

My Revision Notes: OCR AS Religious Studies: Religious Ethics

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These are guidelines of what might be included but are by no means exhaustive or even the only way to answer the question.

Chapter 1

1 (a) Explain the concept of relativist morality. [25]

- Explain what is meant by relativism.
- You could give examples to illustrate this.
- You could explain Situation Ethics or Utilitarianism in relation to this.

(b) 'Relativist ethics are unfair.' Discuss. [10]

- You could begin by explaining how moral relativism is flexible.
- You could argue that absolute ethics are fairer.
- You could discuss how relative ethics does not allow criticisms of the actions of others.

2 (a) Explain what is meant by moral absolutism. [25]

- Use key terms such as 'deontological'.
- You could use different absolute ethics theories such as Divine Command theory, Natural Law and Kantian ethics to explain moral absolutism.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(b) 'Moral absolutism cannot be justified.' Discuss. [10]

- You could say that it is better to have a fixed moral code.
- You could argue that moral absolutism is too rigid.
- You could give examples to support your arguments.

3 (a) Explain the differences between absolute and relative morality. [25]

- You could explain subjectivism and objectivism in ethics and the differences between deontological or teleological theories.
- You could also explain the difference by referring to Kantian ethics or natural law, and contrasting this with consequentialism and cultural relativism.
- Give examples to illustrate this.

(b) 'Relativist theories give no convincing reason why people should be good.' Discuss. [10]

- You could consider the need for absolute laws which exist across all societies.
- You could say that absolutism is too intolerant of cultural differences.
- You could argue that relativism explains the differences in moral codes.
- You could argue that relativism allows no actions to be condemned or praised as good.

4 (a) Explain how a moral relativist might approach the issues raised by abortion. [25]

- Explain what is meant by moral relativism
- Explain that a moral relativist has no absolute principles and how personhood doesn't matter to them – they look at the facts of each situation.
- You could give examples to illustrate this.

(b) 'A relativist approach to the issues raised by abortion leads to wrong moral choices.'

Discuss. [10]

- You could say that a moral relativist cannot consider all the consequences or the effects on those involved.
- You could contrast a moral relativist approach with an absolutist one.

5 (a) Explain the differences between deontological and teleological approaches to ethical decision-making. [25]

- There are many approaches to this question.
- You could explain ethical theories which could be considered deontological or teleological.
- You could give examples of the different approaches, but make sure that you explain the differences.
- You could use examples of deontological approaches to ethics such as Kantian ethics or Divine Command theory.
- You could use examples such as lying or murdering.
- You could use Utilitarianism as an example of teleological ethics and explain how actions are judged good by bringing the best consequences to the majority.

(b) 'The ends justify the means.' Discuss. [10]

- You could argue that this statement is correct as long as a good result is obtained.
- You argue that we cannot predict the consequences of our actions.
- You could say that the statement allows 'evil' actions such as torture so long as the right result is obtained.
- You could also argue that it is only natural to consider the consequences when making ethical decisions.

Chapter 2**1 (a) Explain Natural Law theory. [25]**

- Outline Natural Law theory from Thomas Aquinas and Aristotle, and explain how it is absolutist in some ways.
- You could explain that Natural Law establishes common rules that are universal and based on reason, and consider the primary and secondary precepts.
- You could consider the importance of both the intention and the act.

(b) 'Natural Law is not the best approach to euthanasia.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss how Natural Law protects the sanctity of life, but does not consider the quality of life and the feelings and emotions of all those involved.
- You could contrast the Natural Law approach with that of Situation Ethics or with Utilitarianism.
- You could point out that a teleological approach considers the quality of life etc. and that Natural Law can seem too rigid.
- You could argue for a proportional approach to euthanasia.

2 (a) Explain how a follower of Natural Law might respond to issues raised by genetic engineering. [25]

- Outline Natural Law and the importance of a single purpose applicable to all humans.
- Explain the role of reason so that we do good and avoid evil, and what the primary and secondary precepts do.
- Look at some of the different types of genetic engineering in the world and explain the implications if natural law was applied.
- You could also explain that genetic engineering can be justified as it preserves life by curing diseases.

