**Philosophy & Ethics**

**Past Exam Questions**

**How to answer exam questions:**

1. **(1 mark questions): Usually definitions or examples that can be answered in one sentence.**
2. **(2 mark questions): Usually definitions or examples that can be answered in two sentences.**
3. **(3 mark questions): These questions come in three types:  
     
   Type 1:** State three ways a Christian may worship in the home. (3)  
   This type requires an answer with three statements.   
   E.g. “One way a Christian may worship in the home is through prayer. Another way is meditation. A final way is by listening to Christian music.”  
     
   **Type 2:** Describe **one** reason a Christian might give for believing in God. (3)  
   This type requires an answer with a P.E.E (Point Evidence Explain) paragraph.  
   E.g. “One reasons a Christian might give for believing in God is the cosmological argument. St. Aquinas stated that the universe must have a cause, as everything does, and if we go back far enough we will uncover the uncaused cause – namely God. This is a reason that Christians believe in God because it states that God is the only being which could have caused the universe to exist as He is the only thing which can have no cause.  
     
   **Type 3:** Describe how music is used to express beliefs about God. (3)  
   This type requires an answer with a P.E.E paragraph **OR** an answer with three statements.   
   E.g. “A Christian may say that music reflects beliefs about God’s omnipotence. An example of this would be the hymn ‘Our God’ which states ‘all will see how great is our God’. This hymn shows that God is all powerful as his greatness will be revealed to all people” **OR**   
   E.g. “Some Christians would say music reveals God’s creative ability. Some Christians would suggest that music can reveal God’s omnipresence and again others would suggest that music can reveal God’s immanence.”
4. **(6 mark questions): An answer that contains two P.E.E paragraphs**E.g. Explain why Christians worship God (6)  
     
   Some Christians worship God because they have had a religious upbringing. These Christians may go to a faith school and attend Sunday school at weekends. This would encourage Christians to worship God as they would be exposed to teachings about God on a daily basis and would be used to Him being a significant part of their lives

Other Christians might worship God because they have had a religious experience. These people may have witnessed a miracle; such as footballer Fabrice Muamba returning to life 90 minutes after his ‘death’ on the football pitch. This miracle explain whys some Christians worship God as they believe that they have witnessed proof of God’s existence as this event could not be explained by natural means.

1. **(12 mark questions): This answer requires you to discuss a particular statement. You have to consider a range of views (including Christianity) and come to a judgement on the statement.**

**Introduction**

“This statement is suggesting…”

“There are many people who would agree/disagree with this statement…because…”

**Some Christians believe:**

“They believe this because…”

“The Bible supports this by saying…”

“This suggests…”  
(A/A\* students should specify denominations; Roman Catholics, Quakers etc.)

**Other Christians think:**

“They believe this because…”

“The Bible supports this by saying…”

“This suggests…”  
(A/A\* students should specify denominations; Roman Catholics, Quakers etc.)

**Non-Christians:**

Give an alternative view:

“Hindus believe…Scientists believe…Atheists believe…Muslims believe…

“They believe this because…”

“An example to illustrate this idea is…”

**I think**

Give your opinion – including strong and solid reasons for it. Go into as much detail as possible as this is a big part of the question.“I think…”  
“I believe this because…”  
““An example to illustrate this idea is…”

**Conclusion**

Link back to the statement and sum up what you’ve already said – try not to repeat too much – just highlight the key points you’ve made.

“Above I have considered whether…”  
“Although…”

“However I have found…”  
“In conclusion I agree/disagree…”

**Belief about Deity Exam Questions**

**Short answer questions:**

What is a miracle? (1)

What does ‘monotheism’ mean? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘deity’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘belief’? (1)

What is a god? (1)

State two Christian beliefs about the nature of God. (2)

Give one word that describes the nature of God and state what it means. (2)

Give two examples of Christian miracles. (2)

Give two examples of how God intervenes in the world. (2)

What is the Holy Spirit? (2)

State two things which Christians might believe about miracles. (2)

What do Christians believe about God? (3)

