

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE  
GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Unit G572: AS Religious Ethics

**Specimen Paper**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (...pages)

**G572 QP**

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Answer **two** questions.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part of question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **70**.

**ADVICE TO CANDIDATES**

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

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This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 (a) Explain Natural Law Theory. [25]  
(b) 'Natural Law is not the best approach to euthanasia'. Discuss. [10]
- 2 (a) Explain Kant's theory of duty. [25]  
(b) To what extent is Kant's ethical theory a good approach to human embryo research? [10]
- 3 (a) Explain the main strengths of a Utilitarian ethical system. [25]  
(b) Assess the extent to which Utilitarianism is a useful method of making decisions about abortion. [10]
- 4 (a) Explain how religious ethics might be applied to issues of war and peace. [25]  
(b) 'A religious believer could never justify war'. Discuss. [10]

**Paper Total [70]**

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The maximum mark for this paper is 70.

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| Band | Mark /25 | AO1   | Mark /10 | AO2   |
|------|----------|---|----------|---|
| 0    | 0        | absent/no relevant material   | 0        | absent/no argument  |
| 1    | 1-5      | <p>almost completely ignores the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little relevant material</li> <li>• some concepts inaccurate</li> <li>• shows little knowledge of technical terms</li> </ul> <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>   | 1-2      | <p>very little argument or justification of viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little or no successful analysis</li> </ul> <p>Communication: often unclear or disorganised</p>  |
| 2    | 6-10     | <p>focuses on the general topic rather than directly on the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge limited and partially accurate</li> <li>• limited understanding</li> <li>• selection often inappropriate</li> <li>• limited use of technical terms</li> </ul> <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p> | 3-4      | <p>an attempt to sustain an argument and justify a viewpoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some analysis, but not successful</li> <li>• views asserted but not successfully justified</li> </ul> <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>   |
| 3    | 11-15    | <p>satisfactory attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some accurate knowledge</li> <li>• appropriate understanding</li> <li>• some successful selection of material</li> <li>• some accurate use of technical terms</li> </ul> <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>                     | 5-6      | <p>the argument is sustained and justified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some successful analysis which may be implicit</li> </ul> <p>Communication: some clarity and organisation</p>   |
| 4    | 16-20    | <p>a good attempt to address the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate knowledge</li> <li>• good understanding</li> <li>• good selection of material</li> <li>• technical terms mostly accurate</li> </ul> <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>   | 7-8      | <p>a good attempt at using evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some successful and clear analysis</li> <li>• might put more than one point of view</li> </ul> <p>Communication: generally clear and organised</p>  |
| 5    | 21-25    | <p>an excellent attempt to address the question showing understanding and engagement with the material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very high level of ability to select and deploy relevant information</li> <li>• accurate use of technical terms</li> </ul> <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p> | 9-10     | <p>an excellent attempt which uses a range of evidence to sustain an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehends the demands of the question</li> <li>• shows understanding and critical analysis of different viewpoints</li> </ul> <p>Communication: answer is well constructed and organised</p> |

| Question Number | Answer   | Max Mark |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| 1(a)            | <p><b>Explain Natural Law Theory.</b></p> <p>Candidates might consider that Aquinas developed an absolute and deontological theory, Natural Law, from the ideas of Aristotle and that it states that certain acts are intrinsically right or wrong.</p> <p>They may explain that Natural Law directs people to their divine destiny and that this is God's law which can be seen in scripture but also deduced through reason. Good acts are those which enable humans to fulfil their purpose and are in accordance with the primary precepts.</p> <p>Better candidates may explore the idea that humans can be led by 'apparent goods' which lead them away from Natural Law. They may also mention that both the intention and the act are important.</p> <p>Candidates may give examples to illustrate the theory.</p> | [25]     |
| 1(b)            | <p><b>'Natural Law is not the best approach to euthanasia'. Discuss.</b></p> <p>Some candidates may agree with this statement, and argue that Natural Law is too rigid and does not take account of different situations.</p> <p>They may argue that Natural Law is a good approach as it supports the Sanctity of Life, but that natural Law does allow a patient to refuse treatment if it is over and above what is needed for existence.</p> <p>Good answers will contrast the approach of Natural law with that of a more relativist approach which considers each situation and the consequences of euthanasia on the patient, family and friends.</p>   | [10]     |
| 2(a)            | <p><b>Explain Kant's theory of duty.</b></p> <p>Candidates are likely to explain that Kant's theory of duty is deontological and focussed on the idea of a moral law. They might explain Kant's understanding of good will and duty and the link between them.</p> <p>Candidates may explain that Kant saw moral statements as categorical and explain the Categorical Imperative and its various formulations.</p> <p>Good responses may contrast the Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives.</p> <p>Better responses may refer to Kant's examples and explain how Kant rejected consequentialism.</p>  | [25]     |

