



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
BDP 4109 THEODICY

DATE: 22nd October 2024

TIME: 15:30 – 17:30

Instructions

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

Question 1 COMPULSORY: Answer ALL. (30 marks)

1. Why do you think that the problem of evil is so important? (3 marks)
2. What is moral evil - give examples, and is it compatible with the idea of a God who is both all good and omnipotent? (3 marks)
3. How do faith and reason interact in the context of religious belief? (4 marks)
4. Distinguish the act of faith from the object of faith. (4 marks)
5. What is the object of reason? (2 marks)
6. How is God typically characterized in classical theism? (2 marks)
7. How do creationism and evolution differ in their explanations of the origins of life, and can they be reconciled? (5 marks)
8. If you were God, how would you make a better world? (3 mark)
9. How did Augustine and Aquinas address the problem of evil? (4 marks)

SECTION B: Answer any 2 Questions. Each is 15 marks.

QUESTION 2 (15 Marks)

- a. What are the main philosophical arguments for the existence of God? Briefly describe at least three. (6 marks)
- b. The biblical notion is that God created the world *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). Greek philosophers found this absurd and irrational, because it violated the law of nature that *ex nihilo nihil fit* (“out of nothing comes nothing”). How would you respond to this? (5 marks)
- c. Explain how the religious worldview of pantheism deals with the problem of evil, and illustrate how it explains a moral evil such as alcohol addiction. (4 marks)

QUESTION 3 (15 marks)

- a. Would you prefer a world in which God allowed less suffering and more happiness in the modern sense? Why or why not? (5 marks)
- b. There are two most common misunderstandings about evil that make the problem more difficult than it needs to be. Which are they and why is this separation important? (4 marks)
- c. Why is goodness so fragile and vulnerable to evil and why must goodness be more than kindness? (6 marks)

QUESTION 4 (15 marks)

- a. The problem of evil is an ancient one and several people have proposed different possible solutions. Simply state the problem of evil and describe any 3 possible solutions to the problem of evil that have been proposed over the decades and explain how they hoped that this has resolved the problem. (6 marks)
- a. Suppose you really believed that you and your life were surrounded by real, present and powerful spirits who know you and either helped or harmed you. How would your everyday consciousness be changed? (3 marks)
- b. Come up with a clear and valid argument for or against miracles and defend it. (6 marks)

All the Best!