

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 6

Question 60

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate gives one reason why people might believe in divine intervention and three reasons why they might not believe in it. '...an all loving God will answer prayers from his followers.' (1 mark) They then give an example of the converse of this where God did not stop the holocaust for second mark. They then develop the point of the holocaust and explain that it could be used to show a loving God does not exist. (1 mark). The final mark is awarded for the point that divine intervention can violate his gift of free will.

Question 61

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

No marks awarded for telling us the story they are about to describe. The first mark was given for the point that the blind man asked for a cure. A second mark was given for what Jesus did with the gravel. In the next section the candidate writes about the instruction given by Jesus and the response of the man. It was felt that this was just enough for a developed point, so it was given 2 marks. The rest of the answer does not describe the healing miracle.

Question 62

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate gives reasons to agree and disagree why people should read scriptural miracles literally. 1 mark was given for the idea that it shows God is all powerful and protective. A second mark was given for 'strengthen faith in God'. The candidate then gives a response about reading scripture metaphorically. There were no marks for giving the story of turning stones to doves, however, 2 marks were given for a developed point where they gave the meaning of the story in the last sentence.

Question 63

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

1 mark was given for the point that laws of nature can never be broken. The candidate then expands on this for a second mark, explaining that miracles could

be a rule that science does not understand yet. The last sentence does not answer the question.

Question 64

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

The candidate gives reasons to both agree and disagree. 1 mark was given for how miracles happen and why they happen. The candidate then gives a reason that miracles and the laws of nature can coexist for a second mark. The candidate then moves onto reasons to disagree. There are 2 marks for a developed point about the Nile turning red, with algae as an alternative explanation for this miracle. In the last section the candidate moves onto giving reasons (from a scientific point of view) why visions might not be real, with a list of alternative explanations, so this developed point was awarded 2 marks.