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Other names

Pearson
Edexcel GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Religious Studies

Advanced

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

Wednesday 17 June 2015 – Afternoon

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 question 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.*

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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PEARSON

Philosophy of Religion

A number of mid-twentieth-century theologians and philosophers of religion maintained, in more or less similar ways, that religious experience is a source of religious knowledge, and that the way such knowledge arises is not from reasoning or argument, but from *intuition*. God (the primary object of religious knowledge for these thinkers) is known through finite things – events and experiences in time and space. (Human beings could not otherwise have any contact with God.) But he is known indirectly, in and through such media. His reality is not arrived at merely as the conclusion of an argument based upon them.

The writers who presented this position began by drawing attention to the important part played by direct, intuitive awareness in other areas of our knowledge, areas that are well established and beyond dispute. They then argued that an intuitive awareness arising through religious interpretations of experience can also be claimed as a way of knowing, though in this case it is knowledge of God that the intuition grasps.

(Source: Donovan, P. 'Can we know God by experience?' In Davies, B. (ed.) *Philosophy of Religion: a guide and anthology*, Oxford University Press, 2000, Edexcel Anthology)

- 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 for Question 1 = 50 marks)

Start your answer on Page 3.



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TOTAL FOR PAPER 1A = 50 MARKS

