



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

DATE: 7th May 2024

Time: 9:15-11:15

Instructions

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

Question ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 Marks)

1. What is a theodicy? (2 marks)
2. What is the great dilemma of evil? (4 marks)
3. For each of the following; answer and explain why/why not:
 - a. Can there be truth without knowledge? (1.5 marks)
 - b. Can there be knowledge without certainty? (1.5 marks)
 - c. Can there be certainty without proof? (1.5 marks)
 - d. Can there be proof without the scientific method? (1.5 marks)
4. Why is the problem of evil so important? (6 marks)
5. What is moral evil - give examples, and is it compatible with the idea of a God who is both all good and omnipotent? (5 marks)
6. 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)
7. What does good mean if predicated of God? (3 marks)

QUESTION 2 (15 Marks)

- a) Is sincerity alone sufficient for salvation? Explain. (5 marks)
- b) How would you explain to a conservative that a pagan like Socrates could possibly be saved? Why then does God not just save everyone? (6 marks)
- c) All religions have three aspects. Which are these and how do they address our whole being? (4 marks)

QUESTION 3 (15 Marks)

What are the consequences of a worldview in which;

- a) There is no evil, metaphysical or moral? (4 marks)
- b) We are metaphysically evil? (4 marks)
- c) We are not morally evil? (4 marks)
- d) b) and c) together? (3 marks)

QUESTION 4 (15 Marks)

- a. Is it always right to love evil doers and to hate sin? (4 marks)
- b. Explain at least four issues at stake if evil were an “ok” thing and not intrinsically so. (4 marks)
- c. How should we apply this distinction to controversial issues like abortion, war, drunkenness and fornication? Identify the evil and the evil-doer for each case and highlight the consequences of this distinction. (7 marks)