Describe how the Holy Spirit affects Christians. (3)

Describe one reason a Christian might give for believing in God. (3)

Describe why some Christians believe that God chooses to intervene in the world. (3)

Describe what Christians believe about Jesus. (3)

Describe what Christians believe about God (3)

**6 mark questions:**

Describe the Christian beliefs about the nature of God. (6)

Explain Christian beliefs about miracles. (6)

Explain why Christians believe God exists. (6)

Explain why there are different beliefs about miracles in Christianity. (6)

Explain what Christians believe about the nature of God. (6)

Explain why Christians believe in Jesus. (6)

Explain why Christians believe in God. (6)

**12 mark questions:**

‘There is a lot of evidence to prove there is a God’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘It is important for Christians to believe in miracles’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer

‘God cannot be described.’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Belief in God is not reasonable.’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘God cannot be seen and there is no evidence that he exists’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘If miracles were true they would happen all the time’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘If God existed we would know it’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

**Religious and Spiritual Experience Exam Questions**

**Short answer questions:**

What is fasting? (1)

Name a public place of worship for Christians. (1)

What is meant by the term ‘symbol’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘meditation’? (1)

What is ‘prayer’?

List two symbols used in worship by Christians. (2)

State two ways Christians show respect to Jesus when worshipping. (2)

Give two names for the service that remembers Jesus’ Last Supper. (2)

Give two symbols that might be found in a church. (2)

Give two examples of how food is used in Christian worship. (2)

Name two places in which Christians might worship. (2)

State three ways Christians might worship in the home. (3)

Describe the use of food in festivals. (3)

Describe one way music is used in Christian worship. (3)

Describe the purpose of prayer for Christians (3)

Describe how music is used to express beliefs about God. (3)

How do Christians worship? (3)

**6 mark questions:**

Explain how prayer deepen the faith of a believer. (6)

Explain why Christians worship God. (6)

Explain how fasting could deepen the faith of a believer. (6)

Explain why Christians worship in different ways. (6)

Explain how Christians might worship together in a place of worship. (6)

Explain the different ways in which Christians might understand Holy Communion. (6)

Explain how Christians might use symbols to express belief. (6)

Explain how praying every day might help Christians in their daily lives. (6)

Explain Christian beliefs about the use of food and fasting. (6)

Explain how prayer is used by Christians to deepen their faith. (6)

Why do some Christians fast? (6)

**12 mark questions:**

‘Using symbols helps people to worship’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘It doesn’t matter where you worship’ (12 marks)   
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Prayer is the best way to worship’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Only God has the right to take life’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Fasting strengthens faith’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Music and religious pictures help people to worship God’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘For worship, prayer is more important than beautiful buildings’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Everyone should thank God for their food’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

**End of Life Exam Questions**

**Short answer questions:**

What is the meaning of ‘rites’? (1)

What is purgatory? (1)

What word means ‘rising to life again’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘redemption’? (1)

What is death? (1)

Give two examples of Christian funeral rites. (2)

Give two things that happen in a Christian funeral service. (2)

Name two places Christians might go in the afterlife. (2)

Give two examples of how Christians can behave morally. (2)

What is meant by the word ‘salvation’? (2)

What is meant by the ‘soul’? (2)

Describe the relationship between the body and soul for a Christian. (3)

Describe one Christian belief about the soul. (3)

Describe Christian belief about redemption. (3)

Describe one Christian belief reflected in a Christian funeral ceremony. (3)

What do Christians believe about the soul? (3)

What do Christians believe about life after death? (3)

**6 mark questions:**

Explain how beliefs about life after death could affect a Christian’s moral behaviour. (6)

Explain how Christian funerals might support the bereaved. (6)

Explain the importance of the soul to Christians. (6)

Explain the link between salvation and heaven for a Christian. (6)

Explain Christian beliefs about the soul. (6)

Explain what Christians believe about life after death. (6)

Explain Christian beliefs about the reasons why Jesus had to die on the cross. (6)

Explain what Christians believe by the words salvation and redemption. (6)

Explain how a Christian funeral service reflects beliefs about the end of life (6)

