, arises when instead of asking about the evidence for or against religious beliefs one asks what motives underlie religious beliefs and practices, and what functions they play in the lives of believers. In the *Natural History of Religion* Hume develops a notion of instrumental religion according to which piety is primarily a flattering of the gods grounded in selfish hopes and fears. The piety of self-interest immediately gives rise to self-deception, since the pious soul cannot acknowledge that it has reduced the sacred to nothing but a means to its own ends.

(Source: Westphal, M. *The Emergence of Modern Philosophy of Religion* in Quinn, P. and Taliaferro, C. (eds) *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, Blackwell, 2002, p132)

1. (a) Examine the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. (30)
- (b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. (20)

**(Total 50 marks)**

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**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1A: 50 MARKS**

**Start your answer on page 3.**



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**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1A: 50 MARKS**

