

Course Companion for GCSE AQA A Component 2

Existence of God and Revelation

Theme C

zigzageducation.co.uk

POD 6844

Publish your own work... Write to a brief... Register at **publishmenow.co.uk**

Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education			
Teacher Feedback Opportunity			
Terms and Conditions of Use			
Teacher's Introduction			
Introduction to the Course and How to Answer Exam Questions			
Philosophical Arguments for and against the Existence of God			
Design Argument			
First Cause Argument			
The Argument from Miracles			
Evil and Suffering as an Argument against : State of God			
Arguments based on Science agains of the Lightence of God			
Summary for Philosophic And Standard against the Existence of God			
The Nature of To vir Sma Revelation			
Enlightenment as a Source of Knowledge about the Divine			
General Revelation: Nature and Scripture as a way of understanding the Divine			
Different Ideas about the Divine from these Sources			
The Value of General and Special Revelation and Enlightenment as Sources of Kno			
Summary for The Nature of the Divine and Revelation			
Answers			
Philosophical Arguments for and against the Existence of God			
The Nature of the Divine and Revelation			
THE NATURE OF THE DIVINE AND NEVERALIOH			

INSPECTION COPY





Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of AQA A GCSE Religious Studies Component 2: Thematic Studies, Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation. All areas of the specification are covered, and questions and activities are included to test knowledge and ability, and to help students to engage with the topics.

The information is comprehensive, and images help to illustrate concepts. are included to help students to understand the real and to further the brief introduction to the course and answers / a mark scheme are in left the end.

This course to be used in full as an alternative or complement or for inde, the learning or revision. Alternatively, teachers might use a classroom activity or homework.

This topic involves studying a number of different arguments, ideas and operand non-religious perspectives. This should both inform students and development to approach issues from different points of view.

This resource focuses primarily on Christianity in line with the specification main religious tradition in Britain today, although the section on enlighten Buddhism. Where students need to know contrasting views on specific to from Christianity and non-religious views; from humanism and atheism, as

We have sought a balance between explaining relevant concepts in sufficient oversimplification, while not going beyond GCSE level and becoming too thave tried to present all views in a neutral and informative way.

Hopefully this resource will encourage students in their learning and help exams. It should take the pressure away from teachers by providing the but want to teach to their class.

Acknowledgements

Bible quotations are from New Revised Standard or Bible: Anglicized 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christiane United States of Anglicized rights reserved.



Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free made to this resource or other RS resources your schopurchased, and details of any promotions for your schopurchased.

 resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

NSPECTION COPY



Introduction to the Course and How to Answer

This course aims to cover religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and are God exists – and, if he does, how he reveals himself to humans – and to assess ideas and their place in the world today. The course companion focuses on C the specification's focus on Christianity as the main religious tradition in Britain some non-religious beliefs in certain sections. Quick questions also focus on C in the exam no specific religion will be referred to (except in 4-mark questions) religion(s) you have studied.

This course companion is designed to equip you with the information you need knowledge and ability to answer related questions. Not all the questions and exam-style, but those which are should be answered an ancular ways.

The exam board will give you multiple—a questions and ask you to give brief examples, as well as a minimum to 'explain' and 'evaluate' beliefs and opinions. We are possible, and to write well using a style that is easy power, and use correct spelling and grammar. More or less writing the required, depending on the number of marks. Try to spend as little time as possible on the shorter questions, to allow yourself more time for longer ones.

For this theme you will get a 1-mark, 2-mark, 4-mark, 5-mark and 12-mark question in the exam – a few extra marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar based on the 12-mark question.

Hopefully, this resource will be interesting, informative, and help you to achieve good results.

For the **1-mark question**, you will be given a multiple-choice question and you need to choose the right answer. Make sure not to fall for trick questions!

For the **2-mark question** you need to give two examples of facts. You do not need to elaborate on these, and do not we time giving extra examples, as you can only get two marks.

For the **4-mark question**, you will be asked to 'explain'. You need to points, and, to get full marks, you must develop or justify both. So you it as being a mark per point and a mark for developing each point. Show that you understand information as well a being able to recall question may ask for two contrasting being able to recall you use are different, and not just the argument given from two angles. You must refer to a large and non-religious beliefs.

The **5-mark** (1) It is very similar to the 4-mark question, but the belief tine, a you may refer to any religious beliefs, which do not need we as making two points and developing/justifying both, you show the conference of scripture / religious writing (as well as your development/just make sure your points are as different as possible so that the person marking every point/development you make.

The **12-mark question** is the longest, and there is a little more to remember. You will This means giving arguments and justifications **for** and **against** the statement (so agreen alternative point of view). Make sure you have good reasons for all the points you to get top marks you need to come to a conclusion; picking the most convincing side arguments you have given!) and saying why you think this is the case. You need to refer you have a lot of different religious arguments, it is a good idea to refer to non-religious

INSPECTION COPY



Philosophical Arguments for and the Existence of God

Some religious people have used philosophical or logical arguments, such cause argument, and argument from miracles, to try to prove the existent have argued against these. Atheists have used arguments from evil and surgue against the existence of God.

Keywords:

- design argument a case for the existence of God, based on the idea that created for a purpose and appears organised
- first cause argument a case for the ⇒ stone and do good, based on the idea to cause for everything, and this is a dog good.
- miracles events which meaning pernatural and unexplainable by natural law
 Christians to have a new by God or his agents
- athe the mane who does not believe in God or gods
- evil a section fering moral wrong, and pain

Design Argument

Some Christians, and people of other religions, have created arguments to though not all religious people believe that these arguments can **prove** Go called the **design argument** and it is based on the idea that the world appears designed, so this is taken as **evidence** that it must have a creator and designed argument – this comes from the Greek word for 'purpose', *telo* appears to have been designed for a purpose.

Keywords:

- **proof** something which shows something to definitely exist or be true
- design argument a case for the existence of God, based on the idea that created for a purpose and appears organised
- evidence something which indicates that something is likely to be true /
- analogy a comparison between things to note their similarity
- **fine-tune** where little things are altered to make the best outcome
- **suffering** experiencing pain
- evolution a scientific theory which states that organisms have adapted over

A Classical Design Argument for the Existance of God

The **design argument** could be phrased like his

The world resembles a design a of ictive Humans design many a constant and the constant and

Therefore, or objects designed by humans.

Where the similar outcome, there is often a similar cause; Human designers are the cause of most designed objects; Because the world is similar to objects designed by humans (from the paragrathe world has a similar designer... which is God.

The first part of the argument leads to the conclusion that the world is like second part of the argument suggests that if objects appear to be designed. And if the world is designed, then the designer is God.

