

Edexcel International GCSE Religious Studies



2022 Extended question exemplars 12-mark 'Evaluate' and 10-mark 'Discuss'

This pack includes level 4 exemplar answers taken from our International GCSE Religious Studies qualification. It includes answers from the religions answered by the majority of candidates and covers the range of marks available for Level 4 on Paper 1 and Paper 2. This includes clarification about the level descriptors and analysis of each answer against these level descriptors.

These exemplars were taken from the 2022 exam series. It should be noted that standardisation occurs to ensure consistency across series and the standard is set by the senior examining team.

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Level Descriptors: 12-mark 'Evaluate'



Our extended evaluation questions are level-marked rather than point-marked.

This involves the examiner reading through the whole answer before awarding a level using a best-fit approach.

A mark is then decided based on how well it meets the descriptors within that level.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements in the question.• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.• Deconstructs religious information/issues and makes superficial connections between many, but not all, of the elements in the question.• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.
Level 3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and make connections between many, but not all, of the elements in the question.• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
Level 4	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and make connections between the full range of elements in the question.• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.

Nb: The descriptors for 12-mark 'Evaluate' and 10-mark 'Discuss' questions only differ on marks available, not on expectations.



Level Descriptors: 10-mark 'Discuss'



Our extended evaluation questions are level-marked rather than point-marked.

This involves the examiner reading through the whole answer before awarding a level using a best-fit approach.

A mark is then decided based on how well it meets the descriptors within that level.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief.• Identifies information/issues and makes superficial connections between a limited range of elements within the question.• Judgements are supported by generic arguments to produce a conclusion that is not fully justified.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates limited understanding of religion and belief.• Deconstructs religious information/issues, and makes superficial connections between many, but not all, of the elements in the question.• Judgements of a limited range of elements in the question are made. Judgements are supported by an attempt to appraise evidence, much of which may be superficial, leading to a conclusion that is not fully justified.
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates accurate understanding of religion and belief.• Deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between many, but not all, of the elements in the question.• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of elements in the question. Judgements are supported by the appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially justified conclusion.
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates sustained accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.• Critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints and that make connections between the full range of elements in the question.• Constructs coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive appraisal of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.

Nb: The descriptors for 12-mark 'Evaluate' and 10-mark 'Discuss' questions only differ on marks available, not on expectations.





Level descriptors contain a mixture of elements that need to be fulfilled. There are therefore many reasons why an answer may meet a level. Although examiners use a 'best-fit' approach to marking, there are often key features which exemplify the different levels.

Level 1 answers often:

- Include only basic information which may confuse arguments or not fully understand the question
- Are undeveloped
- Are one-sided
- Do not attempt to give a conclusion
- Focus on one word in the stimulus rather than fully understand the argument the stimulus raises

Level 2 answers often:

- Show some accurate religious knowledge
- Include simply developed points linking one idea to another idea
- Include both 'for' and 'against' arguments presented as viewpoints
- Fail to provide supporting evidence
- Are unable to assess the value of the arguments presented
- Include a conclusion but will justify it with more reasoning rather than appraisal of the arguments given

Level 3 answers often:

- Select and apply relevant religious information to respond to the question
- Write their response in a chain linking one idea to another with developed reasoning
- Do not consistently include supporting evidence
- Evaluate the value and relevance of some of the arguments/evidence they have used
- Recognise that there are divergent religious views
- Provide judgements, but the appraisal of these judgements may be limited

Level 4 answers often:

- Ensure that all arguments used are accurate and respond to the question
- Include information that has been carefully selected to ensure arguments are detailed and yet concise (avoiding writing unnecessary information)
- Include sufficient content to provide a full exploration of the main issues raised by the stimulus
- Have a flow throughout the answer, connecting one argument to another.
- Include arguments and reasons that are all fully appraised, commenting on the validity of arguments and evidence
- Include a conclusion that weighs up the convincingness of arguments given and then arrives at a justified decision, without the use of new reasoning



Paper 1

Example 1: 12 marks



“There is no point in punishment if it does not change the wrongdoer.”

Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view. In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

[12]

Some people may agree with this statement and claim that forms of punishment such as prison, though they may offer retribution and vindication, they do not prevent or stop the person from committing the same crime they did or even going onto committing other crimes. Furthermore from a religious point of view, Christians may claim that Jesus came to earth to reform humankind and prevent them from committing sin as he did with the woman who was adulterous, and so this shows that reformation is an important aspect of changing a wrongdoer. Furthermore they may reason that if punishment doesn't help to reform then it will likely be ineffective in preventing someone from committing the same crimes. This argument is substantially strong as it suggests there must be more to punishment such as aspects of reformation to actually be effective in stopping someone to continue their wrong-doing.

Some people may disagree with this statement and claim that there are other purposes of punishment such as vindication and retribution. Some non-religious people may claim that the purpose of punishment should be to protect those who are weak and vulnerable in society and therefore long-term punishment, even if it does not change the wrong-doer, it protects society. This viewpoint is somewhat weak as it only ensures the protection of society if the punishment is a long-term, life-long sentence. Some Christians may further argue that punishment in the form of imprisonment, though it may not change the person is still very much justified and not pointless if its for the 'lesser of two evils' in order to protect society. This follows Thomas Aquinas' argument that 'any action is morally justified if it causes the greater good for more people' following the principle of Utilitarianism. This argument is substantially strong as it suggests that directly against the statement that there is some point in punishment even if it does not change the wrongdoer, it is still significant.

Overall, having considered both sides of the argument, I believe that the most convincing argument is that which suggests that there is still significance in punishment even if it does not change the wrongdoer. This is strong because although it may not be justified in the long term, punishment provides an immediate response to the actions of a wrong-doer and in the case where society is in need of protection this is arguably very important. Furthermore, though some may say that one should be reformed to ensure the protection of society and to change the wrong-doer, punishment is an effective way to teach people the consequences of their actions, and if done in the correct way, may itself change the wrong-doer and stop them from committing such things.



Paper 1

Example 1: 12 marks



Analysis of answer

This answer achieved Level 4, 12 marks because:

- It demonstrates a **thorough understanding** of the main issues related to the stimulus statement, which is focused and **sustained** throughout.
- It **critically deconstructs** the issues, unpacking different aims of punishment, types of punishments and views towards it which demonstrates their confidence with the material. Points made are developed to create **logical chains of reasoning** to build up the arguments put forward. **Different viewpoints** are well-considered as demanded by the question and the complexity of the question is fully explored within this. The **full range of elements in the question** are considered.
- **Reasoned judgements** are constructed which respond directly to the question, demonstrating understanding of the content. These are **supported by comprehensive appraisal of evidence** which comments on the convincingness of the arguments discussed. The consideration and appraisal of arguments then leads to a **fully justified conclusion** which weighs up the arguments discussed before coming to a final judgement.



Paper 1

Example 2: 11 marks



“God is the only possible reason the world exists.”

Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view. In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

[12]

Fundamentalist Christians believe that God is the only possibility for the world's creation because the Bible states, in Genesis 1, 'God created the heavens and the earth'. The Bible is used as evidence for the world's creation as fundamentalists believe the Bible holds the entire truth. However, this may be seen as a weak, or not a persuasive argument because the Bible was written 2000 years ago before modern scientific understandings. So, whilst the Bible is a valid support to creation, it is not a strong argument.

On the other hand, the leading scientific explanation is the Big Bang Theory which says the world began from an explosion – red shift is used to support this theory. This explains that God did not create the world, but pure coincidence did. As there is lots of evidence to support the scientific claims (red shift, fossil records, etc), it is a more persuasive argument.

I believe that the Big Bang Theory did start the world's existence because there is clear scientific evidence, however God's creation is supported by the Bible which holds many incorrect ideas, out-of-date ideas or mistranslations. Therefore, it is more reliable to believe the scientific explanations.

Also, some Christians believe in both, perhaps believing that God began the Big Bang or that the Bible just shows the order of the world's beginning, but not necessarily that God created it. Liberal Christians often believe this idea; scientific evidence can be compatible with religious belief. A Catholic priest was one of the first theorists of the Big Bang; he saw no problem with believing in both. This is a strong argument because it shows that science and religion do not always have to disagree, therefore this demonstrates the strength of each side.

In contrast, Christians have explanations for the world's creation. For example, St Aquinas introduced the cosmological argument: our world works in cause and effect, infinite regression is unlikely so there must be a first cause which is God. This argument seems strong because it follows logical sense, also we all have experience of the cause and effect relationships in the physical world. So this argument seems strong, however critics of this argument say it is a leap to call this first cause God.

