UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2014 - Question 1

(a) Give two examples of natural evil. (2)

(b) Do you think a religious upbringing leads to belief in God?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain how the followers of one religion respond to the scientific explanations of the origins of the world. (8)

(d) “Religious experiences prove that God exists.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(* Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)
(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)

2014 - Question 2

(a) What does conversion mean? (2)

(b) Do you think a numinous experience leads to belief in God?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why unanswered prayers may lead some people to reject belief in God. (8)

(d) “God caused the world to exist.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(* Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)
(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2013 - Question 1

(a) What is a miracle? (2)

(b) Do you think unanswered prayers prove God does not exist? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain how the causation argument may lead to belief in God. (8)

(d) “Natural evil is proof that God did not create the world.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(* Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)
(Total for Question 1 = 24 marks)

2013 - Question 2

(a) What is meant by moral evil? (2)

(b) Do you think miracles have happened? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why scientific explanations of how the world began may lead some people not to believe in God. (8)

(d) “The media helps people to believe in God.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(* Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks)
(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2012 - Question 1

(a) What does natural evil mean? (2)

(b) Do you think television or radio programmes or films can affect a person's attitude to belief in God? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain how the followers of one religion respond to the problem of unanswered prayers. (8)

(d) "No one should be an atheist." In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

2012 - Question 2

(a) What does omni-benevolent mean? (2)

(b) Do you think that religious experiences prove that God exists? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain how the argument from design may lead to belief in God. (8)

(d) "There are no solutions to the problem of evil and suffering." In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2011 - Question 1

(a) What does omniscient mean? (2)

(b) Do you think science proves God did not create the world?
   Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why evil and suffering may lead some people not to believe in God. (8)

(d) “Miracles cannot happen today.”
   In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.
   (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
   (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

2 (a) What does agnosticism mean? (2)

(b) Do you think a religious upbringing makes children believe in God?
   Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain, with examples, how television programmes and/or radio programmes and/or films might affect a person’s attitude to belief in God. (8)

(d) “The world is so beautiful it must have been designed by God.”
   In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.
   (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
   (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

PAST PAPER ANSWERS 2011-2014

BELIEVING IN GOD

UNIT 1 : SECTION 1
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2014 - Question 1

(a) Give two examples of natural evil. (2)

Two examples from anything that is suffering caused by nature e.g.:

Volcanoes / flooding / tsunamis / droughts / earthquakes / disease / famine / starvation

(b) Do you think a religious upbringing leads to belief in God?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think a religious upbringing leads to belief in God are likely to use such reasons as:

• if a respected adult tells a child God is real it will lead them to believe
• if a child’s family and friends believe in God, it will lead them to believe
• if a child is taken to a place of worship regularly, it encourages belief in God

Answers which do not think a religious upbringing leads to belief in God are likely to use such reasons as:

• a child will make up their own mind about belief in God
• a child cannot be forced to believe in anything
• teenagers usually rebel against what their parents believe

* (c) Explain how the followers of one religion respond to the scientific explanations of the origins of the world. (8)

The main ways include:

• the scientific way is correct
• science cannot explain exactly what happened
• Creationists say science is wrong
• God is responsible for scientific creation
• they believe alternative explanations
(d) “Religious experiences prove that God exists.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with this statement could be:

· an answered prayer is evidence that God exists
· miracles prove that God is active in the world
· if God didn’t exist no-one would have a conversion experience

Reasons disagreeing with this statement could be:

· a religious experience could just be in a person’s imagination
· religious experiences can be the result of illness
· there might be good explanations for religious experiences that humans do not know

2014 – Question 2

(a) What does conversion mean? (2)

When your life is changed by giving yourself to God:
· becoming religious
· change from one religion to another
· change from wickedness to righteousness

(b) Do you think a numinous experience leads to belief in God?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think a numinous experience leads to belief in God, are likely to use such reasons as:
· it provides the person with evidence of the existence of God
· it changes the person’s understanding of God
· they realise that only God could have caused the experience

Answers which do not think a numinous experience leads to belief in God, are likely to use such reasons as:
· a person might not recognise God in the experience
· it could be regarded as an awe inspiring but natural event
· the person might think they were hallucinating
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

* (c) Explain why unanswered prayers may lead some people to reject belief in God. (8)

The main reasons include:

• people may feel abandoned
• if God was all powerful he would answer prayers
• if God loved them he would answer prayers
• if God existed he would answer prayers

(d) “God caused the world to exist.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with supporting this statement could be:

• the Big Bang must have had a first cause
• the world cannot be an accident
• only God can cause the universe

Reasons disagree with this statement could be:

• science has shown God was not needed to cause the universe
• God does not exist so cannot have been the cause of the universe
• The Big Bang created the universe

2013 - Question 1

(a) What is a miracle? (2)

• something which seems to break a law of science (and makes you think only God could have done it)
• something only God can do
• an extraordinary event that surpasses all human powers
• wonders performed by supernatural powers
• give an example of a miracle
(b) Do you think unanswered prayers prove God does not exist? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think unanswered prayers prove God does not exist are likely to use such reasons as:

• an all loving God would answer prayers
• an all powerful God could answer prayers
• an all knowing God would answer prayers

Answers which do not think that unanswered prayers prove God does not exist are likely to use such reasons as:

• people may not be praying for the right things
• God might answer the prayer but not in the way people expect
• God may not interfere with natural law by answering prayers

* (c) Explain how the causation argument may lead to belief in God. (8)

The main ways include:

• the world must have been caused by an all knowing God
• the world must have been caused by God as only God is eternal
• God is the only being powerful enough to cause the world to come into existence
• God is the only logical cause of the universe and so people believe

(d) “Natural evil is proof that God did not create the world.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for agreeing with this statement could be:
• an all knowing God would not create a world containing evil
• an all loving God would not create a world containing natural evil
• God does not protect believers from natural evil so cannot exist

Reasons for disagreeing with this statement could be:
• humans cannot know what God’s plan behind natural evil is
• natural evil gives humans the chance to do charitable work (good deeds)
• God does not interfere with the running of the world (free will)
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

2013 - Question 2

(a) What is meant by moral evil? (2)

- actions done by humans which cause suffering
- bad things humans do which hurt others
- wicked actions of humans that lead to harm

(b) Do you think miracles have happened? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that miracles have happened, are likely to use such reasons as:

- miracles are recorded in the Bible
- Churches have verified them
- there are many examples of miracles recorded in the media

Answers which do not think that miracles have happened, are likely to use such reasons as:

- miracles can often be explained
- science will eventually be able to explain all ‘miracles’
- miracles are the result of delusions

* (c) Explain why scientific explanations of how the world began may lead some people not to believe in God. (8)

Possible responses include:

- science can explain the existence of the world with no need to refer to a God
- there is evidence for the scientific explanation of the world and none for God
- if the world is made of matter which is eternal then there is no need for an eternal God
- science has shown that material can come into existence without God
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

(d) “The media helps people to believe in God.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with this statement could be:

• the media can explain religious ideas
• the media can explain religious ideas in a way that is attractive to people
• the media can bring religion to many people at the same time

Reasons disagreeing with this statement could be:

• the media can be biased against religion
• the media presents religious ideas in an incorrect way
• the media cannot help people in the same way that physically being in a place of worship can

2012 - Question 1

(a) What does natural evil mean? (2)

• Things that cause suffering but have nothing to do with Humans
• Suffering that is caused by natural disasters
• Evil not caused by humans

(b) Do you think television or radio programmes or films can affect a person’s attitude to belief in God? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which say television or radio programmes or films can affect a person’s attitude to belief in God are likely to use such reasons as:

• A programme/film may lead a person to believe in God
• A film might make a person realise that belief is a rational idea
• A programme might make a person lose faith in God
Answers which say television or radio programmes or films **cannot** affect a person’s attitude to belief in God are likely to use such reasons as:

- If a person has a strong belief/lack of belief a programme cannot change it
- Upbringing has more of an influence on a person’s belief than the media
- Scientific reasoning is more persuasive than a television programme

*(c) Explain how the followers of one religion respond to the problem of unanswered prayers. (8)*

The main ways include:

- People cannot know what God’s plan for them is
- Prayers might conflict with another person’s prayers
- God answers prayers in an unexpected way
- Belief in free will means that God can’t answer some prayers
- God will not answer prayers that do not benefit people
- Unanswered prayers might cause a loss of faith

*(d) “No one should be an atheist.”*

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons **agreeing** with this statement could be:

- Evidence of religious experiences means people should believe in God
- There are arguments for the existence of God (design/causation)
- Some Christians believe atheists will go to hell

Reasons **disagreeing** with this statement could be:

- There is no scientific proof for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering suggest God does not exist
- It is a person’s choice whether they believe in God or not
2012 - Question 2

(a) What does omnibenevolent mean? (2)

(The belief that God is) all good
(God is) all loving / (God is) fully merciful / Completely compassionate / (God is) all kind / God is good