'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.' (Ge

INSPECTION COPY



Evidence for and Strengths of the Design Argument

- The scientist Isaac Newton gave the example of a *thumbprint*, as evident He said thumbprints indicated that the world had been designed, becauthere would be no natural reason for humans to all have different thursthought they must have been designed by God.
- A philosopher called William Paley said that evidence for the design a
 - contained organised parts, e.g. there are weather cycles, and planterproduce and life continues.
 - had a function or a purpose it allowed life.

He claimed that these were features the third which had been designed

For example, a wattern – and it has the purpose of telling the time. So, we know to be designed by humans. On the other hand, a rock does not have organised parts, and has no purpose on its own. Rocks occur naturally. Paley used this comparison to argue that the world is designed. This is called an argument from **analogy**, because an analogy is a comparison, and Paley compared the world to a watch.

If the analogy between the world and designed objects is good, it does make sense for there to be a designer, as designed objects cannot exist without a designer, so the design argument could be thought to be strong in this sense.

- A strength of the design argument is that there are many things which exist on earth. It might be possible that these things came about by conseem to have been organised by a designer so that the world can support and carbon are necessary for human life, and if the temperature on earthe sea level was slightly higher, humans would be less likely to be about example of a **fine-tuning** argument, because the world appears to be of little things contribute to an overall outcome.
- Another strength of the design argument is that it points to a purpose were designed, and many humans like to fee in the y have a purpose

Atheists and others have a gainst the design argument, and not a provides end of the provides existence.

One artement against the design argument is that the world does no Earthquakes cause devastation, there is disease, and animals kill each did not have natural disasters, or disease, or creatures which kill and expreferable to many. If there are flaws, which a God would not design, was not designed. Many atheists believe a loving God would not allow world was designed for a purpose, suffering would not be part of that argue there cannot be a designer God, because there is suffering. This section on Evil and Suffering as an Argument against the Existence of

INSPECTION COPY



Another objection to the design argument attacks the **analogy** (comparison) between the world and designed objects, and, therefore, between humans and the supposed designer of the world. There are many differences between the world and a watch, and, therefore, there might be many differences between how the world came into being and human designers.

The is Chr

There could always be alternative explanations. For example, a puddle outside could have been caused by the natural process of rain, or by so the ground. If you see rain clouds you may assure to way, a world designed with a hose, you might assume not. In the same way, a world designed processes are another.

- The widely acceptation provides an alternative way humaned dave come into being, and suggests that they were not can expected why animals can camouflage or why humans are intelligentable make species successful have been passed on to their offspring. In ot animals might not have been 'fine-tuned' by an external being to fit in plants, animals and humans were not designed, then this casts doubt as the universe, was designed. This is dealt with again in the section of Science against the Existence of God.
- Some people also point out that even if the world was designed, this one Christian God. There could be many designer gods.

Counter arguments in favour of the Design Argument (Extensi

- It might not have been possible to design a better world. It is possible that a world without earthquakes or disease would have more flaws, or would not function.
- Even if the analogy between the world and designed objects is weak, this does not disprove a designer.
- God could have designed the world through the process of evolution; many human designers do not design everything from scratch, but may use mechanical processes transactions.
- Multiple gods would not digrate design argument, just certain reliable human world have a casigners, so the **analogy** would remain.

Quick Qu

- 1) Give two weaknesses of the design argument.
- 2) Which of these words means 'comparison' and is used to support the design argument?
 - a) Evil
- b) Evolution
- c) Analogy

INSPECTION COPY



First Cause Argument

Another argument used by some Christians and people of other religions to God is the **first cause argument**. This is a type of **cosmological argument** cosmological arguments is that there is something rather than nothing – the some argue that this is **proof** that there must be a creator, or a **cause** for example of the cosmological arguments.

Keywords:

- first cause argument a case for the existence of God, based on the idea to cause for everything, and this is God
- cosmological argument an argument for God's 4. The based on the identifier rather than nothing
- cause something which makes sem 3.5. g eise happen
- ◆ **Big Bang theory** a the wholeholds that a rapid expansion of matter from scientifically account for the beginning of the universe

First Cause Argument

Cosmological arguments are very old. One famous example of a cosmological **Aquinas'** *Second Way*, a **first cause argument**. It is called this because it arguments he posed for the existence of God.

Here is a paraphrased version of Aquinas' argument:

Everything has a cause;

Without a first cause there would be no other causes and no effects; There are causes and effects at the moment; Therefore there is a first cause which people call God.

Aquinas makes the point that nothing ever happens without a cause, and if you trace the chain of causes and effects back to the start of the universe, there must have been a first cause which started everything else. This, he says, is God.

'In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a for covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the walthere be light"; and there was light.' (Genesis 1:1–3 NRSV)

Evidence for and Strengths and Wirst Cause Argument

- A piece of **evident** is nothing in the world which does not have a cause explan or the beginning of the universe. If something caused mato come into being, then it could indicate some sort of non-material contention to cause things to happen, and this fits well with the idea of
- Moreover, a first cause, which is God, seems (to many) to be more likely going back forever without a start. In these senses, the first cause arguthings have causes, and it makes little sense for there not to have been

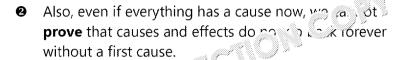
INSPECTION COPY

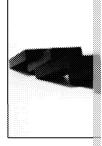


Evidence against and Weaknesses of the First Cause Argumen

Atheists and others have argued against the **first cause argument**, and no that it **proves** God's existence.

The Big Bang theory, a scientific theory which suggests that the universe was caused by a rapid expansion of matter, could be a possible alternative first cause for the universe. There is scientific evidence for this, and no scientific evidence for God, so this weakens the first cause argument.





Dominoes in m first domino to falling and hittin

- Further, the universe needs a first cause, fitting God into the does researly solve the problem. This just raises the issue of whether the problem is the same of which is the problem.
- It is also important to note that even if the first cause argument succeeds, this God the first cause could have been another god/gods.

Counter arguments in favour of the First Cause Argument (Ex

- The Big Bang still needs a cause; God could have caused the Big Bang everything else.
- It is more likely that there is a God than that something does not have of nature in this way.
- God is different to everything else, and is outside of the chains of cause everything in the physical world needs a cause, if God is outside of the may apply to him.
- A non-Christian God or gods would not disprove the first cause arguments.

Quick Questions

- 3) Which of these types of argument for the existence of God is the first cause argument?
 - a) Teleological
- b) Cration had
- c) Moral
- 4) Give two remaining pieces of evidence for the first cause argument

NSPECTION COPY



The Argument from Miracles

The **argument from miracles** suggests that there are **miracles** (events un break, the laws of nature) and that, because these events have no natural supernatural explanation, which is God.

