2015 Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies

Intermediate 2

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Part One: General Marking Principles for: Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Intermediate 2

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this Paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the specific Marking Instructions for each question.

(a) Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific Marking Instructions for the relevant question. If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed Marking Instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your Team Leader/Principal Assessor.

(b) Marking should always be positive ie, marks should be awarded for what is correct and not deducted for errors or omissions.

GENERAL MARKING ADVICE: Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Intermediate 2

The marking schemes are written to assist in determining the “minimal acceptable answer” rather than listing every possible correct and incorrect answer. The following notes are offered to support Markers in making judgements on candidates’ evidence, and apply to marking both end of unit assessments and course assessments.

Specific Marking Information

Weighting of Questions: Knowledge and Understanding – Approximately 50% of mark
Analysis and Evaluation – Approximately 50% of mark

Weightings of mark allocations shown in the table are approximate, and should be flexibly rather than rigidly interpreted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment objective</th>
<th>Generic requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and understanding</td>
<td>● Accurate and relevant knowledge of content is demonstrated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● The information is presented in a clear manner</td>
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<td>● Information is communicated effectively using correct</td>
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<td>terminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis and evaluation</td>
<td>● Analysis of beliefs and practices is shown, and/or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Evaluation is balanced and informed</td>
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Where candidates have included material which is irrelevant to the question, markers may use square brackets to indicate this, [    ].

Repetition of material by candidates may be highlighted by using the abbreviation Repetition in the left margin.

Otherwise, only a tick (✓) at each relevant point should be marked on scripts.
Section 1
World Religions

BUDDHISM

(a)  
- Literally translated as suffering.
- Life is full of unsatisfactoriness.
- Different types of suffering: mental, emotional, physical, etc.
- Dukka is one of the three marks of existence

(b)  
(Max 3 marks for only one Noble Truth)
- Samudaya (possibly referred to as Tanha).
- The cause of Dukkha is craving (Tanha)/description of Three Poisons (greed, hatred and ignorance) as a link to this cause of suffering/can be likened to a ‘cause of the illness/symptoms of Dukkha’.
- Nirodha.
- Craving and suffering can be overcome/enlightenment can be achieved (Nibbana)/can be likened to a prognosis for the illness of Dukkha.
- Magga.
- The way in which to achieve this is to follow the Noble Eightfold Path/can be likened to the prescription for ridding oneself of Dukkha.

(c)  
Agree
- Outlines the problems with life (human condition) and how to overcome them and become enlightened.
- Every Buddhist teaching comes from the Four Noble Truths – if you don’t understand them you will never understand other teaching and practice or become enlightened.
- The Buddha taught that blindly following rules and teachings was unhelpful – you must understand in order to progress.

Disagree
- Following the Eightfold Path is more important.
- Buddhism is a religion of meditation – proper meditation practice is most central to achieving enlightenment.
- Achieving good kamma through positive action can bring you closer to enlightenment without the need for much study.
- Some Buddhists may stress the importance of other teachings such as the three root poisons

Page 3
(d) Founder of Buddhism in ‘our age’.
- A role model.
- A teacher.
- Cannot ‘save people’ and get them enlightened – must do it themselves.  

(e) Meditation: Buddhists meditate in groups, often led by one person in a guided meditation or with group chanting.
- A bell or gong usually signals the start/end of meditation and changes throughout.
- Mantras: Buddhists may chant mantras to help them concentrate in meditation and focus on a particular teaching or quality.
- An example may be om mani padme hum (Hail! Oh Jewel in the Lotus!) which is the mantra of Avalokiteshvara.
- Prayer wheels: These may be turned during Mahayana worship.
- They contain scrolls with mantras written on them, and it is believed that turning the wheel will bring the person good kamma.
- Incense: Buddhists may light incense at the beginning of worship.
- The smell would fill the room much as the teachings of Buddhism are universal and the effects of kamma spread far and wide.
- Fresh flowers or fruit may be ‘offered’ in worship.
- These are symbolic of the nature of anicca – these will decay much as we do in life.
- Statue of Buddha: Buddhists meditate towards a statue of the Buddha.
- As a reminder of his teachings and his example, and as personal motivation.  

(f) Agree:
- Buddhism is a religion of meditation, it is essential and has the benefit of helping to achieve enlightenment.
- It is following the teaching of the Buddha as part of the Eightfold Path.
- Meditation has many advantages from furthering understanding of the world.
- Promoting personal wellbeing.

Disagree, there are only benefits/only difficulties:
- Even the smallest amount of meditation in life will bring benefits to the individual like a sense of calm and bringing perspective to life, even where it is not enough to be useful towards enlightenment.
- Only advanced meditation techniques can realistically help bring enlightenment, people are wasting their time if they think they can do it themselves with basic techniques and no understanding.
- It takes time, and it can be hard to make time.
- It may be difficult to find a teacher for more complex meditation practices.
CHRISTIANITY

(a)  
- Realised they were naked.  
- Became frightened to be seen by God.  
- Punished for their disobedience.  
- Trouble for the woman in pregnancy and childbirth.  
- Work would become hard for the man.  
- Banished from the garden.  

(b)  
- He was the creator of humans.  
- He had provided everything that humans would need by placing them in the Garden of Eden.  
- He had given them power over everything … dominion.  
- Humans were to be stewards of the environment and be responsible for the care and wellbeing of all created beings.  
- Humans lived in perfect harmony/relationship with God.  

(c)  
Some Christians would agree  
- They were the first to be given the choice to obey God.  
- Their act of disobedience spoiled the perfection of Eden.  
- Pain and suffering did not exist before their sin.  
- Through Original Sin we all suffer the consequences of their actions.  

Some Christians would disagree  
- Suffering is a result of the Devil.  
- Bible has examples of suffering caused by individuals after Adam and Eve.  
- Christians believe suffering caused by wrong choices.  
- Some Christians do not believe in the existence of Adam and Eve.  
- Suffering can be caused by natural disaster.  

