7.4 Atheism, Agnosticism and the Nature of Non-Belief: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain three features of atheistic naturalism, as a non-religious worldview, and how each feature supports a lack of belief in God.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Give three short reasons why some people describe themselves as agnostic rather than atheist or theist, in the context of modern debates about knowledge and belief.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 State two clear differences between atheism and agnosticism, and for each difference give a short explanation of what the difference means.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.4 Atheism, Agnosticism and the Nature of Non-Belief: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

feature 1: commitment to natural explanations, oe **B1**

feature 2: rejection of supernatural causation, oe **B1**

feature 3: reliance on empirical science for knowledge claims, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three features explained briefly: natural explanations; reject supernatural causation; rely on empirical science, each linked to why they support non-belief.

Question 2

they believe God's existence cannot be known, so they suspend judgement, oe **B1**

they think evidence is currently insufficient either way, oe **B1**

they value epistemic humility and prefer to acknowledge limits of human knowledge, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: belief that God's existence cannot be known; insufficient evidence either way; epistemic humility/limits of knowledge.

Question 3

difference 1: atheism is the positive denial that God exists, oe **B1**

explanation 1: atheists assert there is no God, not just that it is unknown, oe **B1**

difference 2: agnosticism is the view that God's existence cannot be known, oe **B1**

explanation 2: agnostics suspend judgement and claim insufficient knowledge to assert belief or disbelief, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two differences explained, e.g. atheism denies God's existence, agnosticism suspends judgement because it claims knowledge is unavailable.

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