Keywords:

- miracles events which seem supernatural and unexplainable by natural law Christians to be performed by God or his agents
- resurrection being raised from the dead
- incarnation within Christianity, the belief that Jesus s both human and
- faith belief and trust in something, here in July 18 and God
- **prayer** communication with God
- humanist someone who thes it is all a good life without religion

Argumen Lan Diracles

Instead of a gaing that there is a God because of how the world is, or because argument from miracles uses events which have (apparently) happened, The argument can be presented like this:

Things occur which have no natural explanation; Things which have no natural explanation must have a supernatural explanation Therefore, there is a supernatural explanation: God.

Some Examples of Miracles

from coming to harm (Daniel 3).

In the New Testament, Jesus is reported to have performed many miracles, including controlling the weather and healing people. Christians also believe that Jesus was **resurrected**; he rose from the dead. The law

of nature do not allow people to rise from through it is, if this happened, it Jesus was God incarnate (God in the first, which many Christians believe would be classed as a miracle

lay also claim to have experienced miracles, including bei as well as contained events.

In the Gospels, Jesus acknowledged the importance of miracles to **faith**.

'Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believ

NSPECTION

1

Er

Some Jews w of respect –

use the full

this to Heb

The feeding

appear in all

miracle (c

this mean

COPYRIGHT **PROTECTED**

People of many religions believe in miracles. Within Christianity, there are many miracles recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible, where God helped the Jewish people. For example, God parted the Red Sea for the Jewish people to escape slavery in Egypt (Exodus 14), and protected people who were thrown into a fiery furnace

GCSE AQA A Course Companion: Component 2, Theme C

Important! You need to be able to explain contrasting beliefs about miracles from non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Evidence for and Strengths of the Argument from Miracles

- Many people claim to have experienced events which nature cannot expernatural causing these events, then this is evidence for there being
- Miraculous events often occur to religious believers, or convince people Sometimes they seem to be a response to prave and so indicate that with the world.

Christian Positions

- Most Christians believe, and because believing that Jesus was Go that he was **resurrected** from the dead are important beliefs within Christianity. Many Christians also believe in miracles because they feel that they have experienced a miracle themselves, or know someone who has.
- A few Christians do not believe that Jesus was actually God, but just an important prophet. Some also believe that Jesus was not physically resurrected from the dead, but that his disciples felt the presence of his spirit.

 Some believe that as miracles on the scale of the parting of the Red Sea are not reported today, miracles do not happen happened, and were exaggerations, or stories. Some Christians believe world physically, but influences people through love.
 - Therefore, though very rare, it may be possible for some Christians miracles. However, a few more Christians may feel that miracles of that because any modern miracles which occur cannot be proven enough evidence to prove that there is a God.

Evidence against and Weaknesses of the Arguments from Mira

- Events which people feel cannot be explained by nature may be explainable by nature, but humans do not understand science well enough yet.
 - Many things which were attributed magic or supernatural forces is an experience now explained by science, e.g., the name of the science of th
 - 'Miracles' which could be explained by nature, but appear to be in any the perfect time, could be coincidences and not really miraculous.
 - Recovering from an illness with a one-in-a-million chance of recovering to guidance and then receiving the perfect advice is also possible unlikely.

NSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



Use

anoth

Go

t

- It can also be argued that even if miracles exist, they do not prove a lo one God.
 - 'Miracles' appear to be selective not everyone who would benef
 - Some 'miracles' appear to be silly, such as statues of the Virgin M people feel that ending world hunger, or bringing world peace w power.
 - Miracles are reported within different religions, so they do not ap another.

Atheist and Humanist Positions

Atheists believe that there is no God or gods, and humanists (generally athe lives without superstition or religion. Both atheister a numanists reject not believe in a supernatural being who woul care them.

The eighteenth-century philos an at Hume (who many feel was an at acceptable to come canala fameist) argued that there is never enough ex suggested from the factive explanation was always more likely. For example,

- Witnesses could be unreliable because they are mista Witnesses could be unreliable because they are lying. uld be unreliable because they are mistaken.

He claimed that people know of occasions where people have been mistal where people have lied, but people **do not** know of cases where miracles people should always disbelieve accounts of miracles.

Therefore, if people disbelieve accounts of miracles, they will not belie the existence of God.

So most atheists and humanists hold that miracles do not occur and so can God because:

- Science or coincidence could explain 'miracles'.
- 'Miracles' seem selective, silly, and 'prove' conflicting religions they
- Mistaken or lying witnesses are more likely than miracles occurring.

Counter arguments in favour of Miracles (Extension)

- Even though miracles cannot be proven, and could have other explanations, they cannot be disproven either! The laws of nature can be used to disprove something which lies outside of nature. If something could be disproven, it would not be a miracle!
- Some things which people claim to be miracles may not be miracles. and Just because there are false miracles does not mean that miracles do
- Furthermore, not understanding why Cocope from some miracles and performs certain types of miracia, who not disprove God – it just show comprehension.

Quick Qu

- Imples of miracles Christians may believe occurred.
- Which of these is **not** used to argue against miracles?
 - a) Unreliable witnesses
- b) Coincidences
- The Bible

Now Try This...

Explain two contrasting beliefs about miracles, referring to Christianity non-religious beliefs.

NSPECTION N



Evil and Suffering as an Argument against the Existen

There are also philosophical arguments against the existence of God, which prove that he does not exist. One of these is the argument from **evil and**

Keywords:

- ♦ evil moral wrong
- **suffering** experiencing pain
- **free will** the ability to make your own choices

Argument from Evil and Suffering

Evil and suffering can be used to argue a ai stand existence of God like this:

A loving Garage and suffering; A powerful suffering; A powerful suffering in the world; There is evidence is not a loving and powerful God.

Do you thin Could a low

As Christians believe in a loving and powerful God, this is a problem for Ch

Here, evil is dealt with as bad intentions and actions carried out by humans

Moral suffering is pain caused by evil actions, such as murder or theft.

Natural suffering is pain caused by natural events, such as natural disaster

Strengths of the Argument from Evil and Suffering

- It does not seem loving to allow evil and suffering; it would seem must world where these things did not exist. It is possible to imagine a work and God could have created humans without the ability to be evil.
- If God is all-powerful, he could have created a better world. If the universely would have taken immense power it is not much of a stretch to image mosquitoes or HIV as well.
- There is clearly suffering in the world, and most people feel that there are evil: those who murder, rape and exploit others

Religious responses to the Argum and Suffering

- It has been argued that he was more loving to allow **evil and suffer** could not be they would not have **free will**, and would not be Maybe ever to be free; even if that means that some people will others. Sonly explains moral suffering, but it can also be argued the good thing maybe with no suffering the world would be worse, if people will be worse, if people will be worse.
- Some people feel that it is possible that God is powerful, while still allowhich it is impossible for him to do. So it may be impossible to create disease, and maybe the world could not exist in the way that it does worldcanoes.