Overall, there is clear support on both sides, there are also key weaknesses of arguments. However, these weaknesses are more commonly found in the Christian belief that God created the world. Therefore, the Big Bang theory is a more persuasive argument because there is sufficient evidence and most people believe it (even Christians, proving it is a strong argument). However, the cosmological argument does make logical sense so it is persuasive. But the weakness is that the first cause isn't necessarily God; the first cause could be the Big Bang explosion instead. There are however, some people who believe the fallacy of composition: the universe is 'just there, and that's that'.



Paper 1

Example 2: 11 marks



Analysis of answer

This answer achieved Level 4, 11 marks because:

- Throughout, the answer demonstrates **sustained, accurate and thorough understanding** drawing on a range of beliefs, arguments and evidence to explain different views.
- Arguments are **critically deconstructed** in relation to the question, unpicking relevant material and expanding on points made. These points are then developed using **coherent and logical chains of reasoning** to demonstrate understanding, considering **different viewpoints**. The **full range of elements in the question** are considered.
- **Reasoned judgements** are constructed which respond directly to the question, demonstrating understanding of the content. Each argument is **supported by comprehensive appraisal of evidence** as the validity of each is discussed. The **conclusion is justified** and extends the arguments made within the answer rather than leading to a final judgement.

To improve, this answer needed to:

1. Use the conclusion to weigh up the convincingness of the arguments made to lead to a final judgement rather than discuss new information.



Paper 1

Example 3: 10 marks



“Humans will always cause conflict.”

Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view. In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

[12]

This essay will argue for the essay above because humans are inherently prone to violence and conflict, despite the Bible's plea for all to live in peace.

Firstly, some may argue that the Bible, as the direct word of God, instructs all Christians to 'live in harmony' and thus if everyone followed Christianity, war could not be prevalent. This is supported by Aquinas' 5 primary precepts, in which he instructs all to 'spread faith', which in turn could result in the spreading of peaceful ideals preventing conflict. However, this is undermined by Calvin's claim of the Fall, and original sin of all in humanity. Due to the sinning of Adam and Eve in the creation story, it is believe by most that original sin is inherent in Christians and thus perfection is impossible. Therefore, it is inevitable that humans will cause conflict – correlating with the above statement. The foremost argument is proved futile by the latter, though Christianity instructs all to 'live in harmony', conflict is inevitable due to original sin, thus correlating with the statement above.

However, in contradiction some may argue that due to God's omnibenevolence, omnipotence and omniscience, conflict is necessary to God's 'perfect word', and conflict is not the cause of humans but rather a chance for overall perfection for humans. Evil and conflict, as argued by Augustine, is a 'privation of good', and thus a chance for moral perfection and a Christian's place in heaven. Furthermore, the free will defence argues that due to one's 'God-given free will', conflict and suffering is inevitable, thus suffering as not the cause or reason, but a purposeful implementation of God. However, this argument is undermined by the inconsistent triad, proposed by Mackie, arguing that God can't be both omniscient and omnibenevolent whilst evil persists in the world. Therefore, humans will always cause conflict due to opposing religions and views despite Jesus' teachings for compassion, (agape), and Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethics. Thus, the foremost argument is rendered null – conflict is inevitable in a world of evil and suffering. Vengeance (as the Bible instructs) 'an eye for an eye', is encouraged, thus supporting the above argument.

Thereby, in conclusion humans will always cause conflict. Despite the Bible's instruction of 'love thy neighbour', conflict is inevitable in a world of evil and suffering.



Paper 1

Example 3: 10 marks



Analysis of answer

This answer achieved Level 4, 10 marks because:

- The main body of the answer demonstrates **accurate and thorough understanding** through the discussion of the **different viewpoints** and the arguments for each. The **full range of elements in the question** are considered.
- The question is unpicked and relevant information is selected to address the demands of the statement. This involves the **critical deconstruction of religious information** to keep the answer focused and relevant. Each argument discussed is well-explained in **logical chains of reasoning** which demonstrates a clear understanding.
- Throughout, **reasoned judgements** are **constructed** focused on the stimulus in the question and show a consideration of the relevant arguments. Within this, there is clear **appraisal of evidence** and arguments showing a consideration of the strength of arguments put forward. This leads to a very brief **conclusion** which is not fully justified and does not pull together the judgements and appraisal within the answer.

