7.12 Solutions to the Problem of Evil and Suffering: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Which of these is the correct distinction between 'moral evil' and 'natural evil', as the terms are used in discussions of the problem of evil?

- ☐ A: Moral evil is suffering caused by human actions; natural evil is suffering caused by the natural world, such as earthquakes or disease
- ☐ B: Moral evil is suffering that can be avoided; natural evil is suffering that cannot be predicted
- ☐ C: Moral evil is suffering experienced by adults; natural evil is suffering experienced by children
- ☐ D: Moral evil is suffering caused by animals; natural evil is suffering caused by plants and weather

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Give two examples of natural evil that religious believers have tried to explain through responses to the problem of evil and suffering.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Outline two recognised religious responses to the problem of evil and suffering named in Theme C: Solutions to the Problem of Evil and Suffering.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain the importance of religious responses to suffering for believers today, referring to Theme C ideas such as the free will defence, soul-making and afterlife compensation.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.12 Solutions to the Problem of Evil and Suffering: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

selecting option A, moral evil caused by human actions and natural evil caused by the natural world, cao **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods or hurricanes, which cause suffering with no human cause, oe **B1**

disease or illness that a person did not bring on themselves, such as a serious illness present from birth, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods; disease or illness with no human cause.

Question 3

one correct response named, e.g. the free will defence, oe **B1**

another correct response named, e.g. soul-making theodicy or belief in afterlife compensation, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two named responses, for example: free will defence; soul-making theodicy; belief that suffering will be compensated in an afterlife.

Question 4

Level 3 A detailed, well structured answer that explains several reasons why religious responses to suffering are important for believers, with accurate references to themes such as free will, soul-making or afterlife compensation and clear links between the reasons given. **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some reasons for the importance of religious responses to suffering, with some supporting detail and at least one appropriate reference to a Theme C idea. **3-4**

Level 1 One or two simple points about the importance of religious responses to suffering, with little supporting detail. **1-2**

Level 0 No relevant material. **0**

Indicative content:

- Religious responses can provide meaning and comfort to those in pain, helping believers cope and maintain faith.
- The free will defence can help believers accept moral evil as a consequence of human freedom, preserving belief in an omnibenevolent God.
- Soul-making offers a way to see suffering as morally formative, encouraging growth in virtues like compassion and patience.
- Belief in afterlife compensation gives hope that injustices and suffering will be set right, supporting resilience and justice-oriented action.
- These responses can influence ethical behaviour, for example encouraging forgiveness or compassion rather than resentment.
- Different believers weight these responses differently, but they often function together to support faith in the face of suffering.

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