NSPECTION COPY



- There may be other reasons for evil and suffering:
 - They could be a test of **faith** so God can see who will have faith in him, even in adverse circumstances.
 - They could be a test of character so God can see who is actually good, even when they do not have a perfect life.
 - They could be an opportunity for charity and helping others – without any evil and suffering there might be no such opportunities.
 - Maybe it is just for God to punish humans visusffering.
 - God may have his own reacting in allowing evil and suffering which summand an not understand



A volcanic erup

The Book of the Bible shows suffering as a test of character and a test the devil to inflict suffering on Job to test him – some Christians take this lit is a poetic exploration of suffering. Job showed that he was still a good perhappened to him; and his relationship with God was strengthened. God als humans do not know the will of God and should not question God's actions

[God to Job] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Te understanding." (Job 38:4 NRSV)

Counter arguments against religious responses (Extension)

- It is debatable whether having complete free will is preferable to having argue that God, if he existed, could have still given humans mostly free.
- It may be the case that not all suffering could be eradicated, but ther amount of suffering. It may seem dubious that a powerful God could
- **O** Atheists feel these are not good arguments.
 - Would a God need to test faith or character at such cost? Is char
 - Suffering does not always affect those who may be deemed worth suffering as punishment seems out of charal at with the loving, for
 - Giving no reason for evil and sufferir a is the very satisfactory.

Quick Questions

- 3) Give transpe. A catering.
- 9) Which of these is **not** a religious response to the problem of evil and
 - a) Atheism
- b) Free will
- c) Test of faith

ISPECTION COPY



Arguments based on Science against the Existence of

Science can explain many things which were previously unknown. Many a explains things which religion previously tried to explain, and that now scient against the existence of God.

Origins of Original Life

Previously, humans could not explain how the universe, the world, and life into being. Christians and people of other religions explained that the wo life were created by God or gods, or other supernatural forces.

Now science provides theories such as the **Big Bang** and **evolution** which explanations for how matter (material stuff) and life and have started with supernatural influence. Atheists feel that this entire the need for a creat Christians and other religious application argue that God could have the process of evolution a ciouse does not disprove God, but it may ex

Natural Vic. Saus Punishment and Reward

Years ago, may have attributed a good harvest as a reward from Gonation was experiencing bad fortune, or had been enslaved by another nation punishment from God/gods.

However, in modern times, such things are generally explained scientifical or the political situation. Indeed, religious people who suggest that a floo God, because of his disapproval of government policy or social ethics, tend most other religious people.

Some **atheists** argue that religions formed to explain the unknown, and, n known, people should not have any need for religion. At any rate, they fee attributed to God's pleasure or anger should not be, and that if science co to support the existence of God, there will be no such events left to point Christians and other religious people argue that just because science that it explains away God. For one, events may have a scientific cause caused by God. Secondly, many religious people feel that religion should

morals to life, i.e. why humans are here, and how they should live. The explaining how the world works, or how it physically came about.

Not only has science explained much of the past and the present, it is being increasingly used to change the future. Scientists can now modify DNA and have cloned animals. Some people believe that in the future scientists will be able to create artificial life.

Some atheists use this to suggest that God is some escary to create life, and also that if humans car are there can be no spiritual realm; as humans would real re

Christians and oth people may have various responses to so may fe scientists can create life, this does not negate Go that th (humans) could create more life. Many feel that scientists from scratch.

Quick Questions

Humans becoming God

- 10) Which of these is **not** a scientific theory or development which has raise existence of God?
 - Cloning
- b) Evolution
- c) Creation
- 11) Give two religious responses to science as an argument against the ex of God.

NSPECTION (C)P

COPYRIGHT **PROTECTED**



U®

(h

ne

it 🐝

Go

Summary for Philosophical Arguments for and agains

- One argument used to support the existence of God is the design argument used to be designed. Designed objects have a designer and so the world not world may seem to resemble designed objects (there is an analogy be been organised in a certain way (fine-tuned) and have a purpose. Or seem badly 'designed', as there is suffering, it lacks a complete resembned evolution could explain why things seem designed.
- Another argument for the existence of God is the **first cause argument**: that everything has a **cause**. The universe must have had a cause, and this cause must be God. There doe come to be merit in suggesting everything, including the universe a cause, but this cause might be the **Big Bano** or an old is the universe's cause, this does not explain what come does not ex
- Miracles are classification to argue for the existence of God. If superior events appear to break the laws of nature, this may point there being a God, especially if 'miracles' appear to answer prayer. However, it can be argued that there could be alternative explanations for 'miracles', that 'miracles' seem inconsistent, and that unreliable witnesses are always a more likely explanation.
- One argument against the existence of God is the argument from the existence of evil and suffering. This seems incompatible with a loving and powerful God. Responses to this include free will; limits on God's power, and other responses to evil and suffering, such as it be
- Another type of argument against the existence of God is arguments be explanations for the origins of life, and other world events, can be seen and the possibility of scientifically creating new life can be used to argument against the explanations do not disprove God, and that scientists may not be able.

Impact and Influence

Arguments for the existence of God are often found more in the realm of peveryday. However, they have convinced some people of God's existence, they have experienced **miracles** have become religious, or had their **faith**

Atheism is growing, with support of arguments from **evil and suffering** an existence of God. There are famous atheists, such as a card Dawkins, who arguing against the existence of God.

Now Try This...

12) 'The fir 19 us

usent gives evidence for the existence of God.' Ev

Argue for **and** against this statement. You must give religious arguments religious arguments. Reach a conclusion which follows from your arguments

INSPECTION COPY



The Nature of the Divine and Re

Many religious believers believe that God / the **divine** is **revealed** to human **revelation**, such as **visions**, and **general revelation** such as scripture and feel that they can come to know the divine through **enlightenment**. From different ideas about the divine arise. However, some people are not convex **experiences** are genuine.

Keywords:

- ♦ **divine** God, gods, or other supernatural forces or ultimate reality
- **ultimate reality** God or gods, or a force/truth the color street the universe
- revelation experiencing God in a way in white theirs seen or heard, or known
- special revelation discovering 'nc specific ge of God / the divine through support specific people
- ♦ vision a type color runce where God, or a messenger/message of God
- gen ve ion discovering knowledge of God / the divine through not to ever
- enlightenment becoming aware of a/the truth
- religious experience feeling the presence of God or the divine

Special Revelation

Keywords:

- **nirvana** (in Buddhism) being extinguished, being liberated from the cycle
- miracles events which seem supernatural and unexplainable by natural law to be performed by God or his agents
- incarnation God as a human, in the flesh
- prayer communication with God
- **prophets** messengers of God and those who God speaks to
- prophesy predicting the future, and/or expressing communication from
- salvation being saved from something; something physical such as an ill
- evangelism spreading the news about Jesus and trying to convert others
- persecution targeting people and treating them badly because of prejud
- conversion in religion, changing from one religion to another, or from no
- ◆ Immaculate Conception the doctrine that Mary was conceived without
- original sin a separation from God, inherited at birth due to Adam and E
- ◆ doctrine set teaching or belief
- hallucination seeing or hearing something which is the really there

Special revelation involves discovering knowledge about God / the diving Generally speaking, 'the diving will be dealt with here as the Christian God referred to the divingual can other forms of ultimate reality, such as the trunirvana, in the divingual can other forms of ultimate reality, such as the trunirvana, in the divingual can other forms of ultimate reality.

