

Candidate 4 evidence

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies National 5 Resource Sheet

Candidate Name		Scottish Candidate Number	
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Introduction

- idea/existence of God
- qualities
- how can He be so good? (terms of His creation)

VP1 Religious

- preaching of God's love and qualities
- God's control and will
- free will allows sense of individuality, doesn't exist without consequence
- suffering = consequences of our actions, God is omnipotent and doesn't stop it - contradictory

VP2 N.Religious

- not sacred, quality over quantity (life)
- accepting of things considered as 'playing God'
- suffering is derived from others rather than negative/evil spiritual beings
- accepting of struggles
- do not believe in God as description cannot possibly be true

P3 Human Condition

- occurrences due to God's will, suffering = lesson(s)
- suffering simply exists, cannot be helped
- important in life; different experience, allows growth
- why suffering exists at all, point of it?
- religious contradiction

P4 Global Impact(s)

- inevitable/unavoidable
- futility of attempts to be unaffected
- difficult for religious individuals to accept in same way
- global abolishment, working together entirely?
- suffering present in varying degrees but still major issue to all
- makes difficult to fully believe in all told about God

Conclusion

- personal opinion
- God may exist, not in manner lead to believe
- need for resolvable
- inflicting pain/suffering upon one another more important than life overall

Does human suffering deny the existence of a good God?

Within today's society many question both the existence and nature of God, it is often something people struggle to wrap their head around. ~~God~~ We are lead to believe that God is perfect beyond human comprehension and the he holds the up most of qualities. God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent, merciful, just etc. This would make sense if it correlated to life on earth; the fact that it does not is often why many choose to speculate God's existence at all. How can God be so good when he lets his creations suffer? This is particularly important as it affects us on a global scale and does not have a definitive answer.

One outlook is religious, in particular Christianity. Those whom are followers of God enjoy to preach the idea of God himself along with all of his compassion for his creations. God is also described as omnipotent which is another way of saying 'all-powerful'; this means that he has control over everything that has occurred, is currently occurring and will occur in the future. Many Christians also believe that everything happens or it is God's will for it to do so, this includes human suffering. As humans we have free will which is the ability to make choices; however, these choices do not come without consequence. The consequence is often suffering due to our actions.

Hence God is both omnipotent and omnibenevolent; surely He should wish to keep ^{us} ~~her~~ as far away from suffering as possible. Some Christians disagree to this as they believe that suffering is a punishment for our sins, that ^{it} should ~~even~~ encourage us to repent; it is effectively a lesson from God. This shows that despite our suffering, they believe God is the ~~greatest~~ ^{greatest} that anything in existence could ever be.

Another outlook is non-religious where individuals do not tend to believe life is sacred but rather the quality of our short lives is most important. Due to this ~~belief~~ ^{belief}, non-religious people tend to be more ~~acc~~ accepting of things that could be classed as 'playing God'; i.e. choosing when to ~~ea~~ end their life.

A lot of non-religious people believe that suffering is not imposed upon ~~us~~ ^{us}, ~~instead~~ ^{instead} we inflict it upon one another. This means that they do not often believe it to be derived from evil spiritual beings such as the devil.

Due to this, many take it in their stride and deal with it in the approach of 'it is what it is.' Obviously non-religious folks do not believe in God but that is often due to the fact that the way He is portrayed does not make sense with what occurs in our mad, bad world on a daily basis. Making evident that they do not believe a ~~the~~ good God could exist at all.

A question that comes to mind, while we wonder about whether or not God is great, is whether or not suffering in ~~itself~~ itself is necessary as part of the human condition. Everything happens because it is God's will for it to do so; therefore, the allowance for us to suffer is valid as it is ~~it~~ according to His wishes for whatever reason. We can believe in that or we can believe that suffering is just a part of life, it simply exists and cannot be helped. Whichever side of view one wishes to believe it, it is common to have the same opinion that suffering can actually be beneficial. It is important in life as it allows us to be present with an experience that we are not ~~for~~ familiar with; this means that it gives us the opportunity to grow and become better individuals. This could be an answer as to why suffering is important but we cannot ~~answer~~ answer why it exists at all due to the fact that it has always been present in human lives. Despite this, the fact that suffering ~~is~~ seems to be a foundation in human life, it is most certainly contradictory to what is preached about God(s) and supernatural entities. Therefore, it denies a good God being able to exist as ~~it~~ we are then lead to believe a lie.

Suffering is something that has global impacts, it is inevitable and unavoidable; each and every individual upon earth has had to suffer

to some extent during ~~the~~ their life time. ~~Norah has never said that~~ it is particularly rare for an individual to enjoy suffering, so many wish for it to be abolished. However, every attempt that has been made in order to reduce the impact that suffering has on global society is futile. Suffering has forever been unaffected while it affects us dangerously. The idea of suffering entirely is something that may be difficult for many people to come to terms with if they are religious; this makes it harder for us to have a more ~~global~~ global common view. Despite this, imagine the impact we could have upon suffering if we worked together, the whole globe. Surely the possibilities could be endless! Although it is hard to do something about suffering when we all have different views upon it, something that is natural to ~~be~~ human beings. We cannot deny the presence of suffering, especially since it is such a major global issue. This conveys how it is most certainly tricky to believe in each and everything we are told about our Lord and Saviour.

In my personal opinion, a good God cannot exist. This is because of the current state of our world. If God cared so much ~~about~~ about everything He created, I do not understand why he would not do ~~every~~ everything within His power to restore it to the way in which He intended it to be. A God could possibly exist but I do not believe it to be

one that we are ~~best~~ lead to believe in. Maybe if they do exist, they are more human than we could have ever thought them to be.

For some people, inflicting pain and suffering upon others is their guiding light as they do not enjoy anything more than to be torturous to another. I do not believe these people to be entirely themselves nor whole. This strengthens the point of us needing some sort of resilience that could be enforced globally - outwith our personal religious or non-religious beliefs. All we need is something to make our world a better place for us all because if we are all the same, why should we be treated differently and allowed to suffer arguably more?

Overall, I believe that the extent of human suffering denies the existence of the God(s) that are portrayed to us. However, there is nothing stopping human kind to obtain the ability to reduce suffering significantly and possibly abolish it all together.