How may moral behaviour reflect beliefs about life after death? (6)

**12 mark questions:**

‘We only have one life and it is on earth’. (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘It’s my life so I can do what I want’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Heaven can be reached by everyone’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘There is no difference between the body and the soul’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘A forgiving God would not send people to hell’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘If you behave badly in this life you will be punished after you die’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘This life is more important than the next’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘When people die that is the end’ (12 marks)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

**Good and Evil Exam Questions**

**Short answer questions:**

What is meant by ‘conscience’? (1)

What does ‘immoral’ mean? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘evil’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘original sin’? (1)

What is meant by redemption? (1)

State two causes of evil in the world. (2)

Describe one way in which Christians might try to cope with suffering. (2)

Give two examples of actions which a Christian might consider to be evil. (2)

Give two examples of natural evil. (2)

What is meant by the term ‘original sin’? (2)

Give two examples of human suffering. (2)

Give three ways in which a Christian might try to behave morally. (3)

How does the idea of free will explain why there is evil in the world? (3)

State three things which might guide Christians in their moral behaviour. (3)

Describe how Christians might use the Bible to make moral choices. (3)

Describe Christian beliefs about God being good. (3)

What is the difference between natural and moral evil? (3)

**6 mark questions:**

Explain why a Christian might say that suffering is a natural part of human life. (6)

Explain why Christians feel it is important to behave morally. (6)

Explain how the suffering of Christ might help Christians to cope with suffering. (6)

Explain how the devil might be linked with human suffering. (6)

Explain Christian beliefs about the devil (Satan). (6)

Explain how a Christian may cope with suffering. (6)

Explain how Christians might try to find the best way to behave. (6)

Explain how Christians respond to the idea that a loving God allows evil and suffering to exist in this world. (6)

How might Christians explain the problem of evil in the world. (6)

**12 mark questions:**

‘You should only help people if you will get something in return’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘There is no such thing as evil’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Doing the right thing will never cause suffering’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Good things always come out of suffering’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘If people suffer it is usually their own fault’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Suffering is caused by the devil’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘It is God who makes people suffer’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

**Religion and Science Exam Questions**

**Short answer questions:**

What is meant by ‘the origins of humanity’? (1)

What is meant by ‘environmental problems’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘stewardship’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘scientific theory’? (1)

What is meant by the term ‘Big Bang’? (1)

State two uses of animals that some Christians might find acceptable. (2)

Give two reasons that Christians could use to support medical testing on animals. (2)

State two ways in humans are damaging the environment (2)

Give two uses of animals which Christians might find acceptable. (2)

How does science believe humans began? (2)

Give two examples of environmental issues. (2)

State three reasons why some Christians believe we should care for the environment. (3)

Why might Christians reject the theory that humans evolved from apes? (3)

Give three reasons that Christians might use to support being eco-friendly. (3)

Describe one Christian belief about the origins of the world. (3)

Why do some Christians believe that animals are different to human beings? (3)

What are the main scientific theories concerning how the world and humanity began? (3)

**6 mark questions:**

Explain what Christians believe about how the world began. (6)

Explain what Christians believe about the role of humanity in the world. (6)

Explain Christian attitudes towards the treatment of animals. (6)

Explain different attitudes Christians might have towards environmental issues. (6)

Explain Christian attitudes to the origins of the world and humanity. (6)

Explain why Christian beliefs about the origins of the universe and humanity are different to scientific theories (6)

Describe Christian attitudes to the treatment of animals. (6)

Explain how and why a Christian might act as a steward. (6)

Explain why Christians believe it is important to look after the environment. (6)

Explain why some Christians might not accept scientific theories about the origins of the world. (6)

**12 mark questions:**

‘Scientific teachings and Christian teachings have nothing in common’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘If humanity is here by chance then life has no purpose’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘The human race is more important than the environment’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘God wants people to make scientific discoveries’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Humans are nothing more than animals’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘Science is right about how the world began and so religion is wrong’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.

‘The world is ours to treat as we like’ (12)  
Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.