

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part A – Religious experience

Question 4: ‘Mystical experiences are central to religious experience.’ Discuss. (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **25 marks** because this essay is clearly focused on the question throughout. The knowledge and understanding is consistently in depth, accurate and relevant. There is clear evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from a range of specific sources and perspectives (9 marks). The analysis clearly identifies specific issues mainly related to the question. The explanation of issues takes account of a range of identified perspectives and demonstrates a clear understanding of their relevance to the question (8 marks). The evaluation is valid, insightful and is mainly reasoned. It has mainly relevant judgements on issues. Conclusions have successfully been woven throughout the essay (8 marks).

Candidate 2

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part A – Religious experience

Question 3: ‘William James offers the best understanding of religious experiences.’ To what extent do you agree? (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **20 marks** because the essay is mostly focused on the question. The knowledge and understanding is mainly in depth, accurate and relevant. There is evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from some specific sources or perspectives (8 marks). The analysis identifies specific issues mainly related to the question, but the depth is uneven at times. The explanation of issues takes account of some perspectives and demonstrates a mainly good understanding of their relevance to the question asked (8 marks) The evaluation is limited and valid but not clearly reasoned and lacks sufficiency. It has some relevant but limited judgements on the issues and perspectives. There has been some attempt to draw brief conclusions, but they lack depth. (4 marks)

Candidate 3

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part B – Medical ethics

Question 5: ‘End of life decisions should be based on care, not killing.’ Discuss religious and non-religious responses to this statement. (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **10 marks** overall because the essay is a very general response to the question. There is an attempt at knowledge and understanding but it lacks depth and has issues with accuracy and relevance. There is some evidence that the candidate has attempted to draw together relevant and/or appropriate information but references to sources and perspectives are brief, undeveloped and general in nature or inaccurate (2 marks). The analysis identifies general issues related to the question which are limited in depth. The issues are explained and there is evidence of limited understanding of their relevance to the question at times but it is generally superficial (4 marks). The evaluation is limited and valid but not clearly reasoned and lacks sufficiency. It has limited relevant judgements or counterarguments on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. There has been some attempt to draw brief conclusions but they lack sufficiency (4 marks). Overall this essay falls short of the level of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation required at Advanced Higher.

Candidate 4

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part B – Medical ethics

Question 5: ‘End of life decisions should be based on care, not killing.’ Discuss religious and non-religious responses to this statement. (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **25 marks** because this essay is mainly in-depth, accurate and relevant, making reference to question throughout. There is evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from some specific sources or perspectives (8 marks). The analysis identifies specific issues clearly related to the question. The explanation of issues takes account of a range of clearly identified perspectives and demonstrates a clear understanding of their relevance to the question (10 marks). The evaluation is valid, may be insightful and mainly clearly reasoned. It has mainly relevant judgements on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. In the main, clear conclusions have been drawn (7 marks).

Candidate 5

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part B – Medical ethics

Question 6: ‘The sanctity of life is central to the debate about abortion.’ To what extent do you agree? (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **28 marks** because this essay is consistently in-depth, accurate and relevant. There is clear evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from a range of specific sources or perspectives. Although some sources are less ‘academic’, a broad range of perspectives have been taken into account (10 marks). The analysis identifies specific issues clearly related to the question. The explanation of issues takes account of a range of clearly identified perspectives and demonstrates a clear understanding of their relevance to the question (10 marks). The evaluation is valid, may be insightful and mainly clearly reasoned. It has mainly relevant judgements on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues and clear conclusions have mainly been drawn (8 marks).

Candidate 6

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 2 – Part B – Medical ethics

Question 6: ‘The sanctity of life is central to the debate about abortion.’ To what extent do you agree? (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **16 marks** because the knowledge and understanding has some depth and is accurate and relevant. There is some evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and/or appropriate information but references to sources and

perspectives tend to be more general and limited (6 marks). The analysis identifies some specific issues that are related to the question but there is insufficient depth and explanation of them. The issues are explained and there is some evidence of some understanding of their relevance to the question but this is general in nature at times (6 marks). The evaluation is limited and valid but not clearly reasoned and lacks sufficiency. The essay has limited relevant judgements or counterarguments on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. There has been some attempt to draw brief conclusions but they lack depth. Evaluation was clearly the weakest area in this essay (4 marks).

Candidate 7

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 1 – Philosophy of religion

Question 2: ‘There is probably no God.’ To what extent do you agree with this claim? (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **13 marks** because the essay falls short in knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation. The knowledge and understanding has some depth and is accurate and relevant. There is some evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and/or appropriate information but references to sources and perspectives tend to be more general and limited (5 marks). This analysis identifies general issues related to the question which are limited in depth. The issues are explained but there is evidence of limited understanding of their relevance to the question at times which is generally superficial (4 marks). The evaluation is limited and valid but not clearly reasoned and lacks sufficiency. It has limited relevant judgements or counter arguments on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. There has been some attempt to draw brief conclusions, but they lack depth (4 marks).

Candidate 8

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 1 – Philosophy of religion

Question 1: To what extent does Aquinas offer the most convincing cosmological argument? (30 marks)

This essay sets out to answer the question in the sense of the cosmological argument being ‘most convincing’ in itself, rather than referring to other cosmological arguments and developing a comparison. Candidates were not penalised for this approach but this response is limited in depth as a result.

The candidate was awarded **17 marks** because the knowledge and understanding has some depth and is accurate and relevant. There is some evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and/or appropriate information but references to sources and perspectives tend to be more general and limited (6 marks). Analysis within this essay is often ‘signposted’ as evaluation, however, the analysis identifies some specific issues that are related to the question, but there is insufficient depth and explanation of them.

The issues are explained and there is some evidence of some understanding of their relevance to the question which is general in nature at times (6 marks). Some evaluation is valid but not consistently and clearly reasoned. It has some relevant judgements or counter-arguments on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. There has been some attempt to draw conclusions but they lack depth (5 marks).

Candidate 9

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Section 1 – Philosophy of religion

Question 1: To what extent does Aquinas offer the most convincing cosmological argument? (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **24 marks** because this essay is mainly in depth, accurate and relevant. There is evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from some specific sources or perspectives (8 marks). The analysis identifies specific issues mainly related to the question but the depth is uneven at times. The explanation of issues takes account of some perspectives and demonstrates a mainly good understanding of their relevance to the question (8 marks). The evaluation is valid, may be insightful and mainly clearly reasoned. It has mainly relevant judgements on the issues and/or perspectives on the issues. The evaluation weakens towards the end of the essay. Mainly clear conclusions have been drawn (8 marks).