(d)  
(Max 3 marks for only one way)  
- Death of Jesus is an atonement for sin.  
- God and humanity made one again … reconciliation.  
- Death of Jesus is a sacrifice for sin.  
- The OT system of sacrifice for sin fulfilled in the death of Jesus.  
- The death of Jesus was a payment for sin … ransom.  
- Price paid for sin was the shedding of the blood of Jesus.  
- Jesus was punished in the place of humanity … substitute.  
- The death of Jesus is what allows Christians to achieve salvation.
(e) 
- The resurrection proves that Jesus was who he claimed to be, the Son of God.
- Christians can believe that all the promises Jesus made are true.
- Christians believe that the resurrection shows God has the power to do anything.
- Belief in the resurrection gives hope that death is not the end.
- Belief in the resurrection helps to take away the fear of death.
- Belief in the resurrection helps Christians to make sense of the difficulties of this life.
- Belief in the resurrection gives Christians a sense of meaning and purpose in this life.
- Belief in the resurrection leads to peace and joy for Christians.

(f) 
Agree
- Community service can bring benefit to those in need.
- It is a way to bring help to those often ‘missed’ by social services.
- It is taking the church ‘outside the four walls’.
- It is bringing the benefits of the ‘good news’ to people who might never come to church.
- The community benefits by people doing things to improve local circumstances.
- Christians benefit personally by following the example of Jesus.

Disagree
- Serving in the community can lead to misunderstanding.
- Serving in the community requires commitment.
- The possibility of personal harm is a real difficulty.
- Can be difficult to get people to ‘trust’ the church.
- Difficulty of limited resources.
- Difficulty of the problems/needs in the community being too great.
- The purpose of the church is to preach the gospel not social action or community service.
- Community service can take the church/Christians away from their main mission.
- Community service only helps to reinforce a ‘dependency culture’.
- Community service can lead the church into local politics.
- Involvement in community service can make Christians/church premises a target for abuse.
HINDUISM

(a) Saguna - With attributes.
- Personal.
- Many forms.

Nirguna - No attributes.
- Permeates all.
- Atman is identical.
- Brahman is the universe. 2 KU

(b) Ignorance.
- Ignorance of the true nature of Brahman.
- Ignorance of the true nature of the self.
- Ignorance of the true nature of the universe.
- Ignorance of the cause of dukkha.
- Ignorance of the solution to dukkha. 4 KU

(c) Agree
- Because of ignorance, human beings are bound in samsara, and therefore to continual reincarnation so they must overcome this ignorance.
- They must learn and progress from ignorance to escape from samsara and be closer to ultimate release (moksha).
- Avidya is to think that this world is all that exists. This is illusion (maya) and a barrier to enlightenment.
- This illusion (maya/avidya) has to be overcome if spiritual enlightenment is to be achieved so acts as a focus/motivator. 6 AE

(d) The principle of non-violence.
- It means that no harm should be caused to any living creature.
- All forms of life are sacred.
- It means giving up all actions which may lead to the taking of life or shedding of blood. 4 KU
e) Karma/kama
- Path of action and the idea that living according to dharma (duty) can gain good karma and come closer to moksha.
- Aim of karma is the good effect of actions/behaviour and the use of God-given talents and abilities to reach full potential and have beneficial effects on others.
- Aim is to benefit society and serve God by living in the best moral way possible.

Jnana
- Path of knowledge and is most difficult to follow – requires a learned teacher/close study of difficult ideas of Vedas and Upanishads
- These scriptures deal with the Supreme Spirit (Brahman), the individual Spirit (atman) and nature of universe and place of human beings within it and so require significant and concentrated study.
- It is normally accompanied by the process of meditation and requires a great deal of personal discipline to join the spiritual forces of the mind to the material forces of the body to work together in harmony.

Bhakti
- The path of devotion. Aims to experience oneness of atman/Brahman by concentrating on a personal god, eg family deity, representing an aspect of Brahman.
- Belief that by the practice of bhakti, bad karma will be removed and moksha will be achieved more easily, involving complete faith/trust in God and shows surrender to the will of God.
- Usually takes the form of devotion through puja via the family shrine and involves emotions, discipline as well as the intellect. It is the way followed by most Hindus.

f) Agree
- It is seen as an important virtue in Hindu ethics along with truth and honesty, so is encouraged to be practised.
- It guides Hindus to refrain from causing any form of life physical, mental, emotional or moral hurt so has a positive life affirming approach.
- When put into practice by Gandhi and his followers, the police were forced to use long sticks to beat the large numbers of freedom fighters and so use a great deal of violence. This gave Gandhi and his followers the moral high ground as they did not use violent methods.
- Non-violence is powerful because it involves doing something positive to fight for changes in society, even though it avoids killing other human beings.
- They succeed by resisting violence no matter what the provocation from others. Gandhi succeeded because he was prepared to be imprisoned or even die for his beliefs, but he was not prepared to kill.
Disagree

- Ahimsa can have negative effects as it encourages Hindus not to interfere to prevent harm being caused to others.
- By being limited to non-killing or non-shedding of blood, it is indifferent to suffering caused by pain, lack of food and medical care, etc.
- Some Hindus see ahimsa as lacking in compassion and thus against certain noble Hindu principles.
- Some Hindus, in restricting ahimsa to not killing or harming, ignore other forms of pain and suffering experienced by those who by their caste, are condemned to doing dirty jobs all of their lives.
- In the Gita, Krishna advised Arjuna that it was right to fight in a just cause. There are situations where it may not be right to stand back and take no action to prevent suffering, injury and death.
ISLAM

(a)  
- Giving money to charity outwith Zakah.
- Muslims are expected to be charitable and give willingly to others.
- Zakah is mandatory while Sadaqua is not.
- An act out of compassion for others rather than a desire for reward.  

(b)  
(Max 3 marks for only one aim)   
- to become spiritually pure and cleanse your spirit from greed and envy.
- to keep your wealth free from greed and selfishness.
- to be a test of honesty and expenditure.
- to clean the heart from the love of money and power.
- to promote good and justice in the world.
- to develop empathy and understand others who are poor and needy.
- to improve your relationship with Allah and submit to His will.
- to accept that everything you have comes from God.  

(c)  
Agree  
- Taking part in daily ritual is pointless if we do not help those around us.
- Giving to the poor is about identifying the needs of the community and helping them.
- It is a mandatory commitment in Zakah (extra giving is not).
- It is a form of communal worship and is a way of submitting to Allah.
- It helps us demonstrate our gratitude to Allah for what He has provided.
- It allows us to empathise with the poor.
- It is a discipline and a commitment.
- It is a form of spiritual cleansing and stops us from becoming selfish and greedy.

