

RMPS Advanced Higher

For use in Session 2011/12

Dissertation Topics

Candidates should choose one of the areas below for their research. From this research they should formulate questions or an issue that clearly relates to one of the areas listed. Teachers should ensure that the question/issue formulated is feasible as submission of titles is no longer necessary.

It is recommended that the dissertation should be approximately 4,000 words in length.

Philosophy of Religion

The Cosmological Argument

- 1 A critical evaluation of the Cosmological Argument
- 2 Science and the Cosmological Argument

The Design Argument

- 3 A critical evaluation of the Teleological Argument
- 4 The Theory of Evolution and the Existence of God

Atheism

- 5 The Development of atheism
- 6 The coherence of God

Over-arching

- 7 Atheism and classical theism

Medical Ethics

Beginning of Life

- 8 The importance of personhood in the abortion debate
- 9 The Right to Choose

Prolongation of Life

- 10 Ethical issues in the procurement of organs
- 11 Criteria for the distribution and allocation of organs

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Dissertation Topics (continued)

Medical Ethics (contd)

Ending of Life

- 12 Religious and secular perspectives on palliative care
- 13 Ethical issues arising from assisted suicide

Over-arching

- 14 My body; my choices

Religious Experience

The Nature of Religious Experience

- 15 A discussion of different definitions of religious experience
- 16 The role of spirituality in human experience

Faith Perspectives and Religious Experience

- 17 The relationship between religious faith and religious experience
- 18 Factors leading to religious conversion

Secular Perspectives on Religious Experience

- 19 Religious responses to the challenge of psychology to religious experience
- 20 The challenges of sociology to religious experience

Over-arching

- 21 Religious experience: delusion or revelation