To improve, this answer needed to:

1. Ensure the conclusion is justified and flows from the answer. It needs to weigh up the arguments and appraisal used within the answer and comment on why one viewpoint is valid or more convincing than another.



Paper 2

Example 4: 10 marks



“Only those who have been baptised are truly Christians.”

Discuss this statement, considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- Reference to teachings
- Other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- Your opinions/point of view using reasoned arguments
- A balanced conclusion

[10]

Baptisms are a central sacrament within Christian denominations; the significance of Jesus' baptism reflected as stated in Genesis 1:27, that we are all made in God's image and that despite his divinity, Jesus is no better than us. Furthermore, it is the only moment that the Bible documents the Holy Trinity as all being present in the same place at the same moment; thus confirming Jesus as the Messiah. As God spoke from Heaven, a dove flew down from the sky and Jesus was baptised, Jesus' baptism is extremely significant and therefore in addition to his teachings about baptism, baptism is a ritual of true importance for Christians. Due to this, there are debates surrounding whether or not 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian'.

A key point to consider is our status as referenced in the Bible during Genesis 1:27 as God 'made man in his own image', therefore, if we are made in God's image and Jesus is God incarnate (God in the flesh on Earth) – which is believed by most Christians, surely we are all Christian and therefore as the true children of God are therefore true Christians. However, Quakers believe, that the Bible was inspired by God, as do conservative (and liberal Christians to an extent), therefore this reference to being made in God's image may just reflect Jesus encouraging other people to get baptised as he did as shown by John who said 'you come to me yet I wish to be baptised by you.' After his baptism Jesus told his disciples to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations by baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, which suggests that we are only truly disciples and therefore potentially true Christians if we are baptised.

In contrast to this however, Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life, the one who believe in me will live even though they die', this not only indicated life after death (the form of which depends on the beliefs of different Christian denominations) but 'to live even though (we) die' could hint at the possibility of Heaven and further salvation meaning that you simply have to believe in Jesus and have faith in God to be truly Christian. Furthermore, if Jesus died for our sins, surely baptism is just a sacrament in remembrance and whether you are baptised or not you are still achieving salvation and are a true Christian.

Despite this, the Bible does state 'No one enters the Kingdom of God unless they are baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'. This in contrast suggests that you do only achieve salvation in Christianity if you are baptised; as the baptism symbolises Jesus entering your life, (for example the Holy Chrism where oil is rubbed on the forehead of the individual indicated Jesus entering your life) – if this sacrament does not occur it could be argued that Jesus is not part of your life officially as conducted through a baptism and that you must demonstrate your faith through this ceremony to achieve a true degree of Christianity. In Catholicism, there is an age past which if you have not been baptised around 10 months, you are not allowed to go to a Catholic primary school as you are not perceived to be 'Catholic enough' which could indicate that Catholics believe that you must be baptised to be truly Christian.



Paper 2

Example 4: 10 marks



Ultimately, it is my belief that the statement 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian' is false for the most part; Jesus' disciples and followers were not all baptised and whilst Jesus did encourage baptism, he did also state that faith achieves admission into Heaven as I referenced earlier. There are many conflicting statements within the Bible and it is commonplace in modern society to pick and choose those which Christians decide to follow and therefore whether you believe the statement depends on your beliefs. However, from my perspective as an atheist who grew up around and is surrounded by members of different Christian denominations, I find that the central thing that identifies a true Christian is faith in God and the pursuit of personal relationship with God – that faith achieved salvation and as believed by the Lutheran Church and many denominations, forgiveness is achieved through faith not work and faith is having trust in God which Christians must have to identify as Christians, and if we are all one and the same in the eyes of God as he is omnibenevolent, omnipotent, and omnipresent, then we cannot be 'more Christian' than another and so anyone who has faith and respect is a true Christian and whether they are baptised or not is not relevant it is just one of many sacraments in relevance to the statement which I do not agree with, 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian.'