Disagree  
- Prayer is equally mandatory, it is a (Fard) and is therefore equally important to giving zakah (sadaqah) extra giving is not.
- We need the commitment of prayer to help us to help others.
- Prayer is essential to improve our relationship with Allah and bring us closer to Him.
- Only in prayer are we really able to submit personally to the will of Allah.
- Allah knows what we want before we ask but it is important to Him that we recognise that He has provided everything for us.
- Prayer is important in bringing the whole community together.
- We need to do both in order to fulfil our duty to Allah.
(d) They were aware and ashamed of their own nakedness.
Their were banished down to earth from Garden of Bliss (Paradise).
They became ordinary people and had to live for a certain time.
They lost each other and wandered unhappily.
They were forgiven by Allah and reunited with Him on the Mount of Mercy.

(e) It means we are not mere puppets but have choices in how we act.
It gives us the choice to act in a way which will please Allah, making submission more valuable.
Allah knows our destiny but prefers us to choose His Laws out of love rather than fear.
It is the highest freedom given from Allah.
It releases us from slavery from others and makes us servants of Allah alone.
Making our own choices gives us responsibility.
It will lead to eternal life on The Day of Judgement.

(f) Benefits

- They have freedom of choice with our conscience given by Allah to do good or bad.
- They can gain the respect of Allah when we use our freewill wisely.
- They can have a closer relationship with Allah and with others.
- They can have eternal life and enter Paradise with Allah.
- Allah gives us support and guidance to make the right choices.
- The Devil (Iblis) cannot control them completely as they have choices over what they do.
- It makes them strive to be better and deserve Allah’s love and care.

Difficulties

- They have responsibility for their own actions and are accountable alone, they cannot blame others.
- They are able to misuse their freewill to harm themselves and others.
- Human beings are easily drawn away from the ‘straight path’.
- They may act in a way which displeases Allah and not submit to His will.
- They will destroy their relationships with others and Allah.
- Their actions may prevent them from entering Paradise and having eternal life with Allah.
JUDAISM

(a)  
- Humans have to be free to decide to live in relationship with God.  
- Freewill is the ability to choose to do good or bad actions.  
- Humans must be free to choose, we can't have things predetermined.  
- It makes people responsible for their actions.  
- Reference to Gen 3, the story of Adam and Eve.  

(b)  
- One part of human nature which makes us do good.  
- The Yetzer Tov helps people by telling them what God’s law is.  
- It helps the Jewish person have a moral conscience.  
- It works alongside the Yetzer Harah to create a balanced character.  

(c)  
**Agree**  
- We cannot gain life with God if we are not free in the first place.  
- Freewill is what separates us from the other animals in creation.  
- Freewill is a good gift, because Jewish people believe we have to control our dual nature, we need to be free to do this.  
- If humans aren't free and they are doing what God has decided, this would not say much about God. Did God choose some people to do bad?  
- Why would God punish wrongdoing if God makes people do things? Are they not just carrying out God’s wishes?  

**Disagree**  
- We are not completely free, God knows what we are going to do.  
- We are not free to use freewill, our lives are predestined and our choices driven by other factors in our life.  
- How good a gift is it if people decide to carry out horrible actions on fellow human beings?  
- Too many people reject God to make it a good gift.  

(d)  
- The Father of the Jewish People.  
- He made a Covenant with God years before Moses.  
- He is a great role model as he shows complete faith in God.  
- Any example of Abraham’s obedience to God eg leaving Haran for the Promised Land or willing to sacrifice Isaac to show his trust in God.  
- The sign of his covenant with God, circumcision, is still the physical sign of being Jewish today.  
The word Pesach comes from the paschal lamb which was offered on the eve of the festival in the old Temple. This reinforces the agreement between God and his people.

Throughout the Seder Meal, there are many symbols which directly relate to the Covenant between the Jewish people and God – the food eaten.

Different examples of food and their significance to the occasion should be awarded marks.

Throughout the Seder Meal, Jewish people follow the order as laid out in the Haggadah.

During the meal, four glasses of wine are drunk to remind everyone of the promises made to Moses by God as part of the Covenant.

They are re-enacting their history.

Benefits
- It gives Jewish people hope.
- They are always looking towards the future, getting on with their life.
- No matter how bad this life is, they believe it will be better in the future.
- It helps them deal better with life’s difficulties, because they believe that the Messiah will bring the Messianic Age after the suffering of this life.
- It brings people closer together because they share a common belief that the Messiah will come in the future.
- It is the culmination of the Jewish way of life – it’s the reward for staying faithful to God.

Difficulties
- A Jewish person would lose focus in your everyday life.
- People who are suffering find it hard to look forward, they want solutions now.
- They are meant to be looking forward to the end of time, this is not logical.
- Jewish people have been waiting for a Messiah for ages. What evidence is there that he will ever come?
SIKHISM

(a) The soul is pure spirit.
- It is what is truly real about a person.
- It is immortal.
- It is part of God.
- It goes on a journey through many life forms.
- It can reunite with God. 2 KU

(b) (Max 3 marks for only one way)
- Maya can cause Sikhs to become attached to things that do not last.
- Maya can cause Sikhs to forget that God is the only lasting part of existence.
- Maya causes the illusion that happiness can be found in the material world.
- Sikhs might mistakenly think that worldly goals are real and permanent. 4 KU

(c) Accurate
- By remembering God, Sikhs can recognize that God is the only lasting and significant part of all that exists.
- The Guru by his grace gives the antidote for Maya.
- It is Naam, the name of God by which Maya is brought under control.
- By modelling one’s life on the perfection of God and living a dedicated life, the effects of Maya are broken.
- The Guru Granth Sahib says that “those who enshrine love for the Lord find Him in the midst of Maya”.

However
- Maya, as illusion, leads to a powerful attachment to the things in life that do not last.
- The soul mistakenly fails to recognize the God within all things.
- The Guru Granth Sahib describes Maya as a fire which causes even the child to become attached to desires. 6 AE

(d) It is regarded as the Living Guru.
- It contains the Word of God.
- It is a guide for life.
- Meditating on its words can help a Sikh move closer to God.
- It contains divinely inspired compositions by Guru Nanak.
- It is the focus of all Sikh ceremonies. 4 KU
(e)  
• It is brought ceremonially from its special room to the prayer hall.  
• It sits on a raised platform called Manji Sahib.  
• This is above everyone else in the room.  
• The platform has an ornamental canopy over it.  
• When worshippers enter the prayer hall, they bow before the Guru Granth Sahib.  
• Those who read from the Guru Granth Sahib at the service have been trained to read well and with respect.
• When it is not being read, it is covered with a rich embroidered cloth.  

