1.5 Creation and the Role of the Word and the Spirit: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting Christian views on whether the Bible is the only reliable source of knowledge about creation. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Give three things the Genesis 1 creation account teaches about the nature of God.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 This question is about Christian beliefs concerning creation. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question.

(a) State one word/phrase for the Christian belief that God created the universe out of nothing. **(1)**

(b) Give two things the Genesis 2 creation account describes. **(2)**

(c) Explain two Christian teachings about why humans have a special place and responsibility within creation. Refer to scripture in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting Christian views on how humans should exercise their special responsibility over creation. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'The Genesis creation stories should be understood literally.' In your answer you should: refer to Christian teaching, refer to different points of view, reach a justified conclusion. **(12)**

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(Total for Question 3 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.5 Creation and the Role of the Word and the Spirit: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

view 1: some Christians hold that the Bible is the final authority on how and why the world came to exist, and that where scientific claims seem to disagree with scripture, scripture should be trusted, oe **B1**

development: they point to 2 Timothy 3:16, which teaches that all Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, so they see Genesis as the most reliable account of origins, oe **B1**

view 2: other Christians hold that the natural world is also a source of knowledge about the Creator, so scientific study and scripture can both be trusted and should not truly conflict, oe **B1**

development: they point to Romans 1:20, which teaches that God's invisible qualities, such as his power, can be seen in what has been made, and Catholic teaching states that faith and reason both come from God and cannot really contradict each other, oe **B1**

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

Answer: Contrast: scripture as the final authority on creation (2 Timothy 3:16) vs scripture and the study of nature both revealing the Creator (Romans 1:20; Catholic teaching on faith and reason).

Question 2

God is all-powerful, creating simply by speaking, oe **B1**

God is purposeful and good, repeatedly calling what he creates 'good', oe **B1**

God is orderly, since creation follows a structured sequence of days ending in a day of rest, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: all-powerful (creates by speech alone); purposeful and good (calls creation 'good'); orderly (structured six days plus rest).

Question 3

(a) creation from nothing / ex nihilo, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: Creation from nothing (ex nihilo).

(b) Adam formed from the dust of the ground and given life by God's breath, oe **B1**

(b) Eve created from Adam's rib, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. Adam formed from dust and given life by God's breath, and Eve created from Adam's rib.

(c) point 1: humans are made in the image of God, giving them a unique status among creation, oe **B1**

(c) development: Genesis 1:26-27 records God saying, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness', oe **B1**

(c) point 2: humans are given a role of responsibility to care for the rest of creation, oe **B1**

(c) development: Genesis 2:15 places the first humans in the garden 'to work it and take care of it', oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27); given responsibility to care for creation (Genesis 2:15).

(d) view 1: some Christians emphasise 'stewardship', seeing humans as caretakers who are accountable to God for looking after creation responsibly, oe **B1**

(d) development: based on Genesis 2:15, humans are placed in the garden 'to work it and take care of it', and many churches today support environmental projects (e.g. Eco Church schemes) on this basis, oe **B1**

(d) view 2: other Christians, historically, have emphasised 'dominion', reading Genesis as giving humans greater authority to use the earth's resources for human benefit, oe **B1**

(d) development: based on Genesis 1:28, where God tells humans to 'subdue' the earth and 'rule over' the animals; today, most Christian environmental teaching favours the stewardship reading over this dominion reading, oe **B1**

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

(d) Answer: Contrast: 'stewardship' (Genesis 2:15) vs 'dominion' (Genesis 1:28) as differing emphases on how human responsibility for creation should be exercised.

(e) **L4** A well-argued, balanced answer that considers more than one point of view in a developed way, using accurate and detailed references to Christian teaching and/or scripture to support each point, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. **10-12**

(e) **L3** A clear and reasoned answer that considers more than one point of view, supported by relevant references to Christian teaching and/or scripture, though the justification of the conclusion may be less developed. **7-9**

(e) **L2** A reasoned answer that considers at least one point of view, with some relevant supporting evidence, but with limited or no consideration of an alternative view. **4-6**

(e) **L1** One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion. **1-3**

(e) **L0** No relevant content. **0**

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(e) Indicative content:

- Agree: some Christians believe scripture is the inerrant, literal word of God, so the six-day structure and timeline described in Genesis 1 should be taken as historical fact.
- Agree: supporters argue that taking Genesis literally protects the authority and reliability of the whole Bible - if Genesis is treated as 'only' symbolic, some fear other doctrines might be undermined too.
- Agree: the text of Genesis 1 reads, to some readers, like a historical narrative with a clear sequence of days, rather than an obviously poetic or symbolic form.
- Disagree: many Christians, including the Catholic Church's official teaching and many mainline Protestant and Orthodox theologians, argue Genesis was never intended as a scientific text, but conveys theological truths, that God, not any other power, is the source of everything, and that creation is good and purposeful.
- Disagree: the existence of two differently ordered creation accounts within Genesis itself (Genesis 1 and Genesis 2) is used by many scholars as evidence that the author's purpose was theological rather than a single, literal chronological record.
- Disagree: scientific evidence for the age of the universe (around 13.8 billion years) and for evolution is considered by many Christians to be compatible with a non-literal reading, since they believe God could have worked through such gradual processes.
- A balanced answer might conclude that while a literal reading protects a straightforward view of scriptural authority for some, the majority of contemporary Christian scholarship, and the Catholic Church's own official position since 1950, treats a non-literal, theological reading as both faithful to scripture's purpose and compatible with modern science.

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