



PHI 2005 Philosophy of Religion

8.00 – 10.00

Monday 4th June 2012

NO DICTIONARIES ALLOWED

Answer one question from each section.
Please use a separate script for each question.
(Each question carries 50 marks)

Section A: Philosophy of Religion

1. Evaluate philosophically the claim that the regularities and order observed in nature provide us with strong reasons to believe in God.
2. Evaluate Immanuel Kant's moral argument for the existence of God in the light of his claim that religious faith must be a matter of taking a hopeful view of human destiny.
3. Why should one speak of God's existence in a 'dissimilar–similar' way to the manner in which one would speak of one's own existence? What could such a manner of speaking reveal about God?

Section B: Islamic Philosophy

4. Discuss the nature and the development of Islamic philosophy.
5. According to al-Kindi:
Sorrow is a pain of the soul occurring from the loss of things loved or from having things sought for elude us.

Elaborate on this statement and explain the process described by al-Kindi concerning the attainment of happiness in his treatise *The Art of Dispelling Sorrows*.
6. According to Ibn Rushd:
If the activity of 'philosophy' is nothing more than study of existing beings and reflection on them as indications of the Artisan, i.e. inasmuch as they are products of art (for beings only indicate the Artisan through our knowledge of the art in them, and the more perfect this knowledge is, the more perfect the knowledge of the Artisan becomes), and if the Law has encouraged and urged reflection on beings, then it is clear that what this name signifies is either obligatory or recommended by the Law.
Comment on the line of argumentation adopted by Ibn Rushd and compare it with the following affirmation of Thomas Aquinas:
Although the truth of the Christian faith surpasses the capacity of the reason, nevertheless that truth that the human reason is naturally endowed to know cannot be opposed to the truth of the Christian faith.