

## Candidate 4 evidence

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies National 5 Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
<p><u>Describe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. family, motherhood, conception, situation, impact.</li> </ul> <p><u>Muslims</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Divide- circumstances.</li> <li>. (Surah al-Mujadalah 58:2)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mothers, conceived, birthed, not surrogates.</li> </ul> </li> <li>. (Quran Sura Al-Furqan 25:54)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family- Allah man water, established lineage marriage, sacred or surrogates okay close biological.</li> </ul> </li> <li>. Mixed, disagree- different people.</li> </ul> <p><u>Christians</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Outdated version- (Genesis 16:1-16) Sarai, Abraham children, Egyptian servant Hagar, behold now lord prevented bearing. Go into servant; maybe obtain children her. If God no, no.</li> <li>. Catholic Church, Donum Vitae, maternal obligations child's dignity. Leaders no, no.</li> <li>. Mixed, disagree.</li> </ul> <p><u>Surrogacy by faith</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 3x surrogate Alisha, on way 3<sup>rd</sup> child died, realised lucky. Found infertility common. Shared gift with others, watched grow. Religion viewed differently. Open mind, struggles.</li> <li>. Disagree, accepted.</li> </ul> <p><u>Jews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Core views, commandment, be fruitful multiply, fill earth. Obligation children.</li> <li>. (Genesis 32:8) join brother's wife, duty brother law, provide offspring brother. Accept if Jewish family- mum's side.</li> <li>. Disagree, aligns.</li> </ul> <p><u>Homosexuality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Catholic, marriage, adaption.</li> <li>. Jewish, orthodox, times change.</li> <li>. Muslim, Islamic sharia law</li> <li>. alternatives, not same, views adapting, context.</li> </ul> <p><u>Significance, proof</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Teachings vs acceptance.</li> <li>. Teachings, texts, family, motherhood, circumstances.</li> <li>. Doesn't stop support, current issue, heartbreaking, family.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://tebmedtourism.com">tebmedtourism.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://surrogacybypons.com">surrogacybypons.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://surrogacybyfaith.com">surrogacybyfaith.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://gayparentstobe.com">gayparentstobe.com</a></p>	

"Religious people can never accept surrogacy" - How far do you agree with this statement

Surrogacy is when a female-sex person has a child on behalf of someone else, ~~or~~ the more traditional version of surrogacy is when the sperm of the future father is used along with the egg of the surrogate but more recently it has been done by egg donation from the future mother. People may choose to ~~use~~ use a surrogate for many reasons. Whether they can't have a child for reasons like infertility or being in a same-sex couple or they may just not want to go through pregnancy. Reasons for this include things like previously going through a miscarriage or ~~if~~ if they're family have a history of this. Surrogacy is a highly debated topic among religious people as they can often believe that it goes against their teachings on things like motherhood, family and lineage as well as the words of their religious leaders. They may also disagree with the use of surrogacy due to the specific situation as they could be against same-sex relationships or other factors. This is a very significant and current issue as people ~~face~~ face pressures to have a family and have children but they may not be able to achieve that themselves. Many people also find that children are the perfect way to complete their family, something especially important for many people in the LGBT+ community as the families they come from are not always viewed as their true family.

There is a divide in the Muslim community crowd ~~whether~~ whether surrogacy should be used, ~~mostly~~ ~~down to that~~ Muslims have very strict rules on motherhood and the Quran <sup>\*</sup> says "Their mothers are only those who ~~birthed them~~ conceived them and birthed them." This would suggest that only a child's biological mother can be viewed as their true mother in Muslim culture but this does not stop others from viewing it differently. ~~Also~~ In most Middle Eastern countries, surrogacy is illegal but it is allowed in a few places, namely Iran ~~so~~ ~~to~~ This means that many Muslim people will go there if they ~~desire~~ want to get a surrogacy. The Quran <sup>\*\*</sup> also suggests that lineage is important and says "It is he (Allah) who created man from water, then he has established the relationship of lineage and marriage." The fact that this verse states that when Allah (God) created the human race, he first ever chose to create these relationships suggests that they hold importance. This means that many Islamic people may view it as sacred and important. This goes against surrogacy as it removes a child from their family line but ~~that~~ some Muslims take on the view given this that surrogacy is acceptable as long as they are close to their biological parents. It ~~now~~ means that many Muslim people are against traditional surrogacy but with the more modern version, they do still take the genetics of their future parents' value this form acceptable. Muslims also wish for both the surrogate and the future parents to be married. Due to this I do not agree with this statement as people religious people can form their own views

\* (Surah al-Mujadid 58:2)

\*\* (Quran sura Al-Furqan 25:54)

on this matter and take their specific circumstances into account, while in general surrogacy would be frowned upon by Muslims, it can be accepted. This does cause some problems for people in Islamic countries as they ~~both~~ feel the pressure to have children but if they can't and have to use surrogacy they may be looked down on.

