

Commentary on candidate 9 evidence

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

Question 1

Section 1 - Philosophy of Religion

“Aquinas’s cosmological arguments prove the existence of a first cause and not the existence of God”. Discuss. (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **25 marks** because the essay is clearly focussed on the question, but at times refers generally to the topic. The candidate has an excellent understanding of the cosmological argument and knowledge and understanding and analysis is excellent throughout. There is excellent use of sources and the candidate has held a line of argument throughout. The knowledge and understanding is consistently accurate, relevant and in depth. There is clear evidence that the candidate has drawn together relevant and appropriate information from a range of specific sources or perspectives (**9 marks**). The analysis clearly identifies specific issues related to the question and the explanation of issues takes account of some perspectives and demonstrates a good understanding of their relevance to the question (**8 marks**). The evaluation is valid, insightful and mainly reasoned, but lacking in depth. Judgements are mainly relevant to the issue and conclusions have been made (**8 marks**).

Question 3

Section 2 – Religious Experience

“Religious Experience proves the existence of God.” Discuss. (30 marks)

The candidate was awarded **28 marks** because the essay is clearly focussed on the question throughout. Although long in length, knowledge and understanding and analysis is very good and little is lost. 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 (**10 marks**). The analysis clearly identifies specific issues 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, insightful and is mainly reasoned. It has mainly relevant judgements on issues. Conclusions have successfully been woven throughout the essay (**8 marks**).