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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 – Christianity

Tuesday 27 June 2017 – Morning

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper Reference

6RS04/1D

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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Christianity

Christian theism is a specification of more generic religious conceptions. At the most general level, it is an instance of William James's 'religious hypothesis':

- 1 There is a higher universe.
- 2 We are better off if we believe this and act accordingly.
- 3 Communion with the higher universe 'is a process wherein work is really done,' and effects produced in the visible world.

James's 'higher universe' can be interpreted in a number of ways, however – as an impersonal power or force, as 'emptiness,' as cosmic law, and so on. Theists construe it as God – an omniscient mind, an omnipotent will, an unlimited love. Christians are distinguished from other theists by their understanding of the Godhead as both one and three, and by their belief that God has redeemed the world through Jesus of Nazareth.

Many philosophical difficulties which the literature associates with Christianity are problems for any religious worldview. Whether religious hypotheses are metaphysically otiose (serves no practical purpose), for example, and naturalism sufficient. Or whether religious language is cognitively meaningful and (if it is) what kind of meaning it has. Or whether experience of the "higher universe" is genuinely possible.

(Source: adapted from Wainwright, W. 'Christianity' in Quinn, P. and Taliaferro, C. (ed) *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, Blackwell, 2002, 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 1D = 50 MARKS