Paper 2

Example 4: 10 marks



Analysis of answer

This answer achieved Level 4, 10 marks because:

- It demonstrates a very **thorough understanding** of the main issues related to Christian baptism, which is focused, detailed and **sustained** throughout.
- Relevant **religious information** is **critically deconstructed**, analysing the concepts and examining them in relation to the question. These are very well-explained using **coherent and logical chains of reasoning** and it is clear that the candidate is confident with the material. **Different viewpoints** are well-considered as demanded by the question and the complexity of the question is fully explored within this. The **full range of elements in the question** are considered.
- **Coherent and reasoned judgements** are constructed throughout, maintaining focus on the question. Relevant teachings and scripture are discussed which lead to these judgements. They are analysed in relation to each other as part of the **comprehensive appraisal of evidence** which consider the complexity of the issue. This then leads to a **fully justified conclusion** which considers this complexity.



Paper 2

Example 5: 9 marks



“For Muslims, worship at home is just as important as worship in a mosque.”

Discuss this statement, considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- Reference to teachings
- Other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- Your opinions/point of view using reasoned arguments
- A balanced conclusion

[10]

Some people think that worship at home is as important as worship in a mosque. Their statement is backed by the fact that the Qur'an states worship can be done anywhere as long as it is a clean space facing the Qiblah. This means that one can pray at home and do not have to go to the mosque. But this is weak because the Qur'an also states that one must attend Jum'a prayers which requires [one] to go to a mosque.

A more persuasive argument may be that although Jum'a is important, personal submission to Allah and personal callouts for their own problem is also significant in their own ways, also Allah wants personal submission. However, this is also weak because then the statement is neglecting the significance of the Ummah, which in the Qur'an says community and family life is also important, so one must also obey.

In my opinion, I think worship at the mosque is more important than at home because in the Qur'an it is stated more than 700 times the word prayer and also Muhammad said it is 27 times more praiseworthy to pray in Jum'a than the Du'a. It is also more meritable since the angels reward the names of the people who attend Jum'a prayers so they can be rewarded. This is strong because it is from a strong religious authority, both the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad.

Another point is that the prayers at a mosque [are] more powerful including the factor of the Ummah, so there is more bond between the community, family and friends. This gives spiritual support and also increases the sense of unity and belonging. This is strong because the Qur'an stated that the Ummah is important so one also must follow the teachings of the Qur'an.

This can also be backed up with the fact that a Mosque is a place designed for worship. It has large Musallah with carpets just for prayer. It also provides a space with the sense of calmness and emptiness for one to focus on God while worshipping. Extra support can also be received from the Imam, to make one feel more secure.

From the argument, overall I think the strongest argument are on the side that worship in mosques is more important than at home. It is more praiseworthy, has the support of the Ummah, more powerful and it rewarded.



Paper 2

Example 10: 9 marks



Analysis of answer

This answer achieved Level 4, 9 marks because:

- **Sustained** throughout, information has been well-selected and explained to address the question demonstrating an **accurate and thorough understanding**.
- Relevant **religious information** is selected and **critically deconstructed** in relation to the question. The arguments made regarding worship are explained well, building **logical chains of reasoning** which consider **different viewpoints** and the reasons for these. The **full range of elements in the question** are considered.
- As arguments are considered, **reasoned judgements** are constructed focusing back to the question, which consider the validity of the argument made and **clearly appraise** the **evidence**. This then leads to a brief **conclusion** which refers to the arguments and appraisal made within the answer but this needs further justification.

To improve, this answer needed to:

1. Ensure the conclusion is well-justified. Rather than repeating points made, it needs to comment on why one viewpoint is more convincing than another.





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Scripts

Example 1



Paper 1 - Level 4: 12 marks (page 1)

(d) "There is no point in punishment if it does not change the wrongdoer."

Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view.
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(12 marks)

Some people may agree with this statement and claim that forms of punishment such as prison, though they may offer retribution and vindication they do not prevent or stop the persons from committing the same crime they did or even going onto committing other crimes, furthermore from a religious point of view, Christians may claim that Jesus came to earth to reform humankind and prevent them from committing sin as he did with the woman who were adulterers, and so this shows that reformation is an important aspect of changing a wrongdoer, furthermore they may reason that if punishment doesn't help one to reform then it will likely be ineffective in preventing someone from committing the same crimes. This argument is substantially strong as it suggests there must be another punishment such as aspects of ~~reformation~~ reformation to actually be effective in stopping someone to continue their wrong-doing.

