

X265/13/01

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2012

TUESDAY, 29 MAY
1.00 PM – 3.00 PM

RELIGIOUS, MORAL
AND PHILOSOPHICAL
STUDIES
ADVANCED HIGHER

Candidates should answer **two** questions:

one from Section A—Philosophy of Religion, and

one from the optional units, either Section B—Religious Experience or Section C—Medical Ethics.

Each **section** should be answered in a **separate** answer booklet.

30 marks are assigned to each question.



SECTION A

Marks

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 First Cause Arguments
- analysis and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of First Cause Arguments
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

2. Evaluate the persuasiveness of the arguments for atheism.

Your answer **may** include:

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

(30)

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.

(30)

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 religion
- analysis and evaluation of other experiences perhaps seen as more central
- personal and reasoned conclusions throughout.

(30)

SECTION C

Marks

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.

(30)

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

Why might this statement be considered controversial?

Your answer **may** include:

- a 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.

(30)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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