(b) 'All genetic engineering is ethically justified.' Discuss. [10]

- Analyse the different approaches to genetic engineering.
- Give reasons for and against genetic engineering, using examples.
- Discuss that for some genetic engineering is wrong as it interferes with nature, but others justify it as it improves human life.

3 (a) Explain how a follower of Natural Law might approach the issues surrounding abortion. [25]

- Explain Natural Law from Aquinas and Aristotle.
- Explain that Natural Law sees procreation as part of the purpose of human life and that abortion goes against this.
- You could explain how the primary precepts apply to abortion.
- You could use the Sanctity of Life in your answer.
- You could also explain that followers of Natural Law would not consider the people involved, their situation or their emotions.

(b) 'Natural law has no serious weaknesses.' Discuss. [10]

- You need to assess the strengths and weaknesses of natural law and how 'serious' they are.
- You could argue that the religious basis of Aquinas' Natural Law is both a strength and a weakness.
- You could argue that Natural Law is not a good approach to solving some ethical issues as it does not consider the people involved or their situation.

4 (a) Explain how Natural Law theory can be used to decide the right moral action. [25]

- Explain Natural Law from Aquinas and Aristotle.
- Explain how the primary precepts lead to secondary precepts and how these may be applied to ethical issues to decide the right course of action.
- Use examples to illustrate this.
- You could explain that the right moral action would be a real as opposed to an apparent good.

(b) To what extent is Natural Law the best approach to ethical decision-making? [10]

- Consider all the advantages of Natural Law – it is simple, universal etc.
- You could compare Natural Law to another ethical theory such as Utilitarianism.
- Use examples of ethical decisions to illustrate your answer.

Chapter 3**1 (a) Explain Kant's theory of duty. [25]**

- Explain that Kant's theory of duty is deontological and focused on the idea of a moral law.
- Explain Kant's understanding of good will and duty and the link between them.
- Explain how duty is more important than emotions when deciding on the right course of action.
- Explain the Categorical Imperative and its various formulations.
- You could contrast the Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer, perhaps those of Kant.

(b) To what extent is Kant's theory a good approach to embryo research? [10]

- You could consider the status of the embryo and the difficulty of applying the Categorical Imperative.
- You could argue that Kant's theory is useful as it is rational and not influenced by emotions.
- You might argue that a different ethical theory such as Utilitarianism, Situation ethics or Natural Law is a better approach.

2 (a) Explain, with examples, Kant's theory of duty. [25]

- Explain that Kant's theory of duty is deontological. and focused on the idea of a moral law.
- Explain Kant's understanding of good will and duty and the link between them.
- Explain how duty is more important than emotions when deciding on the right course of action.
- Explain the Categorical Imperative and its various formulations.
- You could contrast the Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer, perhaps those of Kant.

(b) 'Kant's ethical theory has no serious weaknesses.' Discuss. [10]

- You could argue that Kantian ethics are clear and easy to apply.
- You could say that everyone is treated fairly and not overly influenced by emotions.
- You could say that Kant's theory is too rigid.
- You could then discuss the question of the conflict of duties.

3 (a) Explain Kant's argument for using the Categorical Imperative. [25]

- Explain Kant's Categorical Imperative and how it applies to everyone.
- Explain the forms of the Categorical Imperative.
- Then explain the importance of goodwill and doing one's duty.
- You could contrast the Categorical Imperative with the Hypothetical Imperative.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer, possibly those of Kant.

(b) 'The universalisation of maxims by Kant cannot be defended.' Discuss. [10]

- You could consider the difficulty of actually applying the Categorical Imperative.
- You could argue that consequences are not considered, nor are emotions.
- You could discuss the conflict of duties.
- You could argue that Kant's universalisation of maxims is clear and fair.

4 (a) Explain how a follower of Kantian ethics might approach issues surrounding the right to a child. [25]

- Explain Kantian ethics and, as you do so, apply this to the right to a child.
- Explain the Categorical imperative and how it might apply to the right to a child.
- Explain the question of universalisation, and discuss whether IVF is to be offered to every infertile couple.

