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Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours	Paper reference	9RS0/01
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Religious Studies

Advanced

PAPER 1: Philosophy of Religion

<p>You do not need any other materials.</p>	<p>Total Marks</p>
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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.
- There are **three** sections in this question paper. Answer **all** the questions in each section.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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Q:1/1/1/1

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- 1** Explore the contribution of symbol to debates about religious language.

(8)

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(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)

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2 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of **one** critique of religious belief.

(12)



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(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

Let us begin with a parable. It is a parable developed from a tale told by John Wisdom in his haunting and revelatory article 'Gods'. Once upon a time two explorers came upon a clearing in the jungle. In the clearing were growing many flowers and many weeds. One explorer says, 'Some gardener must tend this plot.' The other disagrees, 'There is no gardener.' So they pitch their tents and set a watch. No gardener is ever seen. 'But perhaps he is an invisible gardener.' So they set up a barbed-wire fence. They electrify it. They patrol with bloodhounds. (For they remember how H. G. Wells's 'Invisible Man' could be both smelt and touched though he could not be seen.) But no shrieks ever suggest that some intruder has received a shock. No movements of the wire ever betray an invisible climber. The bloodhounds never give cry. Yet still the Believer is not convinced. 'But there is a gardener, invisible, intangible, insensible to electric shocks, a gardener who has no scent and makes no sound, a gardener who comes secretly to look after the garden which he loves.' At last the Sceptic despairs, 'But what remains of your original assertion? Just how does what you call an invisible, intangible, eternally elusive gardener differ from an imaginary gardener or even from no gardener at all?'

(Source: extract from *The Philosophy of Religion* edited by Basil Mitchell, Oxford University Press, 1977, Chapter I, Theology and Falsification: A Symposium, Edexcel Anthology)

- 3** (a) Clarify the idea that the Believer's original assertion has 'died the death of a thousand qualifications'.

You must refer to the passage in your response.

(10)

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(b) Analyse the distinctive ideas contained in R M Hare's and Basil Mitchell's responses to Flew's use of the Parable of the Gardener.

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(Total for Question 3 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS



SECTION C**Write your answer in the space provided.**

- 4** Evaluate the view that arguments for the existence of God can do no more than increase the probability of God's existence.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Philosophy of Religion have been influenced by **one** of the following:

- Religion and Ethics
- New Testament Studies
- Study of a Religion.

(30)

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS



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