

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component (Religious and Philosophical Questions: Existence of God).

Candidate 5

Question 50

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The candidate identified three things people might believe about God's nature, and then developed each one further. Each point was therefore worth 2 marks enabling the candidate to achieve full marks with one to spare.

Question 51

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The answer starts with a retelling of Paley's watch analogy so 3 marks were awarded at 'this creator is God,' for a well-developed point. A fourth mark was awarded for stating that only God could create a working eye because of its complexity.

Question 52

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate was awarded 2 marks for arguing that it's true that the universe and everything in it is very complex, so therefore it makes sense to think it didn't happen on its own. An additional 2 marks was awarded at the end of the answer for giving the counter argument that the Big Bang and evolution suggest things may be able to adapt on their own, thus removing the need for God.

Question 53

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The candidate identified 3 correct elements of the argument for a mark each – everything has a cause, it makes sense to say nothing is the cause of itself, God has to be the first cause. The second half of the answer is mostly repetition of points already made. There are no marks for saying the first cause has to be God because He made the universe.

Question 54

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The candidate was awarded 1 mark for saying that Darwin proved one argument wrong by offering the alternative of adaptation. The answer then moved into a general discussion about whether it is possible to believe in God when he doesn't intervene, but this wasn't the focus of the question which was asking if science supported the arguments for God's existence. 1 mark was awarded at the end of the first page for the idea that if everything needs a cause, so would God as this relates to the nature of causation. A third mark was given the end of the response for the idea that God would be the cause of the Big Bang and evolution.