7.8 The Problem of Evil and Suffering: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 This question checks key vocabulary used in discussion of the problem of evil.

(a) State what is meant by moral evil. **(1)**

(b) State what is meant by natural evil. **(1)**

(c) State what is meant by omnipotent. **(1)**

(d) State what is meant by omnibenevolent. **(1)**

(e) State what is meant by a theodicy. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Give three examples of natural evil.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain the problem of evil, as traditionally formulated. Refer to a philosopher of religion in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.8 The Problem of Evil and Suffering: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) suffering caused by the actions of human beings, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: Suffering caused by the actions of human beings.

(b) suffering caused by natural events or processes not caused by human action, e.g. earthquakes or disease, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Suffering caused by natural events not caused by human action, e.g. earthquakes or disease.

(c) all-powerful, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: All-powerful.

(d) all-loving or perfectly good, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: All-loving; perfectly good.

(e) an attempt to justify or defend God's goodness and power in the face of the existence of evil and suffering, oe **B1**

(e) Answer: An attempt to justify God's goodness and power in the face of evil and suffering.

Question 2

earthquakes, oe **B1**

disease/illness, oe **B1**

famine caused by drought; accept any genuine natural disaster or process not caused by human action, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: earthquakes; disease; famine caused by drought.

Question 3

point 1: the problem of evil argues the existence of evil and suffering is logically inconsistent with belief in a God who is all-powerful, all-loving and all-knowing, oe **B1**

development: this challenge, traditionally attributed to Epicurus (its earliest surviving statement is recorded by the later Christian writer Lactantius), is often set out as a dilemma: if God is willing to prevent evil but not able, God is not all-powerful; if God is able to prevent evil but not willing, God is not all-loving, oe **B1**

point 2: because evil clearly does exist, in both moral and natural forms, this is used to argue an all-powerful, all-loving God, as classical theism describes, cannot exist, oe **B1**

development: some philosophers present this as a strict logical contradiction (the logical problem of evil), while others present it as strong evidence against God's existence without claiming an outright contradiction (the evidential problem of evil), oe **B1**

Answer: The problem of evil: evil's existence seems logically inconsistent with an omnipotent, omnibenevolent God (traditionally attributed to Epicurus, via Lactantius).

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