1 Explore ideas about analogy in the design argument for the existence of God. (8)

**Exam Questions**

**Philosophy**

2 Assess the debate between Copleston and Russell on religious experience as an

argument for the existence of God . (12)

Section 3

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

*A fine brash hypothesis may be killed by inches, the death by a thousand qualifications...*

*It seems to people who are not religious as if there was no conceivable event the occurrence of which would be admitted by religious people to be a reason for conceding ‘There wasn’t a God after all.’ Someone tells us that God loves us as a father loves his children. But then we see a child dying of inoperable cancer of the throat.*

*His earthly father is driven frantic in his efforts to help, but his heavenly Father reveals no signs of concern. Some qualification is made – God’s love is ‘not merely human love’. But then we ask: Just what would have to happen to entitle us to say ‘God does not exist’? A believer’s statement has been so eroded that it is no longer an assertion at all.* Source: Quote from ‘The Philosophy of Religion’, Flew, A.

3 (a) Clarify the ideas illustrated in this passage about falsification in religious language. **You must refer to the**

**passage in your response**. (10)

(b) Analyse the implications for religious language from this passage. (20)

4 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the belief in immortality of the soul and reincarnation.

In your response to this question, you must include how developments in Philosophy of Religion have been

influenced by one of the following:

• Philosophy of Religion • Religion and Ethics • New Testament Studies. (30)

1 Explore key views about resurrection. (8)

2 Assess the key ideas of the Ontological Argument. (12)

Section 3

Read the following passage before answering the questions.

*“The traditional arguments for the existence of God have been fairly thoroughly criticized by philosophers. But the theologian can, if he wishes, accept this criticism. He can admit that no rational proof of God’s existence is possible. And he can still retain all that is essential to his position, by holding that God’s existence is known in some other non-rational way. I think, however, that a more telling criticism can be made by way of the traditional problem of evil. Here it can be shown, not that religious beliefs lack rational support, but that they are positively irrational, that the several parts of the essential theological doctrine are inconsistent with one another, so that the theologian can maintain his position as a whole only by a much more extreme rejection of reason than in the former case. He must now be prepared to believe, not merely what cannot be proved, but what can be disproved from other beliefs that he also holds.*

(Source: extract from J.L. Mackie ‘Evil and Omnipotence’ (1977) in The Philosophy of Religion).

3 (a) Clarify the views of Mackie for an understanding of the problem of suffering**. You must refer to the passage**

**in your response**. (10)

(b) Analyse two possible solutions to the problem of suffering. (20)

4 Evaluate the key emphases in critiques of religious belief .

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

• Philosophy of Religion • Religion and Ethics • New Testament Studies. (30)