

**AN EXAMPLE OF A EXAM QUESTION AND A PERFECT ANSWER – USE THE MARK SCHEME ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE TO UNDERSTAND HOW MARKS ARE GIVEN**

In the exam the questions are ALL in 4 parts.

**a) What is Atheism? (2marks)** Thinking that God does not exist.

Part (a) is ALWAYS the meaning of a word. It is always worth 2 marks.

**(b) Do you agree with the design argument? (4marks)**

Personal opinion with reason – 1 mark

First reason fully developed / explained – 1 more mark

I do not agree with the design argument because there is a way of explaining the existence of the complex world we live in without needing God. The design argument compares the world to a watch. A watch points to the existence of a watch-maker because it is too complicated to happen by accident. In the same way, the world we live in is so complex it also points to a designer, in this case God. However evolution explains why the world is so complex. It started as being very simple and evolved over millions of years into the complex world we see. So we do not need God to explain why it is so complex. Also, if God did design the world, why is it so imperfect? For example, our world contains diseases and natural disasters. If God, a perfect being, created the world – surely it would also be perfect (and could not contain Justin Bieber).

Part (b) is always worth 4 marks. It will always ask what you think about an issue. You need two developed reasons for your view.

Second reason given. 1 more mark

Second reason explained / developed - 1 more mark

**(c) Explain how a religious experience can lead to a belief in God. (8marks)**

Part (c) is always worth 8 marks. It will always ask you to explain why Muslim's or Christian's believe the things they do.

2<sup>nd</sup> example given. Again fully explained.

There are many types of religious experience. In my RE lesson we saw a video of a woman experiencing stigmata. She bled from the places that Jesus would have done when he was being crucified. Doctors were interviewed who could not explain how this was happening. This would lead someone to believe in God because there seemed to be no other explanation. We also saw a drug dealer who had a vision of hell and heaven. He claimed to have heard God tell him to 'get your life together'. This led him to believe in God because he felt God had directly communicated with him. Finally there are people who claim to have had a numinous experience. This is a feeling of awe and wonder, the feeling that there is something beyond this world. People who have had such experiences believe in God because His existence seems to be the only way that they can make sense of this experience.

One example. Fully explained / developed.

These parts directly answer the question

THIS ANSWER HAS ACTUALLY MORE DEVELOPED REASON THAN IT NEEDS FOR FULL MARKS.

Part (d) is always worth 6 marks. It will always give you a quote about a topic in the exam. You then have to say whether you agree or not.

If you do not refer to a religious point of view somewhere in your answer you cannot get more than 3 marks out of 6

**(d) 'Evil and suffering prove that God does not exist'. In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.**

Personal opinion given with 3 short reasons – 3 marks

**(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3 Marks)** I agree. God is meant to be all-powerful, so He could stop evil if He chose to. He is all loving, so he must want to stop evil; and He is all-knowing, so He both knows about evil and should know how to get rid of it. Evil clearly exists e.g. earthquakes / murders etc... So God must not exist.

Gives a Christian view – so can now get over 3 marks.

**ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 Marks)** A Christian might argue that there is a reason why God allows evil. They might say that evil is the price we pay for having free will. God has given us the ability to choose how we act. Sometimes our actions result in evil consequences. If God stopped us from doing evil then we would not be free. Another reason God might be allowing evil is to test our faith in Him. And finally, some Christians may say that we can never understand why God does not stop evil. But God is good. So there must be a good reason why He allows evil. Because we are not all-knowing like God we are unable to understand His plan. If we were able to see the world as God sees it we could see that there is a good reason why evil exists.

Gives a reason and fully develops it. 3 marks.

Gives another reason and fully develops it. 3 marks

THIS ANSWER HAS ACTUALLY MORE DEVELOPED REASONS THAN IT NEEDS FOR FULL MARKS.