2A Specimen Paper Questions – Thematic Studies

The specimen papers are practice exam papers that are written by the exam board. It is likely that one or two of these questions will come up in your actual exam. It is a good idea to prepare answers to the 12-mark questions on this sheet so that you are prepared if they come up.

Remember that theme A and theme B are not studied at Beverley High so those questions have been left out of this document. Crossed out questions have already been asked in the previous exams.

Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation

‘Those who claim to have special revelations are mistaken.’

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you:

• should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement

• should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view

• should refer to religious argument

• may refer to non-religious arguments

• should reach a justified conclusion. **[12 marks]**

‘The design argument proves that God exists.’ **[12 marks]**

Explain two religious beliefs about miracles.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

Explain **two** religious beliefs about the nature of the divine.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about visions.  
In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and  
non-religious beliefs. **[4 marks]**

Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about scripture as a way of understanding the divine.

In your answer you must refer to at least one religious tradition. **[4 marks]**

Give **two** weaknesses of the First Cause argument for God’s existence. **[2 marks]**

Give two types of general revelation. **[2 marks]**

Which one of the following best expresses the idea that the divine (God, gods or  
ultimate reality) is beyond this world?

1. Omnipotent B) Omniscient C) Transcendent D) Immanent **[1 mark]**

Which **one** of the following is an argument against the existence of God?

A) Design B) Suffering C) Revelation D) Miracles **[1 mark]**

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

‘There are no good reasons for countries to possess nuclear weapons.’ **[12 marks]**

‘War is never right.’ **[12 marks]**

Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

Explain **two** religious beliefs about justice.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about pacifism.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions**. [4 marks]**

~~Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about weapons of  
mass destruction.~~

~~In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and  
one or more other religious traditions.~~ **~~[4 marks]~~**

Give two ways in which religious believers help victims of war. **[2 marks]**

Give **two** religious beliefs that show that violence is wrong. **[2 marks]**

Which **one** of the following is **not** a reason for war?

A) Self-defence

B) Greed

C) Retaliation

D) Forgiveness

**[1 mark]**

Which one of the following best expresses the religious ideal that there should be no  
violence in the world?

A) Defence B) Justice C) Peace D) Terrorism **[1 mark]**

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

‘Reformation is the best aim of punishment.’ **[12 marks]**

‘Corporal punishment can never be justified.’ **[12 marks]**

Explain two religious beliefs about breaking the law in order to get a bad law  
changed.  
Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer.**[5 marks]**

Explain **two** religious beliefs about the death penalty.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about people who break the law.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the death  
penalty for murder.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and  
one or more other religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

Give two examples of religious moral laws which some criminals break. **[2 marks]**

Give **two** religious beliefs about forgiveness. **[2 marks]**

Which **one** of the following is **not** a reason for crime?

A) Poverty

B) Sanctity of life

C) Mental illness

D) Greed

**[1 mark]**

Which one of the following expresses the religious idea that one aim of punishment  
should be to encourage people not to commit any more crimes?  
A) Reformation B) Protection C) Deterrence D) Reparation **[1 mark]**

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

‘Those who live in poverty should help themselves to overcome their difficulties.’ **[12 marks]**

‘It is always right to give charity to the poor.’ **[12 marks]**

Explain two religious beliefs about the status of women in religion.  
Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. **[5 marks]**

~~Explain~~ **~~two~~** ~~religious beliefs about the right use of wealth.~~

~~Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer.~~ **~~[5 marks]~~**

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the right of  
freedom of belief.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and  
one or more other religious traditions.**[4 marks]**

Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the freedom of religion and belief.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

Give two examples of what religious believers would see as exploitation of the poor.  
**[2 marks]**

Give **two** religious beliefs about how women should be treated within religion. **[2 marks]**

Which **one** of the following is **not** a type of prejudice?

A) Racism

B) Sexism

C) Alcoholism

D) Ageism

**[1 mark]**

Which one of the following best expresses the religious ideal that everyone should  
get what they deserve?

A) Tolerance B) Prejudice C) Justice D) Compassion

**[1 mark]**