(f)  
**Benefits**  
• It is a spiritual path of returning to God through following God’s Word.  
• It is open to anyone to follow it.  
• Spiritual sincerity leads to an enduring love for God.  
• The path to God through Naam is the only true spiritual path where man’s consciousness can reach its Creator.  
• The Sikh spirituality is based on contemplation of the “word” of God revealed through Guru Nanak.  

**Difficulties**  
• It is easy for a Sikh to forget that true faith is more than merely following spiritual activities.  
• It involves putting the Word of God into action.  
• Compassion for others is also an essential part of Sikh religious life.  
• Spiritual discipline involves selfless service.  
• It is hard to meditate on God at all times.
SECTION 2

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

(a) 
- learning from your mistakes.
- a chance to change and make amends for your wrong doing.
- learning new skills so that you can give something back to society.
- helping others to change and turn from crime.  

(b) 
(Max 3 marks for only one way)
- need for money for addiction – drugs, alcohol etc.
- addiction to drugs and alcohol causes people to act in a different way outwith the law.
- need for money due to unemployment.
- boredom particularly in young men.
- family background – environmental problems can lead to criminal activity becoming a way of life.
- thrill of not getting caught.
- desire for material possessions.
- family circumstances can lead to criminal activity.  

(c) 
(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Humanism

Agree
- Some Humanists might argue that reformation does not always work as many criminals go on to re-offend.
- Some criminals claim to be reformed to get out of prison but later re-offend.

Disagree
- Humanists generally go by the Golden Rule as their ethical principle, based on human understanding and experience.
- They distance themselves from hatred and revenge.
- They believe that punishment should be based on reformation rather than retribution as this is bound to be more effective for society.
- They believe that we must look at the causes of crime and try to stop them from happening.
- Many criminals have rehabilitated and have gone on to encourage others to reform.
Utilitarianism

Agree
- Many would agree as it is a moral theory based on the consequences of actions.
- If it brings the greatest good to society then it can be justified.
- If a person changes due to reformation then it can be justified.
- J S Mill believed that reformation was preferable as many criminals were locked into crime as a way of life and knew no other way.

However
- If reformation fails then it cannot be justified if society then suffers.
- The GHP is difficult to quantify so if retribution was more effective for society then this might be preferable.
- Reformation is too expensive for society.

(d) (Max 3 marks for only one advantage)
- Giving something back to the community.
- A deterrent for crime as it can be humiliating for some.
- A chance to see the effects of crime you committed by working in the community.
- May lead to reformation and change of behaviour for the better.
- Seeing yourself from someone else’s perspective can help you change.
- It is an alternative to prison and reduces pressure on prison.
- Stops petty criminals learning from hardened criminals in prison.

(e)
- They might argue that it is a form of torture (Article 5).
- That it deprives people of any respect at all.
- Nobody has the right to take the life of another.
- All humans are equal and should be treated with respect and the process of conviction can be one-sided.
- It is barbaric and degrading.
- The process of Capital Punishment such as solitary confinement and appeals is a form of mental torture and is wrong.
(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Christianity

Agree
- There is no evidence that capital punishment is an effective deterrent.
- It is inhumane and cannot be justified.
- Jesus preached about forgiveness and told his followers to ‘turn the other cheek’ and not to resort to violence (Matthew 5:38).
- He asked those who were about to stone the woman adulterer to only cast a stone if they were free from guilt.
- Jesus believed that people could change and reform.
- Romans 10:14 We should not judge others as we are not sinless.
- Romans 12:19 We should not take revenge but leave it to God to deal with.

Disagree
- The Law of Talon in Exodus 21:24 can be used to justify capital punishment, 'an eye for an eye'.
- Genesis 20:13 we should not commit murder and if we do we should pay the ultimate penalty.
- Genesis 9:6, man was made like God so whoever murders a man will himself be killed by his fellow man.
- Leviticus 20:9 Capital Punishment was used for crimes other than murder.
- Romans 13 God appoints the governments.

Islam

Agree
- Many Muslims may be against Capital Punishment and argue that it is not an effective deterrent.
- Allah himself showed mercy and we should follow His example.
- Surah 17:33 states that the victim’s heirs have the right to forgive.
- We ‘should not exceed bounds in the matter of taking life, for he is bound by the law’ (Surah 17:33).
- No one should take the law into their own hands or take revenge.
- Allah alone will judge everyone on the day of Judgement.

Disagree
- It is important that justice is seen to be done.
- It is seen to be an effective deterrent and Muslim countries claim to have lower murder rates.
- Many Muslim countries still publicly execute criminals.
- An equivalent punishment should be used.
- Shariah law states that punishment can be justified and be severe enough to provide satisfaction for the family to be avenged.
GENDER

(a)  
- Sexual harassment seen as "playful pranks" in the workplace.
- Stereotyping of jobs, where they were not allowed to do jobs as they were seen as a man’s job or they could only do other jobs because they were women’s jobs.
- Being paid less than men doing the same job.
- Promotion restricted – glass ceiling.
- Unworkable hours creating child-care problems.

(b)  
- They can seek help from their union, who should offer support for the woman being discriminated against.
- They should check and ensure that all laws are being followed and no injustice is being carried out.
- Laws covering discrimination have been drawn up
  - Sex Discrimination Act 1975, has been updated in 2008 with the Sex Discrimination Regulations
  - It is illegal to discriminate between men and women, including reasons of pregnancy and maternity.
  - Equal Pay Act was introduced in 1970, making it illegal to pay people doing the same job differently on grounds of gender. This has now been subsumed under the Equality Act 2010.
  - They can ultimately go the EHRC. This is an amalgamation of the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Disability Rights Commission.
  - Any complaints based on discrimination of gender or age, too young or too old, will be referred to the EHRC.
  - Any complaints or actions taken as a result of gender, sexual orientation or gender reassignment cases will be handled by the EHRC.
(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Humanism

Agree
- Humanists may feel that separate gender roles are justified if they benefit the society in the long-term. The individual may suffer short-term, but on the whole they will benefit.
- If the separate gender roles are not detrimental to the other gender, but benefit society, then Humanists may accept separate gender roles.

