



**Strathmore**  
UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**BACHELOR OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION**  
**BDP 4102: THEODICY**

**DATE: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Time: 10:30 – 12:30**

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**Instructions**

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

**QUESTION 1 (30 Marks)**

1. What does Heidegger mean by Onto-Theology, and what is its origin? (5 marks)
2. What is the opinion of Dualism regarding faith and reason, and what are the implications on social and political life? Support your answer with an example. (8 marks)
3. One of the effects of the virtue of religion is to make the religious subject “proportionate to God.” Explain what this means and give an example to illustrate your answer. (5 marks)
4. According to C.S. Lewis, the religious encounter with God as “the numinous” inspires a fear that is different from that of encountering a ferocious animal. Explain this difference. (4 marks)
5. What view would a pantheist hold concerning Pieper’s distinction of the sacred and the profane? (4 marks)
6. Is determinism compatible with the idea of a benevolent and omnipotent God who does not remove those foreseen circumstances that may cause someone to do evil, e.g. a corrupt environment or situations of war? (4 marks)

## **QUESTION 2 (15 Marks)**

Theology and Theodicy use both rational and non-rational arguments.

- a. Explain what characterises rational arguments, and the basis of those characteristics. (6 marks)
- b. State and explain three non-rational arguments as used in Theodicy, giving an example for each. (9 marks)

## **QUESTION 3 (15 Marks)**

A failure to understand the relationship and distinction between faith and reason may lead to several errors in Theodicy. Three such errors are Rationalism, Fideism and Dualism. Explain each of them and give an example of each error.

## **QUESTION 4 (15 Marks)**

- a. What are the implications of an infinitely good God creating evil? (3 marks)
- b. What is the position of Polytheism with regard to evil? (2 marks)
- c. Explain what a physical evil is, and whether it is compatible with a God who is all-good and all-powerful. (5 marks)
- d. What is moral evil, and is it compatible with the idea of a God who is both all good and omnipotent? (5 marks)

## **QUESTION 5 (15 Marks)**

- a. From your understanding of the etymology of Religion as Re + Ligare, explain how Religion leads to the perfection of an individual. Support your answer with an example. (5 marks)
- b. A form of religious reductionism is to base all of religion on only one aspect related to the triple etymology of Religion. Give two examples of such cases in history and discuss how they fail to address man's integral nature. (10 marks)