(b) 'The right to a child is an absolute right.' Discuss. [10]

- Explain what you mean by a right.
- You could consider whether a child is a right, or a gift.
- You could argue that infertility is a condition that should be treated by right as other medical conditions are.
- You could consider other alternatives to IVF.

5 (a) Explain Kant's ethical theory. [25]

- Explain that Kant's theory of duty is deontological, and focused on the idea of a moral law.
- Explain Kant's understanding of good will and duty and the link between them.
- Explain how duty is more important than emotions when deciding on the right course of action.
- Explain the Categorical Imperative and its various formulations.
- You could contrast the Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer, perhaps those of Kant.

(b) 'Kant's theory of ethics is not a useful approach to abortion.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss what you mean by useful and for whom it might be a useful approach.
- Discuss the universalisation of abortion.
- Discuss whether the embryo is being used as a means to an end.
- You could discuss Kant's rejection of emotions and the importance of making a rational autonomous decision.
- You could argue that Kant's theory is inflexible and does not allow for compassion or consequences.

Chapter 4**1 (a) Explain how Bentham's version of Utilitarianism can be used to decide the right course of action. [25]**

- Explain Utilitarianism.
- Explain the principle of utility - action is right if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Explain the hedonic calculus and explain how it may be used to measure pleasure or pain.
- You could explain that Bentham's version of Utilitarianism is often known as Act Utilitarianism as the principle of utility is applied to each action.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(b) 'Utilitarianism is the best approach to euthanasia.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss what you mean by the best approach and for whom it would be the best approach.
- You could compare the approaches of different forms of Utilitarianism to the issue and decide which is best.
- You could contrast Utilitarianism with another ethical theory.
- You could discuss how Utilitarianism considers the quality of life but ignores the sanctity of life.

2 (a) Explain Mill's version of Utilitarianism. [25]

- Explain the principle of utility and how Mill developed Bentham's Utilitarianism.
- Outline Mill's version of Utilitarianism which is based on the quality of pleasure.
- Give examples to illustrate your answer.
- You could explain that Mill saw the need for general guidelines.

(b) 'Utilitarianism can lead to wrong moral decisions.' Discuss. [10]

- You could consider the fact that we cannot accurately predict the consequences of an action.
- You could discuss that any act could potentially be justified if it please most people and so there is no defence for minorities.
- You could discuss the difficulty of calculating the morality of each choice
- You could argue that Utilitarianism is democratic and practical, and so can deal with most moral situations.

3 (a) Explain the main differences between Act and Rule Utilitarianism. [25]

- Explain that the terms Act and Rule were applied later, not by Bentham and Mill themselves.
- Explain that Act Utilitarianism is associated with Bentham and applies the principle of Utility to each action.
- Explain how the Hedonic Calculus could be applied.

- Explain that Rule Utilitarianism aims to establish rules on Utilitarian principles that benefit all in similar circumstances.
- Explain the difference between strong and weak Rule Utilitarians.

(b) To what extent is Utilitarianism a useful method of making decisions about euthanasia? [10]

- Discuss what you mean by the best approach and for whom it would be the best approach.
- You could compare the approaches of different forms of Utilitarianism to the issue and decide which is best.
- You could contrast Utilitarianism with another ethical theory.
- You could discuss how Utilitarianism considers the quality of life but ignores the sanctity of life.

4 (a) Explain the Preference Utilitarianism of Peter Singer. [25]

- Explain the principle of Utility: the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Explain Preference Utilitarianism.
- Explain the idea of the impartial spectator with all preferences counting as equal so that everyone involved is considered.
- You could include the idea of speciesism.
- Give examples to illustrate your answer.

(b) To what extent is Preference Utilitarianism the best form of Utilitarianism? [10]

- Discuss the weaknesses of the other forms of Utilitarianism.
- You could discuss that Preference Utilitarianism considers the interests of all sentient beings.
- You could discuss whether Preference Utilitarianism protects minorities.

Chapter 5**1 (a) Explain the ethical teachings of the religion you have studied. [25]**

- You could explain the ethical teaching from revelation.
- You could explain that religious ethical teachings come from obeying God's will.
- When explaining Christian ethics you can explain Natural Law and/or Situation Ethics.
- You can explain the ethical principles of any world religion you have studied.