Disagree
- Humanists, using the UDHR, would see separate male and female roles as against equality, a basic human right.
- Humanists believe in promoting personal freedom, as equality of the sexes will benefit society. This may not be possible with separate gender roles.
- Humanists believe everyone should have the same opportunities and choices in the worlds of education, employment and home. Separate gender roles would tend to counter this.
- Humanists believe that neither men nor women should have restricted roles imposed on them, separate gender roles could lead to people being restricted.

Utilitarianism
- Utilitarians – the Principle of Utility, right action – the greatest happiness or benefit to the greatest number of people – the majority of people would benefit from equal gender rights, therefore they would see it as right.
- Economic equality would help women in particular, they would not be dependent on their husband or partner. These rights are important to either gender.
- J S Mill wrote the “Subjugation of Women” (1869) about the equality of the sexes – equal gender rights would be right in his eyes.
- Peter Singer wrote “Discrimination on the basis of sex, it has been said, is the last universally accepted form of discrimination”.

Agree
- Using the Principle of Utility as a basis, if separate gender roles benefitted the society, then a Utilitarian would be happy with them.
- If the separate gender roles did not lead to the detriment of the opposite gender, then Utilitarian may be happy to see separate gender roles

Disagree
- Separate gender roles would seem to lead to inequality, this would be wrong from a Utilitarian point of view.
- J S Mill statement would seem to say that separate gender roles would be wrong.
(d)  
- The deliberate killing of female children.
- Population censuses in India show that the number of girls has been falling steadily for the past 20 years relative to the number of boys – Unicef.
- It lessens the stature of females in a society, males are seen as more important.
- Society is structured to benefit boys, not girls. Medical care, education etc is better for boys than girls.
- It creates fear in societies as women do not want to give birth to girls.
- The Canadian group Gendercide Watch claimed, back in 1990’s, there had been an increase in terminations of female foetuses in both India and China
- The Times reported in 2007 that a hospital in India had admitted to a mass grave of female foetuses as the Indian Government attempted a crackdown on this illegal activity.

(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Christianity
Agree
- Gen 1:27 – God created humans in his image, he created them equal, at the same time. This could be used by a religion to show a woman’s importance in society.
- In most Christian churches, it is taught that men and women were created at the same time, therefore women should be allowed to do the same as men in a society.
- In the Early Church, women were involved in heading the Church. They led some churches especially in Greece.
- Jesus highlighted the role of women in his society, showing his followers that they should be treated equally.
- Roman Catholic Church – “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: “…with a view to achieving equal rights of men and women and promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

(e)  
- Historic view of women mean some women see their role in the family as subservient to their husband
- They put their family first before they think of themselves
- The restrictions families put on the women ie Arranged marriages, honour killings, female circumcision
- Women do not have the same opportunities as men do in their own society
- Any example of the point above:
  - Education – girls are not given the same educational opportunities as boys
  - Positions of power are denied to women because they are female
- Women have suffered violence from men – domestic or military violence
Disagree

- Gen 2:7-23 – God creates Man and then creates woman from man. A woman should be a man’s companion.
- Gen 3:16 – God makes the woman subservient to man, women should be subservient to men.
- St Paul’s writings express how the Christian religion views the role of women in society.
- “Wives submit to husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife…” Eph 5:22-23.
- The traditional view is that women should look after the home and family, supporting her husband in this way.

Islam

Agree

- Men and women are expected to contribute to society with their gifts and skills.
- Women have the same rights as men to education, property, equal pay for equal work.
- Allah created men and women from the same single soul – Qur’an 4:1. They should be treated equally in society and have the same opportunities.
- “Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any one of you, male or female…” Qur’an 3:195, Allah recognises the good work done in society, either by male or female.
- Muhammad had great respect for women, including that women should work and contribute to society the same as men.

Disagree

- Women have to support men in the work they do, therefore they cannot have the same opportunities as men.
- Qur’an verse 4:34, which refers to men as ‘guardians’ (qawamun) (over women), shows that women should be looked after by men and not do the same jobs.
- A woman’s role is to look after the family, she should not be out working – it is against Muslim law.
- Muslim law, based on the religious teachings, treat women very differently. In countries where Shariah law is carried out, women do not receive the same rights as men.
GLOBAL ISSUES

(a) The growing interdependence of countries worldwide.
    All the activities by which people are becoming a single global society.
    The process of removing restrictions on movements between countries.
    It is a network of connections of organizations and people across national,
geographic and cultural borders.
    It describes the changes in societies and the world economy as a result of
increased trade and cultural exchange.

(b) According to the Centre for the Development of Global Ethics, globalization is
making the world smaller, from telecommunications to what people eat at
home. The process affects everyone.
    Peter Singer says that it is naïve to assume that economic globalization
benefits both rich and poor countries.
    He would like to divert the economic benefits from multi-national companies to
ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth.
    More efficient production of goods, while protecting human rights, labour and
the environment.
    Oxfam believes that change is possible. Ultimately, there is a clear choice to
be made. We can choose to allow unfair trade rules to continue causing
poverty and distress, and face the consequences, or we can change them.
    We can allow globalisation to continue working for the few, rather than the
many.
    We can forge a new model of inclusive globalisation, based on shared values
and principles of social justice.

(c) (As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Humanism
    There are powerful social forces that have vested interests in the arms trade
as aid to factions.
    Armed conflicts do enormous damage to development in the poorest countries
by destroying infrastructure and deterring economic activity and disrupting
food production.
    In the poorest parts of the world people have too little food and water.
    We should care and give because we are all members of the same species
working towards a more just world.
Peter Singer
- Those who live in extreme poverty can’t afford basic human needs such as adequate food, water and shelter.
- Developed nations prefer to help their political allies and use foreign aid to boost their own economies by selling their goods, including weapons, to developing nations.
- If we are living comfortably while others are hungry and we do nothing about it, there is something wrong with our behaviour.
- We can reduce avoidable death and suffering by giving to famine relief.

