

Religion and morality

Key questions

Religion and morality are fundamental aspects of religious ethics in all A-level specifications. But how far does your knowledge and understanding go? Test yourself with these questions

Questions

- 1 What was Plato's Euthyphro dilemma?
- 2 Why, according to some religious believers, does God have the right to declare what is good?
- 3 What does it mean to say that God is the perfect form of the good?
- 4 In what sense can it be argued that human goodness reflects God's goodness?
- 5 Why, arguably, does God only command that which is good? Identify one problem with this claim.
- 6 Which scholar observed that the existence of moral commands 'implies that there is One to whom we are responsible, before whom we are ashamed'?
- 7 In what sense might our experience of morality lead us to conclude that a personal lawgiver (God) exists?
- 8 Why, if there is a God, would this impose a moral obligation on us to be good?
- 9 In which book did Kant develop his theory of religion and morality?
- 10 What, for Kant, was an obligation?
- 11 What, according to Kant, was the most important obligation on humanity?
- 12 Why, according to Kant, did this obligation prove the existence of God?
- 13 What assumptions are made by moral arguments for the existence of God?
- 14 What kind of proof is the moral argument?
- 15 What alternative sources of morality could serve to challenge the link between the existence of God and morality?
- 16 Why might a sociological or psychological explanation of morality be more convincing to some?
- 17 What is an immoral action?
- 18 What are objective moral laws?
- 19 In what ways might morality count against the existence of God?
- 20 Who said 'I don't say that these things are good because they participate in divine goodness'? What did he mean?
- 21 Outline an existentialist understanding of morality.
- 22 Outline Nietzsche's understanding of morality.
- 23 Explain a relativist view of morality.
- 24 What is a supranaturalist view of ethics?
- 25 Explain what is meant by hard determinism.
- 26 Explain what is meant by soft determinism.
- 27 Explain what is meant by practical freedom.
- 28 Explain what is meant by metaphysical freedom.

See p. 33 for the answers

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