INSPECTION COPY



Types of Special Revelation

Within Christianity there are different types of special revelation, including

- Miracles supernatural events caused by God (dealt with in the section Miracles)
- Experience of Jesus, God incarnate, when he was alive
- Personal experiences of God, such as:
 - Visions (where God, or a messenger/message from God is seen) miracles, as they are supernatural events not explainable by the law
 - Prayer (personal communication with God, but without explicitly)

Jesus

Many Christians believe that Jesus was God in the flesh), and so people who met Jesus "Exclusive experienced God. They experienced God's rate bough Jesus' miracles, including healings; and and a substitution of the flesh of th

Why do life and what Ch God t

'Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,' has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through who worlds.' (Hebrews 1:1–2 NRSV)

[A Christian's belief that God revealed himself to prophets and revealed him

Atheists, and people of other religions, will not believe that Jesus was God was an example of special revelation. (Though religions such as Islam believed revelations of God himself.)

Visions

Visions are a type of **religious experience** where someone sees, and often be taken as **proof** of the existence of God, often an apparition of a saint, as who see visions are called visionaries. Some visions take place while the visioncur within dreams. Many Christians believe that if God, or messengers for humans, then this proves the existence of God, and shows that he is active

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all floor your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your dreams." (Acts 2:17 NRSV)

Examples of Christian Visions

Within Christianity, there are many examples of **y**

Old Testament

There are various visions recorded the Old Testament, which occurred to prophets the Jook of Exodus, to Moses, a shepherd who was a member of the wish (or Hebrew, or Israelite) people, but who was raised in Pharaoh's household before leaving the kingdom of Egypt. The angel of God appeared to Moses in a burning bush (the bush appeared to be on fire, yet the flames did not destroy it). God called to Moses from the bush, and told him:

"Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which your ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Jacob." (Exodus 3:5–6 NRSV)

NSPECTION COPY

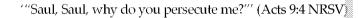


God told Moses that he wanted him to go and free the Jewish people, who gave Moses signs to show to the people, if they did not believe that God his staff into a snake. This vision was important because it led to Moses less Egypt, and showed that God had not abandoned his people.

God also appeared to other prophets in visions, and sent them messages to Testament visions show that God had a commitment to his people, to free send them guides to show them how to follow his will.

New Testament

There are also many visions recorded in the New Test. Int, which are linker plan for the **salvation** of humankind. One im not are New Testament vision as Saul before his vision, recorded in the Saul was a devoted Jew, and because he did not believe in the recorded in the Saul was a devoted Jew, and because he did not believe in the recorded in the saul was a devoted Jew, and because he did not believe in the saul saul was a devoted Jew, and because he did not believe in the saul was a devoted Jew, and was a devoted Jew, an



He asked who the voice was, and was told that it was Jesus. The voice instrand wait for instructions. Saul was blinded from the vision. After this, his such christian called Ananias.

This vision was important because Saul became a Christian – this vision was a **conversion** experience for him – and an important messenger of Christianity. This vision can be seen as significant by Christians, because God chose to **reveal** himself to someone who was opposing his plan, showing that God cares for, and will use even those who seem to be working against him.

Christians believe that other New Testament visions were important in reversalvation of humanity and in making sure that it was carried out as he wan played a part. The visions show that God has authority and is powerful, because of the control o

After the time of the Bible

There have also been many visions after the time of the Bible.

In 1858 in Lourdes, France, a young girl called Bernadette had a famous vision of Mary. In the vision, Mary claim of a she was the Immaculate Conception. The Lona white might conception is the idea that Mary of Leelved without was in parents where eption became a doctrine, or important belief, in the Catimportant in clarifying Church beliefs, and establishing a pilgrimage site in with healing.

Many other people have claimed to have visions of God, angels or saints. Important because they reinforce faith, and Christians believe God uses the his plan.

INSPECTION COPY



Contrasting Beliefs about Visions

Important! You need to be able to explain contrasting beliefs about visions from non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Christian Positions

- Many Christians may believe that **visions** provide **evidence** for God, be only by the supernatural.
- One stronger case for visions is that they do not always confirm what hated Christians, and yet he had a vision which can erted him to Chris that if a vision conflicts with what you be every indust have been cause cannot be your own internal that get . . .

Atheist Positions

er . Seneves that **visions** provide **evidence** for God. **A** However, 2 God/gods စာာns exist.

There may be physical explanations for why someone might see a vision. The book of Acts in the New Testament records St Peter having a vision, but it says that Peter was hungry before he saw his vision, so it is possible he was hallucinating due to lack of food. The accounts of some visionaries also correlate with

St Peter is because he w important me Christians b€

symptoms caused by medical conditions which are known about toda hundreds of years ago. For example, types of epilepsy can cause hallu thought to be visions, so visionaries may have been suffering from such

Even though some visions do **convert** people to different religions, pe Mary, Muhammad, Krishna (a Hindu god), and many others. If visions strange that they appear to confirm different religions.



Prayer

Prayer is communication with God. Many Chr of reasons and to maintain a relationship with responding to prayer, this may form a **religiou** Christians will feel that their prayers have been theoretically allows all Christians to have **speci**

Atheists will feel that man are not really con but that thouse is laken in feeling that they

recularity caponises.



- 13) Give two examples of visions.
- 14) Which of these is **not** a type of special revelation?
 - a) Miracles
- b) Nature
- Visions c)

Now Try This...

15) Give two religious beliefs about visions. Refer to scripture.

NSPECTION CP



Enlightenment as a Source of Knowledge about the Di

Enlightenment is a type of **revelation**, where eternal truth is revealed to sworshipping, studying, **meditating**, or when hearing the teaching of a relie

Keywords:

- enlightenment becoming aware of a/the truth
- ♦ **meditation** a way of concentrating and focusing the mind
- theism sometimes used to mean belief in any God or gods, but often use belief in one God, who also created the world
- ultimate reality God or gods, or a force/truth that the erns the universe
- nirvana (in Buddhism) being extinguisher ໃນຢ່າງ ມີພອrated from the cycle

Within **theistic** religion which beligiven by Governor is to say that those who study their religion and receive source of **enlightenment** – they come to understand truths and about the nature of reality and the purpose of human life. They may enlightened about these things during worship, when they open themselves

Christianity teaches that experiencing Jesus or the Holy Spirit may enlighted will, as these are the persons of God believed to be more accessible to humand Christians believe that they can have a personal relationship with him, to come into the hearts of Christians who seek him, and guide them in the Different Ideas about the Divine, including the qualities 'personal' and 'immand the property of the property o

'The true light [Jesus], which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world

However, enlightenment is generally associated with Buddhism. Most Budbelieve in God. Therefore to them, the **divine** is not a person but another truth about existence. This truth must be realised by humans, as there is no

(Note: Buddhists believe in rebirth – that people will be reborn again when they die, and that this cycle will continue. However, they believe that life is suffering and wish to end the cycle of rebirth so that they are not born again.)

