



2011 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher 2011

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.

Marking Information

Examples of areas covered:

- the atheist position
- presumption and assumption
- internal coherence
- external coherence
- nature of God
- existence of evil
- nature of the universe
- atheist responses to criticism
- effectiveness of responses to criticism.

(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.**

Marking information

Examples of areas covered:

- Cosmological argument
- Design argument
- Big Bang theory
- Oscillating theory
- Steady State theory
- Evolutionary theory
- Scientific methodology
- Implications of Cosmological discoveries
- Implications of Evolutionary discoveries
- Response of religion.

(30)

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 from a faith perspective**
- **an evaluation of their impact in religious traditions and human culture**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Examples of areas covered:

- Definitions of religious experience
- Categories of religious experience
- Frequency of religious experiences
- Role of religious experiences in religions
- Impact for those who have the religious experience
- Impact for those who read about others' religious experiences
- Civil religion
- Faith perspectives
- Secular perspective.

(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.**

Examples of areas covered:

- Definitions of religious experience
- Psychological explanations
- Sociological explanations
- Physiological explanations
- Compare and contrast findings from these different areas
- Case studies which support and/or challenge their findings
- Evaluations eg consistency of religious experience across time, religious traditions and culture
- Do all religious experiences point to 'God'?
- Consider the objectivity of those putting forward theories and conducting research.

(30)

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 argument between religious and secular views on the right to life**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking Information

Examples of areas covered:

- relevant situations in relation to abortion
- religious views on the right to life
- secular views on the right to life
- definitions of life and death
- UK laws
- definitions of personhood
- sanctity of life
- care v killing/allowing to die.

(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 synthetic organs as the most ethical solution to the organ shortage**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking information

Examples of areas covered:

- methods of procurement
- sources of organs
- UK law
- religious teachings on organ donation
- secular teachings on organ donation
- presumed consent
- allocation of organs (as a solution to the shortage).

(30)

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]