(b) Do you think that religious experiences prove that God exists? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that religious experiences prove that God exists, are likely to use such reasons as:

• If someone has a personal experience of God they will believe in God
• A numinous experience provides evidence of God
• An answered prayer provides proof that God exists

Answers which do not think that religious experiences prove that God exists, are likely to use such reasons as:

• A religious experience can be made up (faked)
• There are other things that prove that God exists
• Some religious experiences have a natural explanation

*(c) Explain how the argument from design may lead to belief in God. (8)

Possible ways include:

• A designed world needs a designer, this must be God
• The world is so complex, it must be designed by God
• The world is so beautiful it cannot be an accident, this must be God
• The world is perfect for humans a loving God has designed it
• Paley's watch linked to the existence of God
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

(d) “There are no solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with this statement could be:
• If there was a solution there would be no evil in the world
• Muslims believe that suffering is part of the test of life, so suffering is necessary
• Humans have no control over natural evil

Reasons disagreeing with this statement could be:
• People can provide solutions through activity like charity work
• When governments work together, suffering can be alleviated
• Religions teach that people should try to relieve suffering

2011 - Question 1

(a) What does omniscient mean? (2)

(The belief that) God knows everything (that has happened and everything that is going to happen)
• God is all-knowing / God’s ability to have unlimited knowledge / (The idea that) God has unlimited awareness / God is all-seeing / All-seeing / All-knowing

(b) Do you think science proves God did not create the world?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think science proves that God did not create the world are likely to use such reasons as:
• Evolution has shown God is not needed
• The big bang shows that God did not create the world
• Scientific theories are based on evidence which makes them reliable

Answers which do not think science proves God did not create the world are likely to use such reasons as:
• Scientific theories have not been completely proved
• Science does not disprove the existence of God as part of the process
• Scientific reasoning is no more acceptable than religious reasoning
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

*(c) Explain why evil and suffering may lead some people not to believe in God. (8)*

The main reasons include:

- An all powerful God would be able to stop evil and suffering, God doesn’t, so people may not believe
- A loving God would look after believers, believers still suffer so people may not believe
- An all knowing God would know evil and suffering is going to happen and could stop it so people may not believe
- Innocent people suffer so God cannot exist
- People pray for suffering to end and it does not, so people stop believing

(d) “Miracles cannot happen today.”

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with this statement could be:

- Some people think God does not exist so miracles cannot happen today
- Miracles cannot happen today as they can be explained by science
- A miracle is something that breaks the laws of science and this cannot happen

Reasons disagreeing with this statement could be:

- God can do anything including miracles
- An example of a modern day miracle
- Miracles happened in the sacred texts so they can still happen today

2 (a) What does agnosticism mean? (2)

Not being sure whether God exists / Being unsure about the existence of God / Not quite believing in God / Not sure whether to believe in God / (Someone who) is not sure whether God exists / Don’t know if God exists
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

(b) Do you think a religious upbringing makes children believe in God? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that a religious upbringing makes children believe in God, are likely to use such reasons as:
• If a respected adult tells you something is true, it will make them believe it
• If all a child’s family and friends hold a certain belief, a child will believe the same
• Within a religious family, belief becomes the norm

Answers which do not think that a religious upbringing makes children believe in God, are likely to use such reasons as:
• A child will make up their own mind about belief in God
• A child cannot be forced to believe anything
• Teenagers usually rebel against what their parent believe

*(c) Explain, with examples, how television programmes and/or radio programmes and/or films might affect a person’s attitude to belief in God. (8)

Possible responses include:
• A television programme (such as The Big Questions) might make a person think about religion in a positive way
• A film like Bruce Almighty might help people realise why their prayers haven’t been answered and affect their attitude to belief in God
• A comedy like Father Ted might make a person think that all priests are either stupid or drink too much might make a person think about religion in a negative way
• A programme that portrays religious characters in a positive way (e.g. White Girl) might increase a persons empathy with that person and engender belief in God
UNIT 1 - BELIEVING IN GOD

(d) “The world is so beautiful it must have been designed by God.”

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons agreeing with this statement could be:

• The world is so beautiful it must be designed, only God could do this
• The intricate designs of things (like the snow flakes, finger prints, sunset) could not happen by chance
• God has designed the world to appeal to humans

Reasons disagreeing with this statement could be:

• The world is full of ugly things (like volcanoes and earth quakes) which God would not have designed
• The world is not designed it was created by the Big Bang
• The world is designed by nature, (glaciers, rainfall etc), it is nothing to do with God