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## **RMPS (Advanced Higher): Question paper**

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### **Commentary on candidate evidence**

# Commentary on candidate evidence

## Candidate 3

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

### Essay question 1

**How convincing is the teleological argument in proving the existence of God?**

The candidate was awarded **22 marks** because the knowledge and understanding is consistently in-depth, accurate and relevant. The candidate begins by outlining relevant and appropriate information about Aquinas' teleological argument in paragraph 1. In paragraph 2, the candidate introduces Paley's teleological argument through the watch analogy. Paragraph 3 brings in the first criticism, looking at David Hume's challenges to the argument. Paragraph 4 introduces the anthropic principle in order to refute Hume's criticism and this is supported by Leibniz's principle of sufficient reasons, thus utilising a range of sources and perspectives. **(10 marks)** The candidate then returns to Paley's argument for the existence of God and uses Dawkins (and difficulties around all-loving God) to refute Paley. The candidate then uses science to support the teleological argument, using John Polkinghorne's implication of a pre-existing set of natural laws. The analysis lacks depth in places. **(7 marks)** The candidate then concludes by referring back to the question and providing a clearly supported judgement. The evaluation is not consistent as it doesn't address the question throughout. **(5 marks)**

Overall mark **22/30**

## Candidate 4

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

### Essay question 2

**'Aquinas's cosmological argument does not prove the existence of God.'** Discuss.

The candidate was awarded **23 marks** because the knowledge and understanding is consistently in-depth, accurate and relevant. The candidate begins by outlining relevant and appropriate information about Aquinas' cosmological argument in paragraph 1, this is very in-depth. In paragraph 2, the candidate discusses contingency and infinite regression and introduces doubt surrounding the logic of the cosmological argument. **(10 marks)** The candidate then goes on to bring in support for the cosmological argument from William Lane Craig, although further challenges are also presented. Hume, Anscombe, Kant, Bohr, Russel and Hawking are then introduced to the debate, with a range of views presented. The Big Bang theory is used to further oppose the

cosmological argument, but not necessarily the existence of God. **(8 marks)** The candidate brings the essay to a conclusion, acknowledging the strength of the argument proving a first cause, but unable to prove the existence of God. **(5 marks)**

Overall marks **23/30**

## Candidate 5

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

### Essay question 3

**'Of all the issues relating to abortion, the sanctity of life is the most significant.'** How far do you agree?

The candidate was awarded **22 marks** because the knowledge and understanding is consistently in-depth, accurate and relevant is different from the PoR essays as this candidate uses a lot of sources as their knowledge and understanding. The candidate begins by outlining relevant and appropriate information about abortion, before going on to provide an in-depth discussion on the sanctity of life, drawing on a range of sources and perspectives. **(10 marks)** The analysis is thorough throughout, identifying specific issues relating to the question and drawing on implications, comparisons and consequences of the sources/perspectives discussed. **(7 marks)** The evaluation is there but just not in depth and consistently applied. **(5 marks)**

Overall marks **22/30**

## Candidate 6

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

### Essay question 4

**To what extent can religious experience be defined?**

The candidate was awarded **19 marks** because the candidate opens the essay by setting the context of religious experience and acknowledges William James and Rudolph Otto as the two key players in religious experience. The knowledge and understanding is consistently in-depth, accurate and relevant, providing a range of perspectives including Richard Swinburne and Alistair Hardy. **(8 marks)** The analysis is uneven throughout, candidate identifies specific issues relating to the question, however these are often descriptive in nature. There are attempts, however, to analyse. **(6 marks)** The evaluation is limited throughout the essay, although the candidate attempts to sum up at the end of each paragraph. There is a clear overall conclusion. **(5 marks)**

Overall marks **19/30**