



Sixth Form Entrance Examination: Philosophy and Theology

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Summary

There are four sections covering the following topics:

- Issues of Relationships
- Issues of Life and Death
- Issues of Good and Evil
- Issues of Human Rights

You will have 45 minutes to complete a choice of two sections. Each section is made up of four questions; a 2-mark question asking you to *define* a key concept; a 5-mark question asking you to *describe* a philosophical theory or traditional religious teaching (“doctrine”) on an issue; a 5-mark question asking you to explain *why* people might respond to certain issues in the way that they do; a 10-mark question asking you to discuss and evaluate views and arguments about an issue. To answer questions you can use anything you learnt in a Religious Studies GCSE course, but also anything you have learnt in your wider reading.

Sample *define* question:

Explain what is meant by ‘resurrection’. (2)

Sample *describe* question:

Describe a theory or doctrine about the relationship between humans and animals (5)

Sample *explain* question:

Explain attitudes towards euthanasia in one religion you have studied *or* explain one perspective on the ethics of euthanasia not dependent on any religion.

Sample high mark question:

“‘Human beings are more than just bodies.’

Do you agree? Explain your reasoning, showing you have considered an alternative perspective. (10)

You might discuss this statement along the following lines:

Some would argue that humans are more than just bodies because they have souls. This might suggest that there is more to humans than just bodies. Muslims, for example, think that we have souls since the Qur’an describes a state of life between death and the resurrection of our bodies. We may also be more than just bodies because we are able to make decisions, we have a mind and can think freely. Others would argue that we are just bodies and that when you die, nothing will remain of us. They may argue for this because damaging our brains results in our “minds” being able to do less. “