

X265/701

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2011

MONDAY, 30 MAY
1.00 PM – 3.00 PM

RELIGIOUS, MORAL
AND PHILOSOPHICAL
STUDIES
ADVANCED HIGHER

Candidates should answer **two** questions:

one from Section A—Philosophy of Religion, and

one from the Optional units, either Section B—Religious Experience or
Section C—Medical Ethics.

Each **section** should be answered in a **separate** answer booklet.

30 marks are assigned to each question.



SECTION A

Philosophy of Religion

1. “Unless there are grounds or evidence for God’s existence, we should presume that there is no God.”

Do you agree?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of the atheist position
- an explanation of the distinction between assumption and presumption
- an analysis and evaluation of the atheist position
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

2. Do you agree that science weakens traditional arguments for God being the First Cause of the Universe?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of arguments presenting God as the First Cause of the Universe
- an explanation of the challenges presented by science to these arguments
- an analysis and evaluation of the extent to which science has weakened traditional arguments for God being the First Cause of the Universe
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

SECTION B

Religious Experience

1. “Without religious experiences, there would be no religion.”

How acceptable is this view?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of the classifications of religious experience
- an analysis of the nature of religious experience including from a faith perspective
- an evaluation of their impact in religious traditions and human culture
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

2. Can religious experiences be explained without reference to God?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of secular perspectives on religious experience
- an analysis of the secular views of religious experience
- an evaluation of the validity of the methods and conclusions of secular perspectives and studies of religious experience
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

SECTION C

Medical Ethics

1. “The most important issue in the debate about abortion is the right to life.”

How far would religious and secular views agree with this statement?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of religious views on the right to life
- a clear description of secular views on the right to life
- an analysis and evaluation of the extent of agreement between religious and secular views on the right to life
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

2. Why might developing synthetic organs be the most ethical solution to the organ shortage?

Your answer **may** include:

- a clear description of the methods of organ procurement
- a clear description of the issues related to the procurement of organs
- an analysis and evaluation of the use of synthetic organs as the most ethical solution to the organ shortage
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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