

EXISTENCE OF GOD PT1

Topic	Key Terms	SOWAA	Range	Exam practice questions
Nature of God	<p>Omnipotent – all powerful</p> <p>Omniscient – all knowing</p> <p>Benevolent – all loving</p> <p>Eternal – having no beginning and no end</p> <p>Transcendent – exists outside the world</p> <p>Immanent – acting inside the world</p> <p>Judge – Source of goodness. Fair.</p> <p>Holy Trinity – The belief that there is one God in three forms</p> <p>Father – Creator of the universe</p> <p>Son – Saviour of humanity</p> <p>Holy Spirit – the giver of life</p>	<p>- <i>‘Father almighty...maker of heaven and earth’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘I am the alpha and the omega’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘You shall have no other God’s before me’</i></p> <p>- <i>Parable of the lost son</i></p> <p>- <i>Jonah and the Whale</i></p> <p>- <i>‘For God so loved the world’</i></p>	Denominational disagreements over the Trinity (Unitarians and Trinitarians)	<p>State/give three aspects of God’s nature (3 marks)</p> <p>Describe what Christians mean by God being omnipotent (6 marks)</p> <p>Explain why Christians have different beliefs about God’s nature (6 marks)</p> <p>‘The best way to describe God is benevolent’ (15 marks)</p>
God’s relationship with the world	<p>Ex Nihilo – From nothing</p> <p>Apparent design – observation of the universe suggests it has been designed with a purpose and order.</p> <p>Sustainer – To care and provide for the earth</p> <p>Transcendent – exists outside the world</p> <p>Immanent – acting inside the world</p> <p>God as timeless – Exists without beginning, end and succession</p> <p>God in time – Exists without beginning or end but has succession.</p>	<p>- <i>‘Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky’</i></p> <p>- <i>William Paley</i></p> <p>- <i>Thomas Aquinas</i></p> <p>- <i>‘God put Adam in the garden of Eden to tend and care for it’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘They will be yours for food’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘He supplies the earth with rain’</i></p>	Theistic evolution - RCC – conservative Christians	<p>Outline what Christians mean when they say God is immanent (3 marks)</p> <p>Outline Christian believes about God’s relationship with the world (6 marks)</p> <p>Explain why Christians believe God continues to have a relationship with the world (6 marks)</p> <p>‘It is clear God continues to have a relationship with the world’ (15 marks)</p>
God’s relationship with humanity	<p>Unique – special</p> <p>Omnibenevolent – All loving</p> <p>God as timeless – Exists without beginning, end and succession</p> <p>God in time – Exists without beginning or end but has succession.</p>	<p>- <i>‘God created mankind in his image’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘breathed into his nostrils the breath of life’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘I will make a helper for him’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘For God so loved the world he sent his one and only Son’</i></p> <p>- <i>10 Commandments</i></p> <p>- <i>Religious Experiences e.g. Moses</i></p> <p>- <i>Prayer</i></p> <p>- <i>The Parable of the Prodigal Son</i></p>	Christians believe we can directly communicate with him.	<p>State three reasons why Christians believe God has a close relationship with humanity (3 marks)</p> <p>Describe God’s relationship with humanity (6 marks)</p> <p>Explain why there are different beliefs about God’s relationship with humanity (6 marks)</p> <p>‘God has a unique relationship with humanity’ (15 marks)</p>

<p>Challenges to his goodness</p>	<p>Omnibenevolent – All loving</p> <p>Euthyphro dilemma - Is something good because God commands it (1st horn), or does God command it because it is good (2nd horn)</p> <p>Inconsistent Triad – God cannot be all loving and all powerful if evil exists.</p> <p>Moral evil – suffering caused by humans</p> <p>Natural evil – suffering not caused by humans</p>	<p>- <i>Abraham and Isaac</i></p> <p>- <i>Euthyphro Dilemma – Plato</i></p> <p>- <i>Noah’s Ark</i></p> <p>- <i>10 Plagues of Egypt</i></p> <p>- <i>‘The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction’ (Dawkins)</i></p> <p>- <i>‘God is a maniac’ (Stephen Fry)</i></p> <p>- <i>Mackie’s Inconsistent Triad ‘The fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the single greatest challenge to the Christian faith’ (John Stott)</i></p>	<p>Atheists/humanists</p>	<p>Outline the Euthyphro dilemma (3 marks)</p> <p>Describe Christian beliefs about God’s goodness (6 marks)</p> <p>Explain why there are different beliefs about God’s goodness (6 marks)</p>
<p>Solutions to God’s goodness</p>	<p>Soul making – Iraneus/Hicks theodicy that evil exists so we can develop more into the likeness of God.</p> <p>Soul deciding – Augustine’s theodicy that our free will determines where our souls go after death. Evil is a privation (or lack of good) caused by Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.</p> <p>Test of Faith – Evil and suffering is a test from God to see if you are faithful despite evidence against him.</p>	<p>- <i>‘Cursed is the ground because of you’</i></p> <p>- <i>‘Brothers and sisters, you were called to be free’</i></p> <p>- <i>Story of Job</i></p> <p>- <i>‘God created mankind in his image and likeness’</i></p>	<p>RCC – support original sin</p>	<p>‘Outline the soul making theodicy (3 marks)</p> <p>Describe Christian solutions to critiques of God’s goodness (6 marks)</p> <p>Compare different beliefs about God’s goodness (6 marks)</p> <p>‘God’s goodness can be successfully challenged’ (15 marks)</p>
<p>Design Argument/Teleological Argument</p>	<p>Design argument - Observation of the natural world reveals an order and complexity that could only be achieved through intelligent design by an intelligent being – God.</p> <p>Theory of Evolution - Life has adapted and improved over time.</p> <p>Apparent design – observation of the universe suggests it has been designed with a purpose and order.</p>	<p>- <i>Willaim Paley’s watch analogy</i></p> <p>- <i>Aquinas’ archer analogy</i></p> <p>- <i>Cruelty of nature (John Stuart Mill)</i></p> <p>- <i>Apparent design comes from natural processes (David Hume)</i></p> <p>- <i>The existence of the universe is just a Brute Fact (Bertrand Russell)</i></p>	<p>Atheists/humanists</p> <p>Literalist Christians</p> <p>Conservative Christians e.g. RCC – theistic evolution</p> <p>Pope – Big Bang and Evolution are compatible with science</p>	<p>Outline the design argument (3 marks)</p> <p>Outline the argument from design (6 marks)</p> <p>Explain why Christians believe God has designed the world (6 marks)</p> <p>‘The design argument is a convincing reason to believe in God’ (15 marks)</p>