Christians also have mixed views on this matter ~~what~~ depending on whether they are liberal Christians or Modern Christians. The bible does actually mention an outdated version of surrogacy in Genesis 16:1-16. This bit of text comes the story of a man Abraham and his wife, Sarai, who was unable to have a child and asked her husband to use her Egyptian servant, Hagar to have children, saying "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go into my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." While this is mentioned suggesting that it could be accepted, it shows that ~~she~~ <sup>Sarai</sup> is going against the will of God. Many Christians (liberal) people believe that if God has not allowed you something then you should not do it, making surrogacy out of the question. The Catholic church also has a clear stance on this issue and in a document called the "Donum Vitae" they say that the surrogate is not meeting her maternal obligations and they believe that it takes away the dignity of the child. While all of this may suggest that Christians would not accept surrogacy, it only applies to people following liberal Christian views. ~~Christians with more~~ Modern Christians tend to think differently.

An example of this is the organisation "Surrogacy by Faith". They are a Christian organisation set up to help people find a surrogate / helping surrogates find families in need. On their website they describe ~~the~~ a story of a 3<sup>rd</sup> surrogate called Alisha. Alisha was on her way to having her third child but ~~they~~ didn't make it. Alisha realised how lucky she was to have been able to have the boys she has and, after finding out how common infertility had become, she decided to become a surrogate. She went on to help out families, sharing her gift with others, getting to watch the kids grow up in a happy family. This really shows us how religion can be viewed differently as while more traditional views may suggest that it is not acceptable, modern Christians use the main values of Christianity. They decide to follow kindness and good. This also really shows the significance of this topic as it allows people, like Alisha, to open their minds to be surrogates of other people and help where they can. This means that I do not agree with this statement as while more traditional religious views may go against it, the ~~the~~ main teachings and values of religion ~~the~~ align perfectly with many aspects of it.

Surrogacy actually aligns with some of the core values of Judaism as the first commandment is "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." This means that Jewish people have an obligation to have children, something which surrogacy clearly does. Despite this Jewish views still vary, especially

dependant on whether you follow orthodox Judaism or not. The Torah also mentions away to combat infertility and says in Genesis (32:8) "join with your brother's wife and do your duty to her as a brother in law, to provide offspring for your brother." This stems into two different views, a more modern Jew ~~would~~ <sup>may</sup> take on the view that this means that surrogacy is accepted, even encouraged but it could also lead to the view that it can only be done for family, as in the best. Many Jews may also say that it should only be done for other Jewish people and some problems arise as the egg is viewed to be from the mother's side. ~~many~~ ~~but~~ Although this may fit in the eyes of many Jewish people if the father's mother's egg is used. This all means that I disagree with this statement as surrogacy can align with some religious views, and can still be accepted under specific circumstances if not all.

One reason that may affect a religious person's views on surrogacy is their view on homosexuality. If the child will go to a queer couple. Catholics state that marriage is only between a man and a woman but some views change and adapt over time making it more acceptable to many modern Christians. Orthodox Jews are also against homosexuality but, yet again, views are changing and adapting with the times. Muslims however have strange views against the LGBT+ community and the Islamic Sharia law prohibits any act of homosexuality. Despite this displaying how many traditional religious views go against this, as time goes on so many people's views are changing.

and adopting making them be more accepting of different situations. This means that I do not agree with the statement as people's views can change with time, despite what holy texts or guidelines may say.

In conclusion I do not agree with this statement at all. Religion can be taken in many different ways and each person has their own individual views and take things in their own way. While many teachings and texts may go against aspects of surrogacy, it is clear that it can be accepted in communities. This shows the impact of the issue as people ~~can~~ ~~to~~ adopt their views as they can see the great effects it has. Family is a very important part of most religions and in the modern day it may not always look the same as it once did.

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Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? ~~the~~ Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?" This makes the argument for evil and suffering weaker as it makes God seem like a bad God and is very hard to argue against.

In conclusion I think that the design argument is the strongest argument for ~~god~~ God's existence as it is supported by Ockham's Razor and really has no weaknesses. I would say the weakest argument for God's existence is the argument for evil and suffering because overall it is a very good argument and the counter is a much better argument and makes the argument much weaker.