



2010 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Advanced Higher 2010

Section A – Philosophy of Religion

- 1. Evaluate the claim that the use of analogy is the fundamental flaw in the Design Argument for the existence of God.**

Your answer may include:

- a clear description of the Design Argument
- an explanation of the use of analogy
- analysis and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the use of analogy
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

The Design Argument

The basic argument from design indicates that:

- the universe has order, regularity and purpose
- it is sufficiently complex to show evidence of design
- this kind of design infers a designer
- the designer of the universe is God.

An explanation of the use of analogy

- Aquinas claims that things that lack intelligence cannot move towards their end unless they are directed by someone with knowledge and intelligence.
- Analogy of the watch designer and God.
- Explanation of analogical reasoning.

Analysis and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the use of analogy

- An unsound analogy.
- Similar effects do not necessarily imply similar causes.
- Analogy makes God more human than divine.
- Analogy leads to a non-moral God.
- Allows that there is an analogy between artefacts and natural objects but suggests that we need 'transcendental' arguments.

Draw personal conclusions based on the analysis and evaluation carried out.

(30 marks)

2. **“Cosmological arguments for the existence of God are more convincing than the atheist arguments against the existence of God.”**

Do you agree with this statement?

Your answer may include:

- **a clear description of the atheist’s position**
- **an explanation of the Cosmological Argument**
- **an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Presumption of Atheism

- A clear description of the atheist’s position (as distinct from the agnostic’s).
- What is presumption?
- Presumption as a procedural notion based on goals or purposes that are desirable.
- Inductive reasoning – does this present a problem?

An explanation of the cosmological argument

- The Unmoved Mover
- The Uncaused Cause
- Possibility and Necessity

An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each

- No evidence for the existence of God.
- God’s omnipotence cannot be maintained.
- God is not all knowing.
- God’s goodness and power are not compatible with the evils of the world.
- Cosmological Argument rejects idea of infinite regress.
- Impact of modern scientific cosmological explanations on Cosmological Argument.

Draw personal conclusions based on the analysis and evaluation carried out.

(30 marks)

Section B – Religious Experience

1. Do the research findings in the field of religious experience conflict with religious faith?

Your answer may include:

- **clear descriptions of studies of religious experience together with their conclusions**
- **a comparison of the research findings**
- **an evaluation of them in relation to faith perspectives on religious experience**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Description of studies of religious experience

- Common characteristics.
- Taxonomies.
- Methods of investigation.
- Is there such a thing as a ‘core’ religious experience?
- Is it a rare, widespread or common phenomenon?
- Trigger events – conversion, mystical experiences.

Description of religious experience

- Conversion
- Saintliness
- Asceticism
- Mysticism
- The numinous

Comparison of findings

- Identification of any patterns.
- Connections with religion – doctrine, worship, conviction of sin etc.
- The contrary – evidence of no particular link to religion.

An evaluation of them in relation to faith perspectives on religious experience

- What is the strength of the correlation between religious experience and religious faith?
- Does following a religion require a religious experience?
- If religious experiences are ‘natural’, does that cast doubt on their alleged link with God/the divine?
- If they are very rare, what does this say about the object of religious faith?

Draw personal conclusions based on the analysis and evaluation carried out.

(30 marks)

2. **“Secular explanations of religious experience are more convincing than explanations from a faith perspective.”**

Do you agree with this statement?

Your answer may include:

- **clear descriptions of secular interpretations of religious experience**
- **clear descriptions of interpretations of religious experience from a faith perspective**
- **analysis and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of both**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Secular perspectives on religious experience

- Freudian
- Jungian
- Sociological
- Durkheim
- Wilson
- Basis of secular perspectives – scientific materialism, or secular assumptions, or metaphysical scepticism/neutrality
- Conclusions of secular perspectives, eg religious experience is a neurosis, extension of society etc

Faith perspectives on religious experience

- James
- Otto
- Mystical experiences
- Conversion experiences
- Understandings from within religious traditions

A comparison of these bases and findings

- Theories that are based on secular (atheistic) assumptions eg Freud.
- Theories that are based on secular (sceptical) assumptions such as Jung.
- Theories that are based on scientific (materialistic) assumptions.
- Identification of similarities and differences.
- Consistency/inconsistency between assumptions and conclusions.

Evaluation

- Do secular assumptions inevitably lead to secular conclusions?
- Is truth the sole preserve of secularism?
- How objective can secular perspectives be?

A personal conclusion, which may be evident throughout, deriving from a clear argument.

(30 marks)

Section C – Medical Ethics

1 “In some circumstances abortion is the lesser of two evils.”

Discuss this statement with reference to religious and secular views.

Your answer may include:

- a clear description of the issues related to abortion
- an analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints
- an analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

Describe issues related to abortion

- The decision makers
- Status of the embryo
- UK/other legislation
- Alternatives eg fostering, adoption, birth of unwanted children
- Rights of the mother
- Rights of the father
- Rights of the child

Analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints

- Definitions of life
- Sanctity of life
- Double effect
- Divine Will
- The Soul
- Natural law
- Scriptural views
- Teachings of the religion

Analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints

- Definitions of life
- Value of potential life
- Right of mother v rights of child
- Quality v quantity of life
- Cost
- Views of professional associations
- Compassion
- Utilitarian ethics
- Kantian ethics

Draw personal conclusions based on the analysis and evaluation carried out.

(30 marks)

2. **“When considering the prolongation and ending of human life, the quality of a person’s life must be the primary concern.”**

Discuss with reference to religious and secular viewpoints.

Your answer may include:

- **a clear description of situations when this argument might arise**
- **an analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints**
- **an analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints**
- **personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.**

Describe relevant situations

- Organ procurement and allocation
- Life support
- UK Laws
- Decision makers
- Euthanasia
- Palliative care
- Guidance from professional medical associations

Analysis and evaluation of religious viewpoints

- Sanctity of life
- Spiritual resurrection
- Donation of organs living or cadaveric
- Value of suffering for the individual and society
- Playing God
- Double effect
- Care v killing
- Slippery slope
- Scriptural teachings
- Teachings of the religion

Analysis and evaluation of secular viewpoints

- Consent
- Quality v quantity
- Utilitarian (victimless crime)
- Kantian views
- Doctor-patient relationship
- Cost effectiveness
- Compassion
- Ownership of the body
- Professional views
- Views of secular organisations
- UK/other laws

Draw personal conclusions based on the analysis and evaluation carried out.

(30 marks)

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]