

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit D (RSS04) *Religion, Philosophy and Science*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate C



2009 (June) Unit D Religion, Philosophy and Science

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate C

- 1 (a) 'Miracles are described as events of religious significance.' Explain the meaning of this statement.

(30 marks)

AO1

Candidate Response

1a Miracles are interpreted in two ways, a violation of natural law or as an event of religious significance. David Hume takes the side of the violation of natural law while Richard Swinburne thinks a ~~miracle~~ violation of natural law can only be a miracle if it ~~is~~ has some sort of religious significance. There are many different types of miracles such as healings, resurrections and natural miracles, these are mainly found in the Bible for example Lazarus and the feeding of the 5000. ~~Richard Swinburne~~ A miracle has religious significance if it is related to God, it may not have to be this way for everyone but if a ~~person~~ believes theist had an event which they believed was a miracle thanks to God, others could argue that it's an absolute coincidence and that ~~there~~ was not down to any kind of religious being. It raises the question of belief in God. Others would argue that it was just a coincidental event and that there is no need for a person to believe that it is a miracle. ~~Others~~ ^{Nelson Pike} would argue that God could not intervene in the world to change the natural course of events as he is outside of time. However Maurice Wiles argues that an event could have religious significance but not always due to a selective God who chooses when to intervene.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

The candidate has understood the demands of the question and begins promisingly. However, very soon into the answer, there is a discussion about miracles which is framed as an AO2 discussion. For part (a), this would not receive credit. Some credit can be given for the use of examples and a limited reference to scholarship.

Level 2 (6 marks)

(b) **Discuss how far miracles make it reasonable to believe in God.**

(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

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| 1B | <p>Miracles can lead to a stronger belief in God. There are many different types of miracles in the Bible from resurrections to feeding 5000 people. Miracles in the Bible show us that Jesus is the Son of God and that he has the power to do anything. Some people's faith in God would strengthen if an event occurred in their life which they believed was a miracle due to their faith in God and would think that God would be there when they would needed him them most. However, Nelson Pike argued that God could not intervene in the world as he is 'outside of time'. There is also the deistic viewpoint which says ^{tells} us that God created the world universe and everything in it but he has left it to govern itself almost like a clockwork universe. There is also the viewpoint of Maurice Wiles, he said that God is there but he is an inconsistent God and only chooses to intervene selectively. He argued that for people to have more faith in him he must intervene more frequently which he doesn't. This is questions the idea of free will and it also brings up the problem of evil, and says that the problem of evil will be harder to solve if God intervenes selectively.</p> |
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Commentary

AO2 15 marks

The material used to answer the question is wholly relevant if somewhat underdeveloped. What is lacking here is the skill of AO2. The candidate has provided the arguments but there is no comment – either explicit or implicit – on them. As a result, the candidate has limited the mark range to a maximum Level 4 (9).

Level 4 (8 marks)

2 (a) **Examine ways in which religious believers explain the origin of life on Earth.**
(30 marks) AO1

Candidate Response

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| 2a | <p>Religious believers, such as Christians, believe that the world was created in 6 days and on the 7th day God had rested. There are many different views on this as there is the <u>old earth creation story</u> and the <u>New earth creation story</u>. In the <u>New earth creation story</u> they take the meaning of the story literally and that it took God 6 days to create light and dark, the land, the oceans, the creatures, the earth and everything upon it and that he rested on the 7th day. However the <u>Old earth creation story</u> is said that each day wasn't just a day it was many millions of days and that God didn't possibly make the world in 6 days. Another route to the creation of the earth is found in the <u>Genesis</u>. This would mean that it was Adam and Eve who were the first people on the earth and that they lived in the Garden of Eden, they had named all the animals and everything around them. The story of Adam and Eve also shows how evil came about in the world. If they had not obey ate the forbidden man would not have had to do labour and women would not have to bare the pain of childbirth. Evil is represented in the Snake which tempts them, Lucifer, the Shape Shifting fallen angel.</p> |
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Commentary

AO1 30 marks

The answer lacks scope. At the point where the candidate describes the eating of the apple in the Garden of Eden, the answer also lacks relevance. The question asks for descriptions of religious beliefs about Creation. The candidate has some awareness of the difference between creationists but has wrongly labelled the different groups. In addition, the range of religious views is not presented.

Level 2 (7 marks)

- (b) **Assess the view that evolutionary theory conflicts with belief in a creator.**
(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

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| 2b | Richard Dawkins' theory of evolution does not conflict much with the belief in a creator. Evolution shows us that man made it this far due to natural selection and that humans are the dominant species. However, this does go against the belief that God created the world and everything in it. Evolution shows us that that humans have evolved over thousands of years and have reached the status they are at only through natural selection and survival of the fittest. Whereas God put humans on the earth to govern it and act as stewards over everything and to look after the world, they got that status as God put them in that status rather than battling their way to the top as shown by evolution. |
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Commentary

AO2 15 marks

The answer is brief and only presents one side. It is difficult to agree with the candidate that Dawkins does not conflict with the belief in a creator. There is some accurate material on evolution but there is no attempt to evaluate or assess this material. The candidate has, thus, limited the range of marks available.

Level 3 (5 marks)