

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies

Analysis: Developing logical chains of reasoning

Paper Chains (of reasoning)

About this resource:

Developing logical chains of reasoning, is a crucial skill for Religious Studies students. It helps them succeed in b, c and d exam questions by constructing rational and persuasive arguments based on religious evidence. This resource aims to explain what logical chains of reasoning are and how you might wish to practice writing them with your students.

How to use this resource:

- Select a 12-mark statement from an existing d) question and share this with your students
- Cut a series of strips of paper and provide these to each group
- Instruct one student to begin by writing an original point on one 'chain'
- Then instruct others in the group to each write developments on separate 'chain links' so that arguments can be built up.
- When all developments are exhausted, link your arguments to make a 'chain of reasoning'. As an extension to his task for your most able, ask students to appraise the arguments made in your chain



Example (Based on: "The main purpose of a Muslim's life is to achieve paradise.")

Point: Some Muslims may agree with the statement because the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) taught the importance of aspiring to attaining a place in Jannah.

Development 1: This can be seen in many of his teachings where Jannah is the result of righteous living, through acts such as marriage and respecting your parents.

Development 2: These can be ways Muslims strive to achieve Paradise through Allah's will.

Development 3: The purpose and reward of following these teachings are emphasised throughout Muhammad's teachings.

Development 4: This is shown in the Qur'an where it states, "those whose scales are heavy [with good deeds] it is they who are the successful".

Development 5: This emphasises that the main purpose of a Muslim's life is to achieve Paradise.

Point / Development:



Point / Development:



Point / Development:



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