Model 12-Mark Answer

Some tips:

1. In writing 12-mark answers aim to use the structure below in the box.
2. In the exam spend only 14 minutes on each 12 marker (17 min if extra time).
3. Spend 60 seconds bullet pointing everything you can think of to answer it and put a ring round it to show it’s rough. That will help you to structure it well. You can’t lose marks for rough work but you can gain them if you didn’t get time to finish it all.
4. Aim to write 300 words or more if you can. That’s about 1½ sides of A4 of average-sized handwriting.
5. It’s Religious Studies; put some ‘good religion’ not just vague stuff like ‘God wants us to be nice.’ Be specific, be detailed, quote if you can, give the sense if you can’t.

In the model answer below notice the colour coding of the structure for your answer. Look at your answer and code what you have written with the same colours (if you have those colours). In the answer below, your own conclusion may be totally opposite and still gain full marks. Different content could be included and some of this content left out; it’s just an example.

‘There is no evidence that God exists.’ Do you agree? (12 marks)

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]**

**12-mark structure**

A. Who **agree**s? +2 reasons +evidence

B. Who **disagree**s? +2 reasons +evidence

C. **Your view**

(Include **‘good religion’** for at least one side.)

Atheists agree with this statement and point to the fact that there is a great deal of suffering in the world, arguing that it is not possible for the God of the Bible to exist. They state that if **God is omnipotent (all powerful) and omnibenevolent (all good)** then there should be no suffering in the world at all because he would make it stop. Even innocent people suffer, for example, small babies starving to death in famines in Africa in 2019 following storms and flooding. In their view God must not exist or else he is bad.

Atheists also believe that the Bible has been disproven by science. In the **Book of Genesis God creates the world in six days and the first human, Adam is made out of some earth into which God breathes life**. The Big Bang Theory and the Theory of Evolution, however, both state that the world took billions of years to be created and that humans took millions of years to evolve from other life forms without anyone breathing life into a model made of earth. The scientific timescale is much longer and there is no need for the existence of a god for the processes to take place. The Bible and religion in general are seen as childish products of a more backward age before people understood the laws of science.

By contrast, many Christians see the stories in **Genesis as a metaphor; they are not intended to be taken literally; each day really is referring one age of millions of years**. These Christians do believe in the Big Bang Theory and evolution but they believe that Genesis contains a symbolic idea of God causing these processes to happen with the intention of creating humans at the end of it all. They point to the design argument that all of the living parts of animals and plants are too complicated and too unlikely to have evolved by chance. The eye is made up of many complicated parts which must all be linked together just right otherwise the person/animal would be totally blind. It is extremely unlikely that this could have just happened by chance; it must have been designed by a higher power.

Other Christians would disagree with the statement because of miracles. The books of the New Testament were written by people who were eye witnesses to miracles such as the **resurrection of Jesus. Jesus before his arrest predicted that he would be killed and rise to life again on the third day. The disciples of Jesus saw him alive and on one occasion he appeared to over 200 people at once. Many of these were willing to risk their lives (and indeed did die) in order to tell others the message of the risen Christ**. You would not do that if you knew it was a lie. Therefore, Christians argue that there has to be a god.

I disagree with the statement because the design argument shows how ridiculous the idea is that life just assembled itself on earth by chance without help. Furthermore, near death experiences give conclusive proof that there is life after death and God in heaven because those who have such visions are able to describe accurately people’s words and actions in the place where they were temporarily dead before they were resuscitated.