Oxfam
- Oxfam states that inequalities can be significantly reduced between rich and poor nations.
- Oxfam believes that peace and substantial arms reduction are essential conditions for development.
- From the beginning, Oxfam has been concerned with the provision of food to relieve famine.
- Oxfam believes that far from giving weapons as aid, we need an International Arms Trade Treaty to promote justice, peace and security for those who suffer from armed violence and conflict.

(d)  
(Max 3 marks for only one issue)
- It is potentially disastrous for planet earth.
- It can lead to dangerous rises in sea levels which threaten eco-systems.
- It can lead to weather extremes which cost human lives.
- We contribute to it as human beings with our lifestyles that release carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere.
- It is mostly poorer countries that suffer from the effects of global warming.

(e)
- Carbon dioxide is one of the gases in the Earth’s atmosphere which absorbs infrared radiation.
- This makes it a very important greenhouse gas.
- The sun’s rays enter the Earth’s atmosphere.
- Heat is emitted back from the Earth’s surface.
- Some heat passes back out into space.
- But some heat is absorbed by carbon dioxide, a green-house gas, and becomes trapped within the Earth’s atmosphere.
- The Earth becomes hotter as a result.
- This is the Greenhouse Effect.
(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

**Agree**

**Buddhism**
- Some Buddhists may think that concern with global warming is to focus too much on political issues rather than focusing on the Path.
- Buddhists should not be distracted from their spiritual goals which can only be achieved through meditation.

**Christianity**
- Some Christians may see global warming as part of God’s will because of our wasteful lifestyle and therefore to be accepted.
- Some Christians also say there is the danger of being so concerned about global warming that environmentalism becomes a form of idolatry where the rights of a planet are held in higher esteem than God.

**Islam**
- Some Muslims take the view that since God created the earth, everything is under his control and so we do not need to be so concerned about things like global warming.
- The Muslim universal ummah has to think about the spiritual, intellectual and material needs in the contemporary world in the light of the permanent guidance of the Qur’an and Sunna.

**Disagree**

**Buddhism**
- Global warming should be tackled by applying basic Buddhist teachings since it is caused by the three poisons.
- Buddhists believe that there are many pro-active solutions to the problem of global warming which are in line with the simple and frugal lifestyle recommended by the Buddha.

**Christianity**
- Global warming should be of concern to Christians because we are stewards of God’s creation.
- According to the Society, Technology and Religion Project, because it is God’s planet, and for the sake of our children’s future we have to act now to deal with global changes.

**Islam**
- The earth has been given to us as a gift from the Creator and we must protect and preserve it from the effects of global warming.
- As an Ummah Muslims should be practising green policies that will contribute to safeguarding the environment for our children and all future generations.
MEDICAL ETHICS

(a)  
- The use of undifferentiated stem cells, usually from embryos.
- Turned into other types of cells needed for treatments and research.
- Current successful treatments from SCR include skin grafts and bone marrow transplants.
- Used to research diseases like diabetes and Parkinson’s.  

(b)  
- Licences must be granted from HFEA.
- Pre-embryos can only be used up to 14 days of development.
- Embryos can be frozen for 10 years.
- Donated embryos must have donor’s permission for use.
- Human reproductive cloning is illegal.
- Human therapeutic cloning is legal.
- Life must be respected at all stages of development.
- Information must be recorded.  

(c)  
(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Utilitarianism (Peter Singer)  
- Pre-embryos used in research are unaware and do not feel – their suffering is minimal and has potential to provide benefits (cures, infertility treatment) to masses.
- If humans have already developed the ability to prevent certain genetic disorders then we should use this technology to benefit people.
- Individuals should be free to make their own choices on the use of their own embryos as it is a private matter harming no one else.
- Singer suggests the State should control the use of human embryos so that everyone can share in the benefits.

However  
- Singer also points out that using research to purposefully wipe out some genetic disorders may lead to a loss of diversity among human beings. This may reduce humanity’s capacity to adapt to changing circumstances.
- This may also lead to an increasing gap between rich and poor in society.
Disagree

Humanism (BHA)
- “The British Humanist Association (BHA) strongly supports the HFE Bill, for both scientific and ethical reasons.”
- It would be best for humanity if it could find treatments and cures for a variety of diseases.
- An embryo is a fertilised egg with the potential to develop into a person but it has no self-awareness, functioning brain or ability to feel pain or emotion. Therefore, it cannot suffer.
- The most important consideration is the quality of life of the individual person – the possible benefits to patients are most important.
- If an embryo’s cells can be used to alleviate suffering the good consequences outweigh the bad.

Kant
- Kant’s theory takes a suggested maxim and universalises it. The destruction of embryos would be contrary to this, and no amount of positive consequences could justify this.
- If embryos were experimented on as a law of nature, they might never have been born. Therefore to destroy or experiment on an embryo would be to prevent a specific person from being born.
- Individual embryos are too valuable for use in research if they represent the potential destruction of individual lives. (This would not apply to stem cells derived from adult sources).

(d)
- Literally means an ‘easy or gentle death’.
- It is when a person who is ill chooses the time of their death.
- It is usually carried out by medical professionals.
- It is often used for terminally ill patients.
- Can be voluntary – where the person asks for euthanasia.
- Can be non-voluntary – where the decision for euthanasia is taken by someone else (family/doctor) as the patient is unable to communicate their wishes (eg someone in a PVS).
- Can be active – where something is actively given to hasten death.
- Can be passive – where life-prolonging treatment is refused or removed.

(e)
- Terminally ill – eg with cancer.
- The patient may wish to die before the suffering becomes unbearable.
- They become too dependent on others.
- Someone in a PVS.
- It may be decided that there is no quality of life or dignity in being sustained without consciousness.
- it is kinder to the patient to stop their suffering.
(As there are no mandatory viewpoint the following are only examples)

**Buddhism**

**Agree**
- The first precept states that a Buddhist should not harm any living thing.
- Action affects kamma. Involvement in euthanasia can cause spiritual harm to the person performing it.
- Euthanasia can never be an escape from suffering – it will be played out in another life.

**Disagree**
- Euthanasia performed out of compassion and with the express wish of the patient may result in positive kamma.

**Christianity**

**Agree**
- Life is sacred and a gift from God – Job 1:21.
- Human life is on loan from God. We have responsibilities to care for one another – Church of Scotland, 1997.

