



SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

DIVINITY

2015

Time: 1 hour

Name:

School:

Instructions:

Answers to be written on separate sheets provided.
Please ensure that you write your name and school on each sheet.

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY:

ALL CANDIDATES MUST ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FROM QUESTIONS 2, 3 AND 4

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on each question.

All candidates must answer this question:

- 1) Please read this passage from the St Luke's Gospel carefully.

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

- i) What do we learn about the Samaritan's character from this passage?
[5 marks]
- ii) How did Jesus feel about the religious leaders of his day?
Give reasons for your answers.
[5 marks]
- iii) Imagine you are giving a sermon (a talk) in a church about this passage. The sermon is entitled: "Everybody needs good neighbours." What would you say?
[15 marks]

Candidates must answer ONE of these three questions:

EITHER

- 2)
- i) Describe God. What are God's characteristics or attributes?
[10 marks]
- ii) Why does God allow suffering and evil in the world?
[10 marks]
- iii) What evidence is there that there is no God?
[5 marks]

OR

3) You have been asked to represent the school debating team. The motion is:

“This House believes that all religions lead to God.”

Make sure you give at least three clear arguments supporting this motion, as well as three clear arguments which argue that this view may be wrong.

[25 marks]

OR

4) *“Capital punishment has been the concern of humanists for years. Revenge, whether divine or human, is always destructive, never creative. It has no place in any society claiming to be civilized.”*

A Humanist viewpoint:

The ultimate punishment is capital punishment or the death sentence. Although this form of punishment is no longer used in Britain, it is still carried out in many parts of the world.

i) Many Christians are opposed to the idea of capital punishment.
Can you outline why this may be?

[10 marks]

ii) Imagine you are a judge who believes that capital punishment is a good thing.

Write a letter to a newspaper outlining why you think someone on “Death Row” should have to die.

[10 marks]

iii) Imagine you are opposed to capital punishment.

Write a response to the judge’s letter.

[5 marks]