

# Ethics and Society – Answering Questions

## Answering the ‘a’ question

**Outline/State** questions are assessed using **knowledge** only. These questions require three facts or short ideas: explanations or opinions are **NOT** required.

## Answering the ‘b’ question

‘b’ questions start with **Explain** which means development of ideas is needed. For example, if the question is ‘**Explain** two challenges of completing Hajj for Muslims’ then;

1. Challenge 1. It is physically demanding (1), because there are lots of rituals to complete over about a five-day period. (1)
2. Challenge 2. It is hard to maintain the lessons learned (1), because people return home to their daily lives after Hajj and it is challenging to remember the experience fully as a result. (1)

## Answering the ‘c’ question

‘c’ questions are very similar to ‘b’ questions (they begin with ‘**Explain two**’ and require two developed points), but they have one crucial difference. For the extra mark, students are **expected to include reference** to a source of wisdom and authority, which could be a quotation from or reference to the Holy Book or another important source from within the religion studied.

## Answering the ‘d’ question

0 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No relevant material included.</li></ul>
Level 1 (1-3 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic information or reasons about the issues are identified and can be explained by some religious or moral understanding</li><li>• Opinions are given but not fully explained</li></ul>
Level 2 (4-6 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some information or reasons about the issue are loosely identified and can be explained by limited religious or moral understanding</li><li>• Opinions are given which attempt to support the issue but are not fully explained or justified.</li></ul>
Level 3 (7-9 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information given clearly describes religious information/issues, leading to a coherent and logical chain of reasoning <b>that consider different viewpoints</b>. These are supported by an accurate understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• The answer contains coherent and reasoned judgements of many, but not all, of the elements in the question. Judgements are supported by a good understanding of evidence, leading to partially justified conclusion.</li></ul>
Level 4 (10-12 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The response critically deconstructs religious information/issues, leading to coherent and logical chains of reasoning <b>that consider different viewpoints</b>. These are supported by a sustained, accurate and thorough understanding of religion and belief.</li><li>• The answer contains coherent and reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question. Judgements are fully supported by the comprehensive use of evidence, leading to a fully justified conclusion.</li></ul>

## SPAG

Three additional marks MAY be available for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

# Ethics and Society – A Model Answer

(Taken from Christianity; Matters of Life and Death)

## a) Outline three threats to the natural world. (3)

Deforestation, global warming, animal extinction

## b) Explain two non-religious arguments against abortion. (4)

One argument is **it is murder because the foetus is alive**. This is because **it is alive from the moment of conception**. A second argument is that **it isn't the most loving option**. This is because **it could be given up for adoption instead**.

(**Making the main point** and **developing the idea further**)

## c) Explain two reasons why resurrection is important to Christians. Include a source of authority. (5)

One reason resurrection is important for Christians because **it is evidence of life after death**. **For example, the Bible describes how Jesus resurrected**. Secondly, **it brings them hope that they will have an afterlife**. This is because **they believe they will be resurrected like Jesus was**.

(**The main point, developing the idea further** and **making reference to a Source of Authority**)

## d) "Euthanasia should be legalised in the UK". (12)

Some Christians agree with the statement **P** because it is the most loving thing to do if someone will spend the rest of their lives suffering **D1** and **Jesus told us to "love your neighbour"** **D2**. For example if someone had cancer and it would only get worse then euthanasia is better **D2**. It also loves the relatives because then they don't have to watch their loved one die so horribly **D3**. Furthermore switching off life support machines means the NHS saves money **D4**.

Other Christians would disagree with the statement **P** because euthanasia is a form of murder and the **Bible says "do not murder"** **D1**. They believe in the sanctity of life, that life is precious and belongs to God. Therefore only God should end life **D2**. Furthermore the Bible teaches that God made us in his image and so life is important and shouldn't be destroyed **D3**. Christians created the hospice movement so that people can live their lives as well as possible until their death **D4**. Lastly if euthanasia was legal it could be taken advantage of by relatives who want an inheritance **D5**.

Personally I think euthanasia should be legalised **P** because everyone has a right to choose when they die **D2**. For example if someone has cancer and no hope of recovery then they should be free to decide to die earlier and less painfully **D2**.

(**The main point, further development of the idea** and **making reference to a Source of Authority**)