**Disagree**
- The Bible teaches Christians ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself’, Luke 10:27. If someone is suffering with no hope of recovery, voluntary euthanasia is the most loving and caring thing to do.
- Some Christians accept euthanasia if the patient is brain-dead as there is absolutely no hope of recovery and therefore no reason to keep them alive artificially.
- Compassion is one of the main qualities Christians are meant to show; it is not compassionate to allow someone to suffer with no hope of improvement.
- God does not want people to suffer unnecessarily.

**Hinduism**

**Agree**
- Suicide is a crime and a sin. People should die naturally. Euthanasia is like suicide.
- Bad actions attract bad karma and suffering in future rebirths – Bhagavad Gita 14:16.
- Euthanasia causes the body and soul to be separated at an unnatural time and results in bad karma for doctor and patient.
- Euthanasia can be seen to go against the principle of ahimsa (non-violence doing no harm).
Islam
Agree
• No one dies unless Allah permits. The term of every life is fixed – Surah 3:145.
• Suicide is wrong. Euthanasia is a form of suicide. It is interfering with Allah’s will.
• There can be value in suffering; it is part of Allah’s will – Surah 31:17.
• It is the code of life the doctor aims to maintain and not the process of dying – Islamic Code of Medical Ethics, 1981.
• Anyone who kills a believer deliberately will receive as his award a sentence to live in hell forever. God will be angry with him and curse him and prepare dreadful torment for him – Surah 4:93.

Disagree
• Some Muslims have tried to adapt the teaching of the Qur’an to suit situations they have faced in modern times.
• “In his/her defence of life… The Doctor is well advised to realise his limit and not transgress it. If it is scientifically certain that life cannot be restored, then it is futile to diligently keep that patient in a vegetative state by heroic mean” Islamic Code of Medical Ethics 1981

Judaism
Agree
• Do not commit murder – Exodus 20:13.
• Life is sacred and should only be ended by God – Job 1:21.
• Euthanasia is not allowed. Everything should be done to save life.

Sikhism
Agree
• Sikhs respect life as a gift from God – it should be up to God to decide when you die.
• Suicide was rejected by the Gurus as an interference with God’s plan, so this is often extended to euthanasia.
• Suffering is a consequence of karma and should be made the best of.
WAR AND PEACE

(a)
- Response to an act of aggression.
- Invasion of your country.
- When threatened by a dictatorship.
- Disputes over land or resources.
- In response to a terrorist attack.
- Atrocities being committed on innocent civilians.
- Disregard for international treaties.

(b)
- Direct negotiations between the countries involved.
- Offer of compromise over whatever issues are at the heart of the potential conflict.
- Signing of formal treaties.
- Appealing to the UN as a ‘go between’.
- Other countries applying pressure to ensure conflict does not occur.
- The use of economic and other sanctions.

(c)
- Because they believe that killing is never right and war solves nothing.
- They believe that fighting is wrong and ineffective.
- Because war and fighting goes against what they believe makes for a society that works.
- Because they believe that peaceful rather than violent methods should be used to resolve issues.
- Because they believe that even in a time of war they cannot take up arms and fight.
- Being a conscientious objector would allow someone to do non-combatant duties in times of war while still maintaining their moral stance.
(d) (As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Humanism
Agree
- The rights and lives of others will always need to be protected from some aggressor/dictator.
- Peaceful solutions are not always easy to find or enforce even through the UN.
- The existence of weapons of war make war almost inevitable.
- A refusal to go to war may lead to a worse outcome for society.
- Suffering caused by previous wars sows the seeds of future conflicts.

Disagree
- Intelligence and reason can be used to overcome the natural instinct to fight.
- The process of multilateral disarmament would bring an end to war.
- More people adopting a pacifist position would influence the number of wars that take place.

Utilitarianism
Agree
- Liberty and freedom will always need to be defended.
- A good quality of life can only exist where people have basic rights, justice and freedom. These may need to be fought for.
- Protecting yourself and others makes war unavoidable.

Disagree
- Maximising happiness would bring an end to the need for war.
- Utilitarians believe engaging in war is a great evil due to the damage it causes. Nations should therefore cease from war.
- War should always be a last resort not an automatic consequence of disagreement.

(e)
- Protocol was a response to use of poisonous gas in WW1.
- Use of poisonous gases was condemned by the civilized world.
- It banned the use of chemical/biological weapons in war.
- It became part of International Law.
(f)  
- Vaporisation of all life at the point of detonation.
- Death from the force of the blast for those further away.
- Mass destruction of infrastructure from initial blast.
- Indiscriminate loss of life.
- Contamination of land, water, atmosphere due to radioactive fallout.
- Nuclear winter.
- Illnesses follow due to exposure to radioactivity.
- Future generations affected through genetic illnesses.
- Weapons being used in retaliation which would lead to the destruction of the world.

(As there are no mandatory viewpoints the following are only examples)

Christianity

Agree
- The existence of nuclear weapons have proved to be the surest way to maintain world peace.
- It is the duty of the strong to protect the weak. Nuclear weapons enables this to happen.
- There is a difference between possessing nuclear weapons and threatening to use them.
- Necessary for deterrence purposes.
- Necessary evil to prevent even greater evil acts being committed.

Disagree
- Idea of deterrence based on mutual destruction is an offence to the Christian conscience (British Council of Churches 1980).
- Existence of nuclear weapons does not help the search for long term peace in the world.
- The potential destructive force of nuclear weapons makes their existence a crime against God and humanity (Christian CND).
- Money wasted on nuclear weapons programs could be used to alleviate many forms of human suffering.
- Existence of nuclear weapons has not stopped wars happening.
- Their existence generates fear.
- People should not have to live in fear of a potential nuclear accident.
Buddhism

Disagree
- Destructive power makes their existence immoral.
- Ridding the world of all weapons is essential (Dalai Lama).
- If everyone followed the advice of the Buddha there would be no reason for war or the need for weapons of any description.
- Their existence is a threat to mankind.
- Man should not pander in any way to his aggressive instincts.
- The world will not know peace until men and nations renounce selfish desires and the lust for power supported by nuclear weapons.
SECTION 3

