



OUNDLÉ

School

2020 Academic Scholarship

Theology, Philosophy and Religion

Time Allowed: **1 hour and 30 minutes**

- Answer Section 1 and **two** questions from Section 2

Section 1: Comprehension 20 marks

Read the following article and answer the questions that follow.

How do we know there is a God? The truthful answer is that we cannot know for certain. We cannot prove the existence of God, but there are many reasons why belief in God is reasonable. The first is that nothing science has discovered explains the existence of the universe. Yet the universe has a beauty and an order that suggest a rational mind lies behind it all. Just as the existence of a computer demonstrates that there is someone who invented it, so the world in all its beautiful complexity points to the existence of a Creator, God.

A second reason is that within the heart of man there is a capacity to love and a desire to be loved. Christians point to that and say it indicates that there is a power of love in the world, which many people call God.

Another reason is that in every part of the world today and throughout history, men and women have always believed and worshipped God. Some people have said that in every person there is a “God-shaped hole” that only God can fill. The existence of that desire to pray and to believe and talk with God is one argument for God’s existence.

- a) The author refers to 3 reasons why she feels that belief in God is reasonable. Describe in your own words what these are. [You can use individual *words* from the text, but shouldn’t copy out whole *phrases*] 6 marks

- b) Choose one of the 3 reasons, and explain **either** why you think that it’s a strong reason, **or** why you think it’s a weak reason 7 marks

- c) “It is extremely likely that belief in God will gradually reduce over time”. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. 7 marks

Section 2: Essay writing – 10 marks each

Choose 2 questions from the following choice of 4:

1. Religious Texts

With reference to any passage from a religious text (e.g. Bible, Torah) you have studied, explain how following the teaching from that story might affect how people react to environmental issues. (10)

2. Religion in the modern world

“Religion should not be taught in schools”. Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (10)

3. Worship

With reference to a religion you have studied, describe how and explain why that religion uses their holy book as part of worship (10)

4. Ethics

‘It is always wrong to lie’. Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (10)

Section 1: 20 marks

Section 2: 20 marks (10 marks for each of the two essay questions)

Total: 40 marks