



2012 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher 2012

Section A – Philosophy of Religion

1. “Arguments for the First Cause establish the existence of God.”

Discuss the validity of this statement.

Your answer may include:

- **a description of the First Cause Argument**
- **analysis and evaluation of the strength and weaknesses of the First Cause Argument**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking Information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates' answers and related to the statement:

- description of First Cause Arguments (eg Aquinas, Kalam, Davies, Craig)
- criticism of First Cause Arguments (eg Hume, Russell, Hawking)
- concept of Christian God v The Uncaused Cause
- concepts of infinity
- scientific discoveries in relation to the First Cause
- impact of scientific arguments on the First Cause arguments.

2. Evaluate the persuasiveness of arguments for atheism.

Your answer may include:

- **a description of atheist positions**
- **an analysis and evaluation of atheist positions**
- **reasoned and personal conclusions throughout.**

Marking information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates' answers and related to the statement:

- descriptions of atheist positions (eg Clifford, Hume, Hitchens)
- historical development of atheism
- presumptions of atheism
- coherence of God
- existence of suffering and evil
- impact of scientific arguments on atheism.

Section B – Religious Experience

1. **“There are no such things as core religious experiences: they are personal and unique to each individual.”**

Discuss this statement.

Your answer may include:

- **a description of religious experiences**
- **analysis of different attempts to identify core components**
- **an evaluation of how successful these attempts have been**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking Information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates' answers and related to the statement:

- varieties and definitions of religious experience
- classifications of religious experiences
- core components identified (eg Otto, Alistair Hardy Research Centre, Stance)
- core components in culture
- objectivity in the study of subjective experience
- evaluation of the various positions taken on core religious experiences.

2. “Conversion leads to a greater understanding of the Divine.”

How central is conversion in religious belief and practice?

Your answer may include:

- **a description of conversion experiences**
- **analysis and evaluation of the importance placed on conversion within different religions**
- **analysis and evaluation of other experiences perhaps seen as more central**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates’ answers and related to the statement:

- descriptions and examples of conversions
- the role of conversion in sacred texts, worship and religious communities
- impact of conversions on the individual and the community
- implications of conversions for atheism
- the role religious experience as a whole has within different religions
- comparison of the role of conversion in different religions to other religious experiences.

Section C – Medical Ethics

1. **“Anything that increases the success rate of IVF should be welcomed.”**

Discuss this statement with reference to religious and secular views.

Your answer may include:

- **a description of issues related to IVF and its ongoing developments**
- **an analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints on the statement**
- **an analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints on the statement**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates' answers and related to the statement:

- examples and implications of IVF developments and uses
- the law relating to IVF and embryo research
- the status of the embryo
- definitions of personhood
- religious statements and responses
- secular statements and responses.

2. “The existence of palliative care weakens the case for euthanasia.”

Why might this statement be considered controversial?

Your answer may include:

- **a clear description of issues related to palliative care and euthanasia**
- **an analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints on the statement**
- **an analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints on the statement**
- **Personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Marking information

The following broad areas may be discussed or described in candidates' answers and related to the statement:

- euthanasia types and methods
- palliative aims, objectives and practice
- legislation and policy on euthanasia and palliative care
- definitions of death
- arguments surrounding palliative care and euthanasia
- religious statements and responses
- secular statements and responses.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]