

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 1

How convincing is the cosmological argument?

The candidate was awarded **46 marks**. The candidate selected an open question. The aims are simply described but fully achieved. Knowledge and Understanding are consistently relevant, accurate and detailed, supported by strong research. Analysis was relevant and accurate and used to support knowledge points but needed further development in places. Evaluation is evident throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding: 18 marks

Analysis: 13 marks

Evaluation: 15 marks

Candidate 2

How successful is William Paley's teleological argument at proving the need for a designer?

The candidate was awarded **49 marks**. The question was open. The aims are stated but fully achieved. The impact of the aims only being 'stated' had less of an impact on this dissertation as the level of Knowledge and Understanding was excellent throughout. The analysis was relevant, accurate and detailed and used to consistently throughout the dissertation. Evaluation was consistently deployed, relevant and evident throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding: 19 marks

Analysis: 15 marks

Evaluation: 15 marks

Candidate 3

‘Religious Arguments can prove God’s existence.’ To what extent do you agree?

The candidate was awarded **31 marks**. Although the chosen question was open, the candidate selected a very broad area to study and consequently, this had an impact on depth throughout the dissertation. Aims are explained. The candidate attempts to cover most of the Philosophy of Religion course and makes a lot of brief judgements. The dissertation is structured as two ‘chapters’. The Cosmological section is stronger than the teleological section. This is an example of where the candidate could have changed their question during the writing process and focused on improving the depth of their Cosmological section. Word count 4382.

Knowledge and Understanding: 14 marks

Analysis: 9 marks

Evaluation: 8 marks

Candidate 4

To what extent is the concept of the God of Classical Theism Incoherent?

The candidate was awarded **50 marks**. This dissertation was consistently relevant, accurate and in-depth. The candidate chose a clear, open question and their aims are clearly explained and achieved. This dissertation had a clear structure: analysis and evaluation were signposted, and the response was relevant to the question and aims throughout. Sources were used extensively as an integral part of the dissertation and clearly referenced. The use of sources was central to demonstrating the candidate's understanding but also led to in-depth analysis of arguments and counter arguments and then lent itself to supporting evaluative judgements and conclusions throughout the dissertation.

Knowledge and Understanding: 20 marks

Analysis: 15 marks

Evaluation: 15 marks

Candidate 5

To what extent can abortion be viewed as morally acceptable?

The candidate was awarded **27 marks**. The candidate selected an open question but focussed on the topic rather than their question. Aims are simply stated but mainly achieved. Knowledge and understanding is mainly relevant to the topic and supported by research. Analysis is mainly relevant to the topic but inconsistently used to develop points. As the dissertation loses focus on the question, evaluation is weakened.

Knowledge and Understanding: 13 marks

Analysis: 8 marks

Evaluation: 6 marks

Candidate 6

To what extent is assisted dying a morally acceptable practice?

The candidate was awarded **30 marks**. The candidate set themselves an open question. Aims are stated and mainly achieved. Knowledge and understanding is mainly relevant, accurate and in depth but is inconsistently supported with a limited use of sources. Analysis is mainly relevant and used to support knowledge and evaluation. Evaluation is brief and underdeveloped at points but clear and supported conclusions are evident, particularly at the end of the dissertation.

Knowledge and Understanding: 12 marks

Analysis: 10 marks

Evaluation: 8 marks

Candidate 7

To what extent do psychological perspectives give the best understanding of religious experience?

The candidate was awarded **30 marks**. The selected question is open. Aims are stated but mainly achieved. Knowledge and Understanding is mainly relevant and accurate but lacks some depth and development throughout. At points the structure is not systematic leading to some repetitive points. Most Analysis and Evaluation is at the end and is inconsistently developed or used. The candidate could have made full use of the word limit to add depth to points.

Knowledge and Understanding: 14 marks

Analysis: 9 marks

Evaluation: 7 marks