Within Buddhism, enlightenment occurs where so none fully realises the truth of existence, and the cycle of birth and rebirth and achieve hand achieve hand many Buddhists this is the ultimate goal, as realist navana means the end of suffering.

The Buddh and tear It is collected Thera

n

'... There is no joy like NIRVANA.' (The Dhammapada, 20

NSPECTION COPY

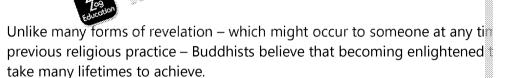
COPYRIGHT



The Buddha received enlightenment on his own through meditating. Once he was enlightened, he wanted to help others to attain enlightenment as well. Some Buddhists received enlightenment through hearing the Buddha's teachings.

Buddhists today try to become enlightened through following the Buddha's teachings, and through meditating. Some become monks to spend more time focused on this. The Buddha taught that meditation was key to receiving enlightenment.

'And those who in high thought and in deep or the first on with ever-living power advance on the property of the end reach NIRVANA, the peace supreme and the control of the Dhammapada, 23)



'Few cross the river of time and are able to reach NIRVANA...' (The Dha

Non-religious atheists will not believe that people are enlightened in the B will people from other religions.

Quick Questions

- 16) Give two examples of how religious people may attempt to achieve enlightenment.
- 17) Give two religious beliefs about enlightenment. Refer to scripture.



INSPECTION COPY



General Revelation: Nature and Scripture as a way of un

General revelation is discovering knowledge about the **divine** through navailable to everyone.

Keywords:

- general revelation discovering knowledge of God / the divine through navailable to everyone
- scripture holy writings, e.g. the Bible, the Qur'an, the Tanakh and Talmud
- conscience an intuition about what is right and wrong
- natural law reasoning about how to act from nat;

Types of General Revelation

There are different type: A revelation, including:

- Nature
- Script
- Conscience
- Reason

Do you special rev lea

You need to know about the first **two** of these for your exam.

Nature

One way many Christians and people of other religions feel that God / the nature. Nature is a form of **general revelation**, because nature is available **vision** to a specific person.

Important! You need to be able to explain contrasting beliefs about nature as general from Christianity and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Christian Positions

Some Christians feel that they can learn a lot about God from nature:

- They can learn that he is powerful, because they believe that he creates and this is an enormous feat.
- They can learn that he is loving, because to do a world for human provides a good standard of life to ny.
- Some feel awe as the world, and feel that it he mutaning if he can create anything as amazing as the world
- The Catholic Church in particular emphasises **natural law**. They believe they should behave from nature, e.g. sex naturally produces children, so that natural law forbids artificial contraception which would go against designed.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



NSPECTION COPY

Atheist and Humanist Positions

Atheists will not feel that nature **reveals** that there is a God / are gods, or reveals anything about God.

- They believe that the universe was not created; its start can be explained by science, e.g. by the **Big Bang**.
- They feel that nature does not reveal a loving God; they may feel that **evil and suffering** in the world do not reflect a loving creator.

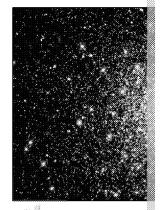


Image of what the

- They will feel that awe and wonder at the natural world do not imply the feel and a God, but that religious persupernatural explanation in the natural.
- Many treel they need to act in accordance with nature. **Human** important in making discoveries, and the British Humanist Association progress this may involve acting in 'unnatural' ways, such as using congenetically modified foods, for example.

Scripture

Another way in which many religious people feel that God / the divine is **revealed** is through **scripture**. As scripture is (in theory) available to everyone, it is classed as **general revelation**.

For those who dictated by Go be viewed that scripture was a as God was tall

Most Christians feel that they can learn about God through scripture:

- They can learn about his personality through reading about his interact the Old Testament.
- They can learn about his will through reading his commands in the Ol
 of Jesus in the New Testament.
- They can learn about his plan for humanity, including his love for then
 which teach that God sent Jesus to **save** humanity from sin and death
 between people and God so that they could have a relationship.

Atheists do not believe that scripture can be revelatory or that experiences are true (although some believe that certain even as a scripture have their

Quick Questions

- 18) Give two examples ் கட் தயாச.
- 19) Which se forms of general revelation teaches about the life of Jesinteraction with the world?
 - a) Scripture
- b) Nature
- c) Conscience

Now Try This...

20) Explain two contrasting beliefs about nature as general revelation, reference and non-religious beliefs.

NSPECTION COPY



Different Ideas about the Divine from these Sources

There are many different ideas about the **divine** which arise from **revelation**

Keywords:

- ♦ omnipotent all powerful
- ♦ omniscient all knowing
- **personal** knowable, someone who one can have a relationship with
- **covenant** a promise between God and people
- impersonal unknowable
- ♦ monotheism belief in one God
- immanent present and active in the world
- transcendent outside of the world. ti.
- Trinity the belief that Go persons, Father, Son and Spirit

Omnipot

A key way is a Christians learn about the **divine** is through *scripture*. In **prophets** and Jesus, the Bible teaches Christians that God is **omnipotent** (a)

'But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all (Matthew 19:26 NRSV)

'It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his understanding stretched out the heavens.' (Jeremiah 10:12 NF

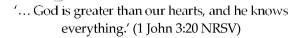
The Bible demonstrates God's power; it teaches that he sent plagues on Egy Jewish people to win in battle (in several books of the Old Testament); raise the end of the Gospels); and showed his power in many other ways.

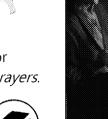
Those who knew **Jesus** experienced God's power first hand, and those who experienced *miracles* will also feel that they have experienced God's power.

Many Christians feel that God is omnipotent because they cannot imagine how much power it must have taken to create the universe – they can see the extent of God's creation in **nature**.

Omniscient

Many Christians also feel the food slows everything; for example, if they fee' to be a mas answered their silent *prayers*.





Jesus as a

God's knowledge is demonstrated in the Bible – when he knows where Jorand when Jesus knows what people are thinking (e.g. Matthew 9:3–5), and

INSPECTION COPY



God shows his knowledge in the book of Job, where Job questions God, and knowledge of many ways of the world; indicating that God does know the senot (Job 38–42).