(b) 'Some religious ethics are too rigid for modern decision-making.' Discuss. [10]

- Evaluate the deontological and teleological approaches.
- You could argue for an absolutist approach and explain why others reject this.
- It is a good idea to consider examples to illustrate your argument.

2 (a) Explain how the ethics of the religion you have studied might be applied to abortion. [25]

- You could contrast the differences between the application of Natural Law and of Situation Ethics.
- Explain the concept of the Sanctity of Life and the contrasting views of when life begins.
- You could explain the doctrine of double effect and weak sanctity of life.
- You may approach the question using the ethics of any religion.

(b) 'Religious ethics fail to consider consequences.' Discuss. [10]

- You could contrast deontological and teleological approaches e.g. Biblical ethics and/or Natural Law v Situation ethics.
- You could consider the Golden Rule and the importance of love.

3 (a) Explain how the followers of the religion you have studied make ethical decisions. [25]

- Explain Biblical ethics e.g. the teachings of Jesus, for example from the Sermon on the Mount, and the teachings of Paul.
- You could explain the importance of the teaching of love and explain what this means in practice.
- You could explain Natural Law or Situation Ethics. Outline these theories and explain how ethical decisions are made.
- You could explain the role of conscience.

(b) 'Morality and religion are separate.' Discuss. [10]

- You could use Divine Command theory to argue both ways on this question.
- You could argue that our conscience God-given, or that it is simply the result of our society and up-bringing.
- You can use non-religious ethical theories such as Utilitarianism to argue that morality is separate from religion.
- On the other hand you could argue that religion has given us moral guidelines which are universal such as 'Do not murder'.

4 (a) Explain the main ethical principles of the religion you have studied with regard to genetic engineering. [25]

- Explain the importance of the Sanctity of Life in a religious ethical approach to genetic engineering if it destroys life.
- Then you could go on to explain that religious ethics may not have the same concerns about the genetic engineering of animals or plants. You could also discuss the subject of using adult stem cells.
- You could use Natural Law as an approach.
- You could explain the teachings of different Christian churches.
- You can explain the issue from the point of view of any religion studied.

(b) 'Religious ethics prevents progress in genetic engineering.' Discuss. [10]

- You need to discuss whether religious ethics does have any effect in preventing progress in genetic engineering.
- You could use the Sanctity of Life in your argument.
- You could also discuss what is meant by progress, and whether religious ethics does help by considering the person, the effects on the environment and how we treat animals and plants.

Chapter 6**1 (a) Explain how belief in the Sanctity of Life may influence ethical approaches to abortion. [25]**

- Explain the Sanctity of Life in biblical teaching.
- Explain that Christians believe that human life is created by God in his image and taking life is intrinsically wrong – this also applies to unborn life.
- Explain that the Sanctity of Life implies that life is sacred from conception, and so abortion would not be allowed.
- Explain the difference between strong and weak Sanctity of Life.

(b) 'A foetus is not a person.' Discuss. [10]

- Define what you mean by a person.
- Discuss the different beliefs of when life begins.
- You could discuss the idea of the soul.
- You could discuss the question of 'potential' person.

2 (a) Explain how the ethics of the religion you have studied would approach the issues surrounding abortion. [25]

- You could contrast the differences between the application of Natural Law and of Situation Ethics.
- Explain the concept of the Sanctity of Life and the contrasting views of when life begins.
- You could explain the doctrine of double effect and weak sanctity of life.
- You may approach the question using the ethics of any religion.

(b) 'Religious ethics fail to consider consequences.' Discuss. [10]

- You could contrast deontological and teleological approaches e.g. Biblical ethics and/or Natural Law v Situation ethics.
- You could consider the Golden Rule and the importance of love.

3 (a) Explain the strengths of Kant's theory of ethics. [25]

- Explain Kant's ethical theory.
- Then explain Kant's ideas of good will and duty and show that they are linked.
- Explain the categorical imperative.
- As you explain the theory, point out the strengths. You could contrast the Categorical Imperative with the Hypothetical Imperative.
- Include examples, preferably Kant's own.