Some people may disagree with this statement and claim that there are other purposes of punishment such as vindication and retribution, some non-religious people may claim that the purpose of punishment should be to protect those who are weak and vulnerable in society and therefore long-term punishment, even if it does not change the wrongdoer, it protects society. This viewpoint is somewhat weak as it only

Scripts

Example 1



Paper 1 - Level 4: 12 marks (page 2)

Ensures the protection of society if the punishment is a long-term, life-long sentence. Some Christians may ~~at~~ further argue that punishment in the form of imprisonment, though it may not change the person is still very much justified and not pointless if its for the "less of two evils" in order to protect society, this follows Thomas Aquinas' argument that "Any action is morally justified if it causes the greater good for more people" following the principle of Utilitarianism. This argument is substantially strong as it suggests directly against the statement that there is some point in punishment even if it does not change the wrongdoer, it is still significant.

Overall, having considered both sides of the argument, I believe that the most convincing argument is that which suggests that there is still significance in punishment even if it does not change the wrongdoer. This is strong because although it may not be justified in the long term, ~~it~~ punishment provides an immediate response to the actions of a wrongdoer and ~~the~~ in the case where society is in need of protection this is arguably very important, furthermore, though some may say that one should be reformed to ensure the protection of society and to change the wrongdoer, punishment is an effective way to teach people the consequences of their actions, and if done in the ~~a~~ correct way, may it self change the wrongdoer and stop them from committing such things.



Script Example 2



Paper 1 - Level 4: 11 marks (page 1)

(d) "God is the only possible reason the world exists."

Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view.
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(11) 11

~~Atomy~~ ^{Fundamentalist} ~~traditional~~ Christians believe that God is the only possibility for the world's creation because the Bible states, in Genesis 1, "God created the heavens and the Earth". The Bible is used as evidence for the world's creation as fundamentalists believe the Bible holds the entire truth. However, this may be seen as a weak, or not persuasive, argument because the Bible was written 2,000 years ago before modern scientific understandings. So, whilst the Bible is a valid support to ~~the~~ creation, it is not a strong argument.

On the other hand, the leading scientific explanation is the Big Bang Theory which says the world began from an explosion - Red Shift is used to support this theory. This explains that God did not create the ~~the~~ world, but pure coincidence did. As there is lots of evidence to support the scientific claims (red shift, fossil records, etc), it is a more persuasive argument. ~~It~~

Script Example 2



Paper 1 - Level 4: 11 marks (page 2)

I believe that the Big Bang Theory did start the world's existence because there is clear scientific evidence, however God's creation is supported by the Bible which holds many incorrect ideas, out-of-date ideas or mistranslates. Therefore, it is more reliable to ~~say~~ believe the scientific explanations. // Also, some Christians believe ~~that~~ in both, perhaps believing that God began the Big Bang or that the Bible just shows the order of the world's beginning, but not necessarily that God created it. Liberal Christians often believe this idea, ~~and~~ scientific evidence can be compatible with religious belief. This A ~~the~~ Catholic priest was one of the ~~at~~ first theorists of the Big Bang, he saw no problem with believing in both. This is a strong argument ~~as~~ because it shows that science and religion do not ~~always~~ always have to disagree, therefore this demonstrates the strength of each side.



Script Example 2



Paper 1 - Level 4: 11 marks (page 3)

Question number
2d In contrast, ~~these~~ Christians have explanations for ~~for~~ the world's creation. For example, St Aquinas introduced the cosmological argument: our world works in cause and effect, infinite regression is unlikely so there must be a first cause which is God. This argument seems strong

number
2d because it follows logical sense, also we all have experience of the cause and effect relationships in the physical world. So this argument seems strong, however it critics of this argument say it is a leap to call this first cause God.
Overall, there is clear support on both sides, there is also key weaknesses of arguments. However, these weaknesses are more commonly found in the Christian belief that God created the world. Therefore, the Big Bang Theory is a more persuasive argument because there is sufficient evidence and most people ~~bel~~ believe it (even Christians, proving it is a strong argument). However, the cosmological argument does make logical sense so it is persuasive. But the weakness is that the first cause isn't necessary God, the first cause could be the Big Bang explosion instead. There are, however, some people who believe the fallacy of composition: it is the universe is "just there, and that's that".