Jesus also taught about God's knowledge – that he was aware of the numbhead, and of all that is hidden.

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and not become known... Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your 'a are all counted. So of more value than many sparrows.' Author 10:26, 29–31 NI

Personal and Imper

Most Christian be by mat God is a **personal** God, who wants to have a relation p with humanity, as they believe he has spoken to humans throughout time (recorded in the Bible) and sent his son Jesus to make sure that he and humans could have a complete relationship.

God has made himself known through *visions* and **Jesus**, and through other means such as *scripture* and *prayer*.

"But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons' wives with you." (Genesis 6:18 NRSV)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." (Jeremiah 1:5

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the only son, full of grace and truth.' (John 1:14 NRSV)

Some Christians would not see God as **impersonal**, because they see him relationship with.

However, some will see him as impersonal as well as seeing him as personal God as personal makes him seem too human and knowe'ble, whereas God understanding, so he is impersonal as well – this in graph in scripture, the God to humans (e.g. when he speaks to them, who, naturally, show him as

For my thoughts and result thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LOR higher than your ways and my thoughts (Isaiah 55:8–9 NRSV)

INSPECTION COPY



Immanent and Transcendent

Many Christians believe that God is **immanent**; active in the world, and kno**revelation** indicate an immanent God – God *must* be active in the world for occur, *prayer* to be answered, *scripture* to be revealed, and for **Jesus** (as Gotta).

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmar is with us." (Matthew 1:23 NRSV)

However, many Christians also believe that God is **transcript and another**; outside of Passages of **scripture** describe God as transcript in another humans can use God created the universe, he cannot be sained within it. Similarly, if Government, and knows the four personal contained within time.



LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the (Psalm 113:5–6 NRSV)

There are several approaches to the apparent contradiction between a God who is both immanent and transcendent. As most Christians believe that God is a **Trinity** (three persons), the Catholic Church teaches that God the Father is **transcendent**, while God the Son and God the Spirit are **immanent**. This is partly due to the teaching of St Paul. However some other Christians feel that all persons of God are, somehow, able to be outside of time and space, but be active in the world at the same time – because they believe that as God is **omnipotent**, he would not be limited in any way.



Painting of the

'Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD.' (Jeren)

Quick Questions

- 21) Which of these words describes as all-powerful?
 - a) C 7 iei !
- b) Transcendent
- c) Personal
- 22) Give two reasons why religious people may believe that God is person

NSPECTION COPY



The Value of General and Special Revelation and Enligh of Knowledge about the Divine

Value of Special Revelation for Christians

- It is hard to deny God's existence when he has explicitly revealed him be taken as proof of God's existence.
- Special revelation shows God's involvement in the world, and his common as other aspects of his character.
- Special revelations to individuals, especially ones which are recorded, God and God's will.

Value of Enlightenment

- Achieving liberation from the yarran birth and rebirth achieving nir
- Knowing the truth an a gaing able to apply this in/to life.

Value of al Revelation

- Available to everyone, so it does not exclude people from learning about
- Many forms are easily accessible.
- Can help teach people about God and what he wants.

The Problems of different Ideas about the Divine arising from

One key issue with revelations is that different ideas about the **divine** arise have had a **vision** of Jesus, while a Buddhist might claim to have experience liberated from the cycle of birth and rebirth. One Christian might think that men and women should be treated in the same way, while others feel should fill different roles. Therefore, different **revelations** support conflict religions, or different branches of the same religion.

Different ideas about the divine also seem to conflict, e.g. revelations of Gottranscendent – though, as dealt with in the section on *Different Ideas about Sources*, there are ways to accept both of these.

Some religious people want to check their **religious experiences**, if they for something but they are not sure. They might check if their religious experiences teaching in sacred texts or talk to another person of their religion about it. the revelation is genuine or not.

Alternative Explanations for the Theorem

As seen in the section on The Tree Pent from Miracles, David Hume exquered to have experience the must be either:

• lying

mistaken

He explained that as people often lie, and are often mistaken, it is logical to when someone reports a miracle, because one would never have experient this is much more improbable than an unreliable witness.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

P

If someone experienced

them or th



INSPECTION COPY

This argument can also be used for other forms of **revelation**. Someone of have experienced one of these, or could be mistaken. They might be experienced they have had a **vision** of God and spoken to him interpreting a standard dream as a vision, or feeling that a coincidence was **prayer**.

Here are some other alternative explanations for **religious experiences** of

- **Use of drugs:** Some drugs have been shown to produce experiences which resemble religious experiences, e.g. visions. These can include **hallucinations** where people see and hear things which are not there, which might seem notice or disturbing. It is possible to argue that so ne which are the experiencing revelation may have a some of their experience without a large that if drugs can provide have a 'religious' experience without the involve of a god, and so 'religious' experiences of revelation do not prove God.
- Hallucinations/Illusions: As mentioned previously, there may be various other reasons why people experience hallucinations for example, for medical reasons and hallucinations could resemble a religious experience, e.g. visions. Anyone could hallucinate, and, the experience of revelation could be alternatively explained as a hallucinate.
- Wish fulfilment: Some people believe that people have religious experienced revelation because they desire to it is a wish fulfilment. I hear from God, they may convince themselves that they have, e.g. three especially if they are under any kind of stress.
- Ordinary events coincidence/upbringing: People may explain ordinal as miracles or answered prayer. However, there may be no supernature event could just be a coincidence. Interpreting something as revelation way someone was brought up, e.g. someone may have good morals be them well, not because God gave them a conscience, but they may not been taught that there is a God.
- Furthermore, there are some instances of revelation which most people genuine. Serial killers have claimed to hear God telling them to kill pethink this is the case (and that they are either lying or ill). If people do revelations are experiences of God, then it becomes hard to know how revelation is real or not. It is always a choice to believe in application, tion might not be genuine, it is choice to believe in application as of revelation.

Quick Qu 79 ns

- 23) Which these did David Hume claim that witnesses of miracles definition
 - a) Hallucinating
- b) On drugs
- c) Unreliable
- 24) Give two non-religious explanations for revelation.

NSPECTION COPY



Summary for The Nature of the Divine and Revelation

- Christians believe that some people have experienced special revelations of God, where they experience God through supernatural means. In Christianity, Christians believe God has revealed himself through Jesus; many Christians feel they have had visions, and feel they have spoken to God through prayer.
- Buddhists believe that they can experience eternal truth through revelation; through enlightenment. Many feel they achieve mist through meditation, and that this is berate them from the cycle of in his crebirth.
- Many religious so feel that they can expert the vivine through general revelation through means available to everyone. Some think that the nature, scripture, conscience and reason.
- There are many different ideas about the divine which people believe Christians believe that God is omnipotent and omniscient; most believe believe he is also impersonal; and most believe he is immanent, thoughtranscendent.
- ◆ There are different values to different types of **revelation**, which may people. However, there is a problem in that some revelations seem to There are various alternative explanations for revelation, including that lying. People might be under the influence of drugs, or suffering a **hall** revelation may be wish fulfilment; or an ordinary event may be interprecoincidence, sometimes due to upbringing.

