Feedback from Test on Existence of God & Revelation

1. Just write ‘B’. Save writing time.
2. Just write short answers for 2 mark questions. Consider answering all questions in reverse order and leaving 2 mark questions till second last. :
   1. ‘The First Cause Argument is not logically necessary.’ correct
   2. ‘How do we know there is not infinite regression?’ correct
   3. ‘No *proof* of God’s existence’ is correct
   4. ‘No *evidence* of God’s existence’ is incorrect; the argument is presenting you with evidence. You may interpret the evidence differently but there is evidence.
   5. 6 day creation is irrelevant – First Cause Argument is not specifically Christian; it’s an argument why there might be a god, not for why the Bible might be true.
   6. Big Bang Theory *supports* First Cause because it goes along with the idea of a chain of causes linking back to the beginning of the universe. Remember that this argument is not trying to prove the Bible but the existence of a god. A non-Christian (Aristotle) invented the First Cause Argument.
   7. Evolution likewise supports the First Cause Argument, not undermines it.
   8. **However**, Big Bang and Evolution both provide an explanation that does *not require* the existence of a god (if you write that). correct
3. This is a hard question. It doesn’t mean you’re bad at RS if you didn’t get this one.
   1. You need two ***contrasting*** beliefs. E.g.:
      1. William Paley was a Christian who thought that the human eye was too complicated to have happened by accident; there must have been a designer.
      2. Buddhists don’t believe in God. A Buddhist might say that it only *appears* to be designed and life exists without a god.
   2. You need two ***religious*** beliefs. 2 marks for each belief = total 4 marks
   3. A bit of detail is needed to get both marks for each half.
4. The ‘nature of the divine’ = ‘what God’s nature/character is like’.

Focus on two Bible ideas of God. E.g.:

* + 1. God is omnipotent; he creates the world according to the Bible.
    2. God is immanent; he becomes a human as Jesus and interacts with people.

Note spellings of **theist/atheist**.

1. Use specific examples of special revelation, e.g. Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus or Sundar Singh’s vision or miracles of Jesus or Buddhist visions like Bahiya. Focus on whether special revelations are true.
   1. For the statement:
      1. Hallucinations;
      2. Coincidences;
      3. Lies – motives:
         1. Gain attention;
         2. Gain money.
   2. Against the statement:
      1. Near Death Experiences with proven factual evidence about other people’s words & actions in the room when they were dead.
      2. Jesus did miracles like bringing a widow’s son back to life and his followers witnessed it and wrote it down.
      3. Miracles in modern times that are similar to those in the Bible, e.g. murdered Christian pastor Tilak in India coming back to life in April 2018.
      4. People’s lives dramatically changed after special revelations like Saul who converted to Christ.