

The Problems of Evil and Suffering

Past Exam Questions (2010-2012)

1 Read the newspaper headlines below.

Villagers flee war zone

Floods leave thousands homeless

Murderer given life sentence

Earthquake destroys hospital

- (a) Explain, using examples, the difference between natural suffering and man-made suffering. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain what religious believers might do when faced with suffering. (4 marks)
- (c) 'God cannot be loving if he lets people suffer.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain briefly where evil comes from. (2 marks)
- (e) 'There will always be evil.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6 marks)

2 Look at the diagram below which shows different ideas about evil.



- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by saying evil is a psychological phenomenon. (2 marks)
- (b) Explain religious teachings about the origins of evil. (4 marks)

- (c) 'Blaming a personal being (devil) for evil is just an excuse.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain how religious believers might help people who are suffering. (3 marks)
- (e) 'Suffering is part of God's plan.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6 marks)

3 Look at the photograph below, which shows evidence of mass killing (genocide).



- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by evil. (2 marks)
- (b) 'Evil is God's fault.'
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (c) Explain how some religious believers use the idea of karma to explain suffering. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain why suffering makes some people doubt God. (4 marks)
- (e) 'Suffering makes people stronger.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6 marks)