Past Paper Questions for Theme C: Existence of God & Revelation

Key

Red writing = has already had an essay question on it.

Black writing = no past paper has had a question directly on this yet.

*The questions in red might come up again but the most likely topics for the future essay questions are the black ones.*

**3.2.1.3 Theme C: The existence of God and revelation**

Students … must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism:

* Visions.
* Miracles.
* Nature as general revelation.

**Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God**

* The Design argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.
* The First Cause argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.
* The argument from miracles, including its strengths and weaknesses, and one example of a miracle.
* Evil and suffering as an argument against the existence of God.
* Arguments based on science against the existence of God.

**The nature of the divine and revelation**

* Special revelation as a source of knowledge about the divine (God, gods or ultimate reality) including visions and one example of a vision.
* Enlightenment as a source of knowledge about the divine.
* General revelation: nature and scripture as a way of understanding the divine.
* Different ideas about the divine that come from these sources:
  + omnipotent and omniscient
  + personal and impersonal
  + immanent and transcendent.
* The value of general and special revelation and enlightenment as sources of knowledge about the divine, including:
  + the problems of different ideas about the divine arising from these experiences
  + alternative explanations for the experiences, and the possibility that the people who claimed to have them were lying or mistaken.

Specimen paper

‘The design argument proves that God exists.’ (similar to 2024 paper)

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 arguments • may refer to non-religious arguments

• should reach a justified conclusion

[12 marks] SPaG 5 Marks

Additional specimen paper

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

2018 paper

‘God cannot be both transcendent (beyond the world) and immanent (within the world).’

2019 paper

‘Miracles prove that God exists.’

2020

‘It is impossible to prove God exists.’

2021

‘The First Cause Argument is a weak argument for the existence of God.’

2022 paper (mock exam)

‘General revelation is not an important source of knowledge about God.’

2023 paper

‘The only way to know God is by being enlightened.’

2024 paper

‘The Design argument does not prove that God exists.’

Textbook questions:

*These questions are written by the same person who writes the exams. Some of them have come up in the real exam.*

Key: red = similar to an essay question that has already been in the real exam. Yellow = relatively likely to be an essay question in the real exam.

‘How does Genesis 1 show Christians that God planned the world?’

‘Do the strengths [of the Design Argument] outweigh the weaknesses?’

‘The idea that God always existed does not make sense; if there is a God, he must have been created.’

‘If the universe has a beginning it must have a creator who began it.’

‘Miracles are just “happy coincidences”.’

‘Miracles prove the existence of God.’

‘The existence of evil and suffering proves that God does not exist.’

‘Visions are just illusions.’

‘Without scriptures, Christians would know very little about God.’

‘God cannot be omniscient if people have free will.’

‘There are too many different ideas of God for revelations to be true.’

‘Revelations cannot teach people anything about God.’

‘The First Cause Argument proves that God exists.’