Script Example 3



Paper 1 - Level 4: 10 marks (page 1)

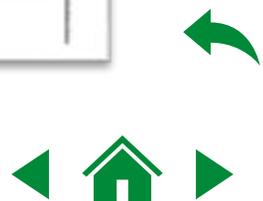
→ violence
→ religion
→ agape
love thy neighbour
→ C. live in harmony

(d) "Humans will always cause conflict."
Evaluate this statement, showing you have considered different points of view.
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(12) 0/10 10

This essay will argue for the essay above because humans are inherently prone to violence and conflict, despite the Bible's plea for all to live in peace.

Firstly, some may argue that the Bible, as the direct word of God, instructs all Christians to 'live in harmony' and thus if everyone followed Christianity, war would not be present. This is supported by Aquinas's primary precepts, in which he instructs all to 'spread faith', which in turn could result in the spreading of peaceful ideas preventing conflict. However, this is undermined by Calvin's claim of the Fall, and original sin of all in humanity. Due to the sinning of Adam and Eve in the creation story, it is believed by most that original sin is inherent in Christians and thus perfection is impossible. Therefore, it is inevitable that humans will cause conflict - correlating with the above statement. The foremost argument is proved false by the latter, though Christianity instructs all to 'live in harmony', conflict is inevitable due to original sin, thus correlating with the statement above.



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However, in contradiction, some may argue that due to God's omniscience, omnipotence and omnibenevolence, conflict is necessary to God's "perfect world", and conflict is not the cause of human suffering rather a chance for moral perfection for humans. Evil and conflict, as argued by ~~Aquinas~~ ^{Augustine}, is a "privation of good", and thus a chance for moral perfection and a Christian place in heaven. ~~Further~~ Furthermore, we see with defense argues that due to one's "God given free will", conflict and suffering is inevitable, thus, ultimately as ~~not~~ ^{the cause of} ~~not~~ ^{the cause of} human, but a purposeful implementation of God. However, the argument is undermined by the inconsistent triad, proposed by Mackie, arguing that God can be both omniscient and omnibenevolent and evil exists in the world. Therefore, humans will always cause conflict due to opposing religions and views, despite Jesus' teachings for compassion, ~~and~~ ~~love~~ (agape), and Joseph Fletcher's situation ethics. Thus, the former argument is rendered null - conflict is inevitable in a world of evil and suffering. Vengeance (as the Bible instructs) "an eye for an eye", is encouraged, thus supporting the above argument.

Therefore, in conclusion (continued) (Total for Question 1 = 25 marks) Total 25

Humans will always cause conflict. Despite the Bible's instruction of "love thy neighbour", conflict is inevitable in a world of evil and suffering.



Script Example 4



Paper 2 - Level 4: 10 marks (page 1)

Baptisms are a central sacrament within Christian denominations; the significance of Jesus' baptism reflected as stated in Genesis 1:27, that we are all made in God's image and that despite his divinity, Jesus is no better than us. Furthermore, it is the only moment that the Bible documents the Holy Trinity as all being present in the same place at the same moment; thus confirming Jesus as the Messiah. As God spoke from Heaven, a dove flew down from the sky and Jesus was baptised, Jesus' baptism is extremely significant and therefore in addition to his teachings about baptism, baptism is a ritual of true importance for Christians. Due to this, there are debates surrounding whether or not 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian'.

A key point to consider is our status as referenced in the Bible during Genesis 1:27 as God 'made man in his own image', therefore, if we are made in God's image and Jesus is God incarnate (God in the flesh on Earth)- which is believed by most Christians, surely we are all Christian and therefore as the true children of God are therefore true Christians. However, Quakers believe, that the Bible was inspired by

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God, as do conservative (and liberalist Christians to an extent), therefore this reference to being made in God's image may just reflect Jesus encouraging other people to get baptised as he did as shown by John who said 'you come to me yet I wish to be baptised by you'. After his baptism Jesus told his disciples to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations by baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit' which suggests that we are only truly disciples and therefore potentially true Christians if we are baptised.