EXISTENCE OF GOD

(a) • Thomas Aquinas – The universe itself is the most vital piece of evidence for the existence of God.
• If God does not exist the world as we know it cannot be explained.
• First of 5 ways – (motion) everything that moves is moved by something else.
• This cannot be infinite or the movement would not have started in the first place.
• There must be an ‘unmoved mover’ – God.
• Second of 5 ways – (causality) everything has a cause.
• There cannot be an infinite number of causes therefore there must be an ‘uncaused cause’ – God is the First Cause.
• Third of 5 ways – (potentiality) nothing can come from nothing.
• Something only comes into existence as a result of something that already exists.
• There must be something with ‘necessary being’ that exists of itself – God. 4 KU

(b) • The Big Bang theory is the main scientific explanation of origin/development of the universe.
• Universe began with an “explosion” a vast inflationary expansion on a massive scale.
• This happened 12-15 billion years ago.
• Everything originally concentrated into a very dense “particle” called a singularity.
• Particles which were produced expanded and cooled, some clumped together by gravity and formed galaxies out of which came suns.
• Clouds of gas developed which spun under the force of gravity, heat produced first planets, stars…elements – hydrogen, helium, carbon, oxygen, etc.
• This was the result of chance with no original cause. 4 KU
(c) **Convincing**
- It highlights a contradiction in Aquinas' reasoning – if everything needs a beginning then so does God.
- Kant – an ‘uncaused cause’ is a mental impossibility
- We impose causality on our universe.

**Not convincing**
- The argument is picturing God in human terms.
- God is infinite and does not share in the experiences of finite beings, eg needing a beginning.
- This is too simplistic an argument, God is far greater than we can ever explain with our finite logic.

(d)
- If someone walking over a heath, stumbled against a stone and asked how it got there, they might say it had always been there – it had no purpose or reason.
- But if they found a watch they might say that its various parts are complex and do/must have a purpose.
- Also the watch must have had a watchmaker – someone who had designed it as a complex machine.
- The universe, like the watch, gives the impression of a vast designed machine.
- All machines are the product of intelligent design – they have been designed by someone superior in intelligence.
- Therefore the designer of this complex universe must also be a superior intelligent being whom we can call God.

(e)
- Fossils are well ordered within rock layers with the oldest at the bottom and youngest at the top.
- Palaeontologists have found transitional forms for many species (including humans) showing progression.
- The geographic distribution of species provides evidence of common descent.
- Comparative anatomy – similarities and differences between anatomical structures shows relationships between organisms.
- Comparing embryos of different animals shows similarities and relationships.
- The study of genetics confirms common descent showing that species share a common ancestor.
(f)

Agree

- It was nature and not God that selected those species who survived.
- Why would God design a universe so full of natural disasters, disease and suffering?
- There is no proof that God is behind evolution, but there is evidence for Evolution.
- Evolution is a random process with no need for God.

Disagree

- Perhaps God used Evolution as the mechanism for creating life.
- Evolution has shown such a remarkable process in nature that it is difficult to deny some creative power behind it.
- Even if Evolution was the process which brought about the world and life, it is reasonable to believe that there must be a source of all this ie God.
- Science cannot provide what people need – they can only get this from God.

8 AE
SECTION 4

BELIEF AND SCIENCE

(a)  
- The Bible is the Word of God therefore it must be true.
- The Bible is inspired by God so the contents should be accepted as an accurate account of creation.
- The Bible is understood as being without error, wherever it discusses historical, scientific and spiritual matters it should be interpreted literally.
- It is a matter of faith and should be accepted as true.

(b)  
(Max 3 marks for only one strength)
- If people believe that they have had an individual experience of God then it becomes a very significant event in their life.
- It is something which can influence every aspect of their lives from that point on as a key experience/event. It is ‘life changing’.
- Experiences of revelation can reinforce faith.
- Christians can be seen to stand in a long tradition which goes back hundreds of years so they feel that they are a key part of this tradition.
- It is often claimed by such people that revelation is the main reason why their religion started and still exists.
- Christianity is regarded as a religion of revelation – firstly in the lives of Abraham, Moses, the various Old Testament prophets, and most of all through the life and teaching of Jesus (whom Christians would regard as the supreme revelation of God) and therefore a dynamic process which modern Christians can still follow.

(c)  
- Any talk of revelation is only subjective, not a fact which can be demonstrated.
- Revelation is a very individual or subjective experience, there is no way that this can be checked or verified.
- We can only really know things we can see, touch, taste, feel and smell by the use of our senses.
- “God” cannot be known in this way because he is infinite and humans are finite.
- God is greater than anything else that exists and so it is impossible for any human being to understand God in an individual experience like revelation.
- So called “revelations” are interpretations of what people feel they have experienced.
(d) Agree
- Scientific method cannot give us absolutely certain knowledge.
- The information discovered is only provisional.
- Scientific bias can enter into the experiment without anyone being aware of it.
- Science cannot give us knowledge about everything as it must limit itself to those aspects which can be scientifically studied and verified.
- Science cannot give us any kind of answers about whether there is any meaning or purpose in life, about right and wrong etc.

Disagree
- It is based on empirical evidence therefore it is reliable.
- Hypotheses can be tested for reliability.
- The more a theory is confirmed through verification, the greater the likelihood is of its being correct.
- Using the same methods, knowledge and information can be discovered by anyone anywhere.

(e) (Max 3 marks for only one piece of evidence)
- Rate at which galaxies are currently moving away from each other.
- This suggests universe expanding from a previously much smaller original form.
- Red shift principle confirms this.
- The light which emanates from the various galaxies changes colour the further it travels away and this can be observed.
- Background radiation.
- This is in the form of microwaves and can still be detected from original beginning.
Agree

- It matches some of the scientific account eg a clear beginning and order from chaos.
- Some believe God is the source or power behind the Big Bang.
- Science is an attempt to explain ‘how’ the universe began, Genesis 1 explains ‘why’ so they complement one another.
- In 1951 the Roman Catholic Church stated the Big Bang was in accordance with the Bible. It is acceptable to many Christians because God is seen as the Prime Mover.

Disagree

- The order of events in Genesis 1 does not match the scientific account eg it is not until Day 4 that sun, moon and stars are created.
- A literal interpretation of Genesis 1 is not compatible with the timescale of 12-15 billion years required for the scientific account.
- The Big Bang happened by chance and has no need for the creator God of Genesis 1.
- They are two different approaches and cannot be compatible; the Bible is not a scientific textbook.