

Paper Reference(s) 9RS0/01
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Religious Studies

Advanced

PAPER 1: Philosophy of Religion

Monday 10 June 2024 – Morning

Time: 2 hours

Text Booklet

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THE QUESTION PAPER.**

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COPLESTON:

Take the proposition “if there is a contingent being then there is a Necessary Being.” I consider that that proposition hypothetically expressed is a necessary proposition. If you are going to call every necessary proposition an analytic proposition, then – in order to avoid a dispute in terminology – I would agree to call it analytic, though I don’t consider it a tautological proposition. But the proposition is a necessary proposition only on the supposition that there is a contingent being. That there is a contingent being actually existing has to be discovered by experience, and the proposition that there is a contingent being is certainly not an analytic proposition, though once you know, I should maintain, that there is a contingent being, it follows of necessity that there is a Necessary Being.

RUSSELL:

The difficulty of this argument is that I don’t admit the idea of a Necessary Being and I don’t admit that there is any particular meaning in calling other beings “contingent.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Question 3:

(Source: extract from A Debate on the Existence of God – A Debate between Bertrand Russell and Father Frederick C Copleston, 1948, taken from: <http://www.biblicalcatholic.com/apologetics/p20.htm>, Edexcel Anthology)