

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies

Teaching Appraisal

Appraisal sentence starters

About this resource:

This resource offers a range of sentence starters to encourage students to appraise their arguments. By using these starters, students can focus on content, thereby enhancing their critical thinking and writing skills.

How to use this resource:

- Give students the sentences on the next page along with a practice question.
- Have them choose from the list to integrate appraisal into their arguments.
- As they improve, encourage them to create their own appraisal sentence starters.

Sentence starters:

- *Whilst the statement might suggest...*
- *This view is dubious because...*
- *This can only ever be partly successful because...*
- *It is undeniable that...*

Example Question – Specification B, Paper 1C, June 2024:

“Euthanasia may be the most loving response to suffering.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Muslim teachings
- refer to relevant ethical arguments
- reach a justified conclusion.

Example Answer Excerpt:

...However, **other Muslims challenge the notion that*** euthanasia is never the most loving response in times of suffering as in the Qur'an it commands "do not take life, which God has made sacred". This means only Allah should have control of when someone's life ends as all life is special even when suffering, this **is strengthened by*** the religious belief in the sanctity of life. Sanctity of life reinforces that you should not euthanise someone as a response to suffering but know that your life is made sacred by Allah. **This is credible as*** it is supported consistently in Muslim scripture. For instance, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) says "whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, Allah will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement" meaning a killing would be for a just cause if it was for food, which further supports the idea that euthanasia is not allowed nor a loving response to suffering. **It is clear to see this line of reasoning*** supports the belief of Al-Qadr, as Allah has predestined everything within a Muslims life as Sunni Muslims believe and therefore, they should not interrupt the way of predestination even if it was a response to end suffering. The former scripture is **open to many interpretations*** however, as one may see euthanasia as a response to suffering as a "just cause". **This is based on the assumption that*** some people think that euthanasia can be a loving response as it is not fair or just to allow someone to suffer.

*Notice how the highlighted sentences in the answer excerpt above, serve to enhance the answer by encouraging the appraisal of arguments raised.

Appraisal sentence starters

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- Whilst the statement might suggest...
 - Other religious people challenge the notion that... / make the claim that
 - The religious text (e.g. Bible, Torah etc) makes a strong contribution through...
 - The approach provides the opportunity to...
 - The argument is not entirely convincing because...
 - Several crucial questions are left unanswered...
 - It would have been more appropriate to have stated that...
 - The authors efforts can be considered as...
 - Less convincing is the generalisation that...
 - This appears to be interpreted differently by some believers, indicating that...
 - This could be considered of limited success because...
 - This is open to many interpretations...
 - This is clearly open to criticism...
 - This argument may appear valid on the surface, however...
 - This is well-grounded...
 - The logic of this position is clear...
 - However, this view does not conform with...
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- This view is dubious because...
 - This is based on the assumption that...
 - This can only ever be partly successful because...
 - The wealth of evidence...
 - One can see the strengths of this approach as...
 - This is credible as...
 - It is undeniable that...
 - The authority of... supports...
 - This criticism successfully undermines...
 - It is clear to see this line of reasoning...
 - ...is strengthened by...
 - ...which at first seems persuasive...
 - This is believable in light of...
 - It does not make sense that...
 - When we take... into consideration, this leads us to...
 - At first, this seems fair, but it does not take account of...
 - If we accept this, then...
 - While this argument presents a compelling perspective...