| Question Number | Answer   | Max Mark |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| 2(b)            | <p><b>To what extent is Kant's ethical theory a good approach to human embryo research?</b></p> <p>Candidates may explore the issue of how easy or difficult it would be to universalise embryo research in a way that would encompass all the different reasons for carrying it out.</p> <p>Candidates may consider the embryo is being used as a means to an end, and reject embryo research, or they may question whether an embryo is a human being, and so look to the universal benefits of embryo research in curing diseases.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to inflexibility and better answers may refer to conflict of principles, and the fact that Kant's stress on acting out of duty alone means that there is no room for compassion and all consequences are ignored whatever they may be.</p> | [10]     |
| 3(a)            | <p><b>Explain the main strengths of a Utilitarian ethical system.</b></p> <p>Candidates are likely to begin their answer by explaining the main principles of Utilitarianism. They should however then go on to focus on strengths.</p> <p>Candidates might explain that Utilitarianism is straightforward and based on maximising pleasure and happiness for most people.</p> <p>Candidates may consider the value of looking at the consequences of an action before making a decision.</p> <p>Better responses may explain the value of a universal system that goes beyond personal points of view. They may give examples to illustrate their answer.</p>   | [25]     |
| 3(b)            | <p><b>Assess the extent to which Utilitarianism is a useful method of making decisions about abortion.</b></p> <p>Candidates may assess the usefulness of Bentham's approach and contrast it with that of Mill, or they may contrast a Utilitarian approach to abortion with that of another ethical theory.</p> <p>Good responses are likely to consider issues relating to the rights of the mother and the foetus.</p> <p>Better responses might consider the long term consequences of an abortion, in discussing the balance of pleasure and pain.</p>  | [10]     |

| Question Number    | Answer   | Max Mark    |
|--------------------|--|-------------|
| 4(a)               | <p><b>Explain how religious ethics might be applied to issues of war and peace.</b></p> <p>Some candidates may simply explain Just War theory, such answers are unlikely to achieve the highest levels. Better answers are likely to use examples to illustrate the application of Just War theory.</p> <p>Other responses may give an account of the varieties of approaches to pacifism: absolute, relative, contingent etc, and apply this to a religious framework.</p> <p>Some candidates might refer to both Just war and pacifism as contrasting approaches.</p> <p>Good responses from a Christian perspective might explain Christian realism. The approaches to issues of war can be explained from the point of view of any world religion.</p> | [25]        |
| 4(b)               | <p><b>‘A religious believer could never justify war’. Discuss.</b></p> <p>Some candidates might argue that all killing should be rejected as a principle and argue for pacifism and in favour of the statement above.</p> <p>Other candidates will defend the Just War theory.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to modern warfare and its advanced methods of killing such as smart bombs, weapons of mass destruction, and chemical weapons, and discuss these with reference to the views of any religious believer.</p>  |             |
| <b>Paper Total</b> |  | <b>[70]</b> |

**Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)**

| <b>Question</b> | <b>AO1</b> | <b>AO2</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1(a)</b>     | 25         |            | <b>25</b>    |
| <b>1(b)</b>     |            | 10         | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>2(a)</b>     | 25         |            | <b>25</b>    |
| <b>2(b)</b>     |            | 10         | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>3(a)</b>     | 25         |            | <b>25</b>    |
| <b>3(b)</b>     |            | 10         | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>4(a)</b>     | 25         |            | <b>25</b>    |
| <b>4(b)</b>     |            | 10         | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>50</b>  | <b>20</b>  | <b>70</b>    |

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