In contrast to this however, Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life, the one who believes in me will live even though they die', this not only indicates life after death (the form of which depends on the beliefs of different Christian denomination) but 'to live even though (we) die' could hint at the possibility of Heaven and further salvation meaning that you simply have to believe in Jesus and have faith in God to be truly Christian. Furthermore, if Jesus died for our sins, surely baptism is just a sacrament in remembrance and whether you are baptised or not you are still achieving salvation and are a true Christian.

Despite this, the Bible does state 'No one enters the Kingdom of God unless they are baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit', this in contrast suggests that you do only achieve salvation in Christianity if you are baptised; as the baptism symbolises Jesus entering your life, (for example the Holy Chrism where oil is rubbed on the forehead of the individual indicates Jesus entering your life)- if this sacrament does not occur it could be argued that Jesus is not part of your life officially as conducted through a baptism and that you must demonstrate



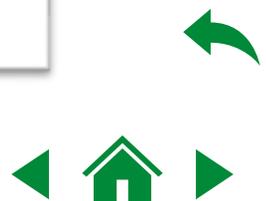
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your faith through this ceremony to achieve a true degree of Christianity. In Catholicism, there is an age past which if you have not been baptised by around 10 months, you are not allowed to go to a Catholic primary as you are not perceived to be 'Catholic enough' which would indicate that Catholics believe that you must be baptised to be truly Christian.

Ultimately, it is my belief that the statement 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian' is false for the most part; Jesus' disciples and followers were not all baptised and whilst Jesus did encourage baptism, he did also state that faith achieves admission into Heaven as I referenced earlier. There are many conflicting statements within the Bible and it is common place in modern society to pick and choose those which Christians decide to follow and therefore whether you believe the statement depends on your beliefs. However from my perspective as an atheist who grew up around and is surrounded by members of different Christian denominations, I find that the central thing that identifies a true Christian is faith in God and the pursuit of personal relationship with God- that faith achieves salvation and as believed by the Lutheran Church and many denominations, forgiveness is achieved through faith not work and faith is having trust in God which Christians must have to identify as Christians, and if we are all one in the eyes of God as he is omnibenevolent, omnipotent, and omnipresent, then we cannot be 'more Christian' than another and so anyone who has faith and respect is a true Christian and whether they are baptised or not is not relevant it is just one of many sacraments in relevance to the statement which I do not agree with, 'Only those who have been baptised are truly Christian.'



Script Example 5



Paper 2 - Level 4: 9 marks (page 1)

(c) "For Muslims, worship at home is just as important as worship in a mosque."

Discuss this statement considering the arguments for and against.

In your answer you should include:

- reference to teachings
- other (divergent) points of view – either within the religion or from other religions
- your opinion/point of view using reasoned arguments
- a balanced conclusion.

(10)

Some people think that worship at home is as important as worship in a mosque. Their statement is backed by the fact that the Qur'an states, worship can be done anywhere as long as it is a clean space & facing the Qiblah. This means that one can pray at home & do not have to go to the mosque. But this is weak because the Qur'an also states that one must stand Jumu'a prayers which requires to go to a mosque.

A more persuasive argument may be that although Jumu'a is important, personal submission to Allah & personal callouts for their own problem is also significant in their own ways. Also Allah wants personal submission. However, this is also weak because then the statement is neglecting the significance of the Ummah, which in the Qur'an says community & family life is also important, so one must also obey.

In my opinion, I think worship at a mosque is more important than at home because in the Qur'an it is stated more than 700 times of the word prayer & also Muhammad said it is 27 times more praiseworthy to pray in Jumu'a than the Du'a. It is also more meritable since the angels record the names of the people who attend Jumu'a

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prayers so they can be rewarded. This is strong because it is from a strong religious authority, both the Quran & prophet Muhammad.

Another point is that the prayers at a mosque is more powerful & including the factor of the Ummah, so there is more bond between the community, family & friends. This gives spiritual support & also increases the sense of unity & belonging. This is strong because the Quran stated that the Ummah is important so one also ~~must~~ must follow the teachings of the Quran.

This can also be backed up with the fact that a mosque is a place designed for worship. It has large Musallah with carpets just for prayer. It also provides a spare space with the sense of calmness & emptiness for one to focus on God while worshipping. Extra support can also be received from the imam, to give to make one feel more supported.

From the arguments, overall I think the strongest argument are on the side that worship in mosques is more important than in at home. It is more praiseworthy, has the support of Ummah, more powerful & is rewarded.