

Believing in God

Past Questions

3 a) What does numinous mean? (2)

- The feeling or presence of something greater than you eg in a church or looking up at the stars.
- For a partially correct answer 1 mark
- For a correct answer 2 marks

b) Describe the main features of a Christian upbringing. (6)

- Praying and worshipping together
- Celebrating religious festivals and sacraments eg baptism, confirmation
- Parents teaching children about beliefs and moral values
- Attending Sunday School and Christian youth clubs
- Witnessing to other communities about their faith.
- At least three features must be described to reach level 3.

b) Describe the main features of a Christian upbringing. (6)

Level 1 - an isolated example of relevant knowledge (2 marks)

Level 2 - basic relevant knowledge presented within a limited structure (4 marks)

Level 3 - an organised outline/description, relevant knowledge, some specialist vocabulary (6 marks)

c) Explain how the search for meaning and purpose in life may lead to, or support, belief in God. (8)

- Religion helps people to answer ultimate questions. Eg Why is there suffering in the world?
- What should we do with our lives?
- Is there a reason why we exist?
- What things have real value?
- What happens after we die?

c) Explain how the search for meaning and purpose in life may lead to, or support, belief in God. (8)

- Religion provides answers to these questions and may lead to someone believing in God if they agree with the answers.
- They may be reassured that there is life after death and find comfort in God's existence and so believe in God.
- It helps them to make sense of suffering and so believe in God.

c) Explain how the search for meaning and purpose in life may lead to, or support, belief in God. (8)

- People may ask the questions why am I here and find answers in the Design argument and the Causation argument.
- Religion provides people with a purpose in life eg God has a plan for me and this may lead to a belief in God.
- Level 4 answers are likely to explain how when people search for meaning and purpose in life, they often cannot find one unless there is life after death or a greater being who has created everything for a purpose.
- These conclusions lead them to believe in God or support their belief in God.

c) Explain how the search for meaning and purpose in life may lead to, or support, belief in God. (8)

Level 1 - a simple, appropriate idea

2 marks)

Level 2 - a basic explanation showing understanding of a relevant idea

(4 marks)

Level 3 - a developed explanation showing an understanding of the main ideas, some specialist vocabulary

(6 marks)

Level 4 - a comprehensive explanation showing a coherent understanding of the main ideas, good specialist vocabulary

(8 marks)

d) 'Ideas like the Big Bang make it impossible to believe in God.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. (4)

- The issue is whether the Big Bang theory explains, without any doubt, that the world was created this way rather than by God and whether it is possible to believe in God and ideas like the Big Bang.
- Level 4 answers are likely to contrast the way science explains the universe without God with the view that such things as design and causation in science are evidence for God's existence.
- They will then come to a personal conclusion.
- Other approaches are possible and must be rewarded according to the levels.
- Answers which do not give an opinion go beyond level 2.

d) 'Ideas like the Big Bang make it impossible to believe in God.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view.

(4)

- Level 1 - an opinion supported by one relevant reason. (1 mark)
- Level 2 - for a basic 'for and against' or a reasoned opinion supported by religious/moral evidence or examples (2 marks)
- Level 3 - for a developed evaluation, using religious/moral argument, evidence or examples, referring to another point of view. (3 marks)
- Level 4 - for a coherent and reasoned evaluation, based on religious/moral argument, evidence or examples, giving an account of an alternative point of view to reach a personal conclusion. (4 marks)

c) Explain how the appearance of design in the world may lead to or support a belief in God. (8)

- Design Argument
- Things that are designed have been designed by someone who has used intelligence and thought.
- The universe appears to have been designed.
- Someone with intelligence and thought must have designed the universe.
- Only God could have design something as complex as the universe.
- Therefore God is the designer and God exists.

c) Explain how the appearance of design in the world may lead to or support a belief in God. (8)

- Explain the design argument and then link it to belief in God.
- If a person is convinced that the world was designed rather than come about by chance, as in evolution, then it would lead them to believe in God.

c) Explain how the appearance of design in the world may lead to or support a belief in God. (8)

- Level 4 answers are likely to explain how the appearance of design of a designer.
- They will relate this to design in the world through things such as DNA, ecosystems and argue that the world needs a designer, who could only be God.
- Answers which describe rather than explain will not go beyond level 1.

c) Explain why the existence of evil and suffering may cause problems for people who believe in God. (8)

- Level 4 answers are likely to explain how people who believe in God believe that God is omnipotent and benevolent.
- However if God is omnipotent, he must be able to remove evil and suffering;
- If God is benevolent he must want to remove evil and suffering.
- As there is evil and suffering in the world religious believers are left with the problem that either God does not exist or that he is not omnipotent or not benevolent.

d) 'God must exist because so many people believe in him.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. (4)

- The issue is whether something is true because a lot of people believe in it.
- Level 4 answers are likely to balance the fact that many people are drawn to belief in God because of the existence of religion and so many believing in God against the idea that lots of people can be wrong eg most people believed the world was flat.
- They will then come to a personal conclusion.

d) 'If God really loved Christians, he would not let them suffer.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. (4)

- The issue is whether religious people should not suffer because God should look after those who follow him.
- Level 4 answers are likely to balance this against the response of Christianity to the problem of suffering.
- They will then reach a personal conclusion.