1.1 The Nature of God: Test Pack

AQA 8062 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Which of these words means that God is present everywhere at the same time, as Christians traditionally understand God's nature?

- ☐ A: Omnipotent
- ☐ B: Omniscient
- ☐ C: Omnipresent
- ☐ D: Benevolent

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 This question checks key vocabulary used in Christian teaching about the nature of God.

(a) Give one word that means 'all-powerful', used to describe God. **(1)**

(b) Give one word that means 'all-knowing', used to describe God. **(1)**

(c) State what is meant by describing God as benevolent. **(1)**

(d) State what is meant by God's justice. **(1)**

(e) Give one word that means 'present everywhere at once', used to describe God. **(1)**

(Total for Question 2 is 5 marks)

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3 Give two ways the Bible describes God as a God of mercy as well as justice.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain two ways a Christian's belief in the problem of evil, and the responses to it, might affect how they cope with suffering in their own life.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two contrasting Christian views about whether the soul-making response gives a satisfying answer to the problem of evil. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.1 The Nature of God: Test Pack

Question 1

selecting option C, omnipresent, cao **B1**

Answer: C

Question 2

(a) omnipotent, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: Omnipotent.

(b) omniscient, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Omniscient.

(c) all-loving / good, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: All-loving, or perfectly good.

(d) God treats everyone fairly, without favouritism, and wrongdoing has consequences, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: God treats everyone fairly, without favouritism, and wrongdoing has consequences.

(e) omnipresent, oe **B1**

(e) Answer: Omnipresent.

Question 3

God is described as slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, as in Exodus 34:6, oe **B1**

God is willing to forgive those who are genuinely sorry for wrongdoing, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. God is slow to anger and full of love (Exodus 34:6); God forgives those who are genuinely sorry for wrongdoing.

Question 4

point 1: a Christian who accepts the free will defence might avoid blaming God directly when suffering is caused by another person's wrongdoing, oe **B1**

development: for example, someone whose family is affected by a crime might direct their anger at the person responsible, rather than losing their faith in God's goodness, oe **B1**

point 2: a Christian who accepts the soul-making response might try to look for something positive, such as personal growth or a deepened faith, within their own experience of hardship, oe **B1**

development: for example, someone recovering from a serious illness might come out of the experience feeling more compassionate towards other people who are suffering, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. not blaming God for suffering caused by human wrongdoing (free will defence); looking for personal growth within hardship (soul-making).

Question 5

view 1: some Christians find the soul-making response convincing, believing that facing and overcoming hardship genuinely can build good character, such as patience, courage and compassion, oe **B1**

development: this is supported by Romans 5:3-4, which teaches that Christians can 'rejoice in our sufferings', since suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, oe **B1**

view 2: other Christians are more cautious, arguing that some suffering, such as that experienced by a very young child, seems to destroy rather than build a person's character, so the response does not explain every case, oe **B1**

development: such Christians often turn instead to the Book of Job, in which God's reply to Job's suffering is not a full explanation but an assertion of God's own greater wisdom, which some read as showing that not all suffering needs, or gets, a tidy answer, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: suffering can build character (Romans 5:3-4) vs some suffering (e.g. a young child's) resists this explanation, as reflected in the Book of Job.

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