Impact and Influence

Revelation can affect people in different ways. It can strengthen people's non-belief to belief; or from one religion to another. Some people live and they feel that a revelation has taught them to. Revelation also allows many relationship with the **divine** and that they have learnt about the divine in the **enlightenment** will liberate them.

Now Try This...

25) 'Special revelation is a reliable way of ciscouring knowledge about the Evaluate this statement.

Argue This statement. You must give religious argumer religious. Reach a conclusion which follows from your arguments.

INSPECTION COPY



Answers

Philosophical Arguments for and against the Existence

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme				
1	The world does not seem well designed.				
	The analogy between the world and designed objects is weak.				
	The design argument does not prove one Christian God.				
	• The appearance of design can be explained by science.				
	Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (m/an 2 / 2)				
2	c) Analogy				
3	b) Cosmological				
4	 Everything now and ds a pluse. It makes to some that there was a first cause than that causes and effective regions. It makes to some that there was a first cause than that causes and effective regions. It makes to some that there was a first cause than that causes and effective regions. It makes to some that there was a first cause than that causes and effective regions. 				
5	Jesus' resurrection				
	The parting of the Red Sea				
	Gideon's Fleece				
	Accept any relevant example, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)				
6	c) The Bible				
7	Christianity:				
	 Miracles happen; God has performed many miracles, including sending has resurrected from the dead. 				
	 Miracles prove that God exists, because if there is no natural explanation must be a supernatural explanation: God. 				
	Non-religious:				
	 Miracles do not happen; 'miracles' may be coincidences, or events which by humans) cannot yet explain, but will be able to in the future. 'Miracles' do not prove that God exists – it is always more likely that a wi mistaken or lying. 				
	Any additional religions should NOT be accepted.				
	Accept any relevant point 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4) If only Christianity OR only non-religious beliefs are mentioned OR the two be contrasting, maximum 2 marks				
8	Moral suffering				
	Natural suffering				
9	a) Atheism				
10	c) Creation				
11	 Scientific explanations do n				
	correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)				

INSPECTION COPY



Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme		
12	One argument with justification Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together leading to a reasonable conclusion		
7.9 Educati	Points and Justification for: It seems likely that there is a God because something needed to cause the universe traceme into being – there needed to cause. Everything else hand it would be very unlike that the laws of nature were hand are zauses and effects continue to a continue and it would be continue to a continue and it would be continue to a continue to a continue and it would be continue to a co	Points and Justificat It is more likely caused by the developed through the limit of the limit	
	Accept any relevant point or justification – other re	eligions should be ac	

NSPECTION COPY





The Nature of the Divine and Revelation

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme				
13	The burning bush (Moses)				
	Saul on the road to Damascus Perpadette of Lourder's vision of the Mirain Many				
	Bernadette of Lourdes' vision of the Virgin Mary Accept any relevant point 1 mark per point (maximum 2)				
1./	Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)				
14 15	b) Nature Christianity:				
13	 God sends visions, and these visions show that God is active in the world communicating with humanity. "In the last days it will be, God declares that all pour out my Spirit up 				
	sons and your daughters shall proh sv 3/your young men shall see vector men shall dream dream (Ac 3 2 7 NRSV) • Visions can hel; when 5 know that God exists; for example, when God the burning of the burning o				
	le 13 Irrner, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Visions can convert people to a new religion, such as when Saul had a viwhy he was persecuting him, and converted to Christianity.				
	 "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4 NRSV) Visions can help Christians know what God wants them to believe, such to be such the same of the same				
	the Virgin Mary told Bernadette of Lourdes that she was the Immaculate Any additional religions should be accepted.				
	Any additional religions should be accepted. Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture				
	1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark to scripture.				
	If <i>only</i> one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scrip				
16	 Through studying religion Through meditation Through hearing the teaching of a religious leader, e.g. the Buddha 				
17	 Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2) Christianity: Some Christians believe that they can become enlightened about the na experiencing Jesus or the Holy Spirit. They believe that they can have a personal relationship with Jesus and le through him, and that the Holy Spirit will reside in them and guide them will enlighten them about the nature of God and his plan for them. 'The true light [Jesus], which enlightens everyone, was coming into the w NRSV) 				
	 Buddhism: Buddhists believe that enlightenment is the report of truth, and that the ultimate goal for many Buddhists. Buddhists seek this because in escape from the cycle of birth a believe is suffering in the that achieving enlightenment and react of suffering in the truth of the Dhammapada, 202) 				
	Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark				
	to scripture. If <i>only</i> one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scri				
18	The Bible The Qur'an The Talmud				
	The Talmud Accept any relevant example, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)				
	Accept any relevant example, i mark per point (maximum z)				

INSPECTION COPY



Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme			
19	a) Scripture			
20	 Christianity: Christians may believe that they can discover knowledge aborevelation, e.g. that nature shows God's power because he disamazing he is because the world is beautiful. The Catholic Church teaches that nature reveals God's will to disapproves of contraception because sex produces children. 			
	Non-religious: Atheists believe that nature does not reveal that there is a God, and nature, and the origins of nature, can be explained scientifically. Humanists may feel that nature does not reveal ow humans should human progress is important, e.g. developed contraception, and the nature, this does not necessaril in the Any additional religious contracepted. Accept any does not necessarily accepted.			
•	parar			
	dratesting, maximum 2 marks	to will all all all all all all all all all		
21	d) Omnipotent			
22	 God spoke to many people in the Bible. God sent Jesus so that Christians could have a relationship with him. Many Christians feel that they experience God personally through pr 			
23	Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)			
24	c) Unreliable • Hallucinations			
	 Drug use Ordinary events Wish fulfilment Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maxing) 	mum 2)		
25				
	Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together			
	Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and leading to a reasonable conclusion.	d against, linked togethe		
	Points and Justification for	Points and Justification		
	 If you experience the divine personally, you know it exists. Visions sometimes convert people to new religions, so they must be real, and not someone's imagination. Special revelation is first-hand 'no fled of the divine, so the people with the divine, so the people with the divine, so the people with the divine was the people with the divine personally, you know it exists. 	 If people have speciable for the experiences special a reliable way for the divine. Special revelation or a wish-fulfilme prove that it is ge People may not in revelations correct 		
	decount w	interpretations of of Jesus etc., so it to know the exact There are special different religions things, so they ca of discovering knowledge.		

Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accept

INSPECTION COPY