(b) 'Kant's theory of ethics is not a useful approach to abortion.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss what you mean by useful and for whom it might be a useful approach.
- Discuss the universalisation of abortion.
- Discuss whether the embryo is being used as a means to an end.

- You could discuss Kant's rejection of emotions and the importance of making a rational autonomous decision.
- You could argue that Kant's theory is inflexible and does not allow for compassion or consequences.

4 (a) Explain how a moral relativist might approach the issues raised by abortion. [25]

- Explain what is meant by moral relativism.
- You could use ethical theories that might be followed by a moral relativist, such as Utilitarianism or Situation Ethics.
- You could explain that for a relativist, human life does not have absolute value and nor does personhood.
- You could explain that a moral relativist would look at each individual situation, consider those involved and the consequences of an abortion.
- You could conclude that a moral relativist would have no clear answer as to whether abortion is right or wrong.
- Give examples to illustrate this.

(b) 'A relativist approach to the issues raised by abortion leads to wrong moral choices.' Discuss. [10]

- You could argue that a relativist approach to abortion means that it is not clear if the right decision has been made.
- You could argue that a moral relativist cannot consider all the consequences or the effects on those involved.
- You could contrast a moral relativist approach with an absolutist one that gives clear moral guidelines.

5 (a) Explain how a follower of Natural Law might approach the issues surrounding abortion. [25]

- Explain Natural Law from Aquinas and Aristotle.
- Explain that Natural Law sees procreation as part of the purpose of human life and that abortion goes against this.
- You could explain how the primary precepts apply to abortion.
- You could use the Sanctity of Life in your answer.
- You could also explain that followers of Natural Law would not consider the people involved, their situation or their emotions.

(b) 'Natural law has no serious weaknesses.' Discuss. [10]

- You could argue that a major strength of Natural Law is that it is a rational approach to morality based on principles that are common to all societies.
- You could argue that a major weakness is that there is no common human nature and that moral standards vary from culture to culture.
- You could argue that the religious basis of Aquinas' Natural Law as both a strength and a weakness.
- You could argue that Natural Law is not a good approach to solving some ethical issues as it does not consider the people involved or their situation.

6 (a) Explain how the issue of personhood might influence ethical approaches to abortion. [25]

- Explain what is meant by personhood and whether this applies to a foetus.
- You could explain the criteria of Mary Anne Warren, or the ideas of Singer or Jarvis Thompson and the violinist analogy.
- Explain the different ideas about the stage a foetus becomes a person.
- You could explain the idea of ensoulment.

(b) 'The right to life is the most important issue when discussing abortion.' Discuss. [10]

- You could discuss whether potential life has the right to life.
- You could discuss the Sanctity of Life and compare it to the Quality of Life.
- You could discuss the application of the Doctrine of Double Effect.
- You could discuss whether the right to life of the mother or that of the foetus is the most important.
- Discuss why the right to life might be important and what might be more important.

Chapter 7**1 (a) Explain the moral issues surrounding the right to a child. [25]**

- There are many responses to this question and it is not necessary to cover every aspect.
- You could explain any of the following issues:
 - obtaining sperm by masturbation;
 - possibly involving a third party;
 - divorcing reproduction from the sexual act;
 - when human life begins;
 - the status of the embryo;
 - the spare embryos and what happens to them;
 - the screening of embryos before implantation to weed out imperfections;
 - whether older women should be allowed to have children;
 - the success rate and cost of IVF.

(b) 'Having a child is a gift not a right.' Discuss. [10]

- Explain what you mean by a right.
- You could consider whether a child is a right, or a gift.
- You could argue that infertility is a condition that should be treated by right as other medical conditions are.
- You could consider other alternatives to IVF.

2 (a) Explain how a follower of Kantian ethics might approach issues surrounding the right to a child. [25]

- Explain Kantian ethics and, as you do so, apply this to the right to a child.
- Explain the Categorical imperative and how it might apply to the right to a child.
- Explain the question of universalisation, and discuss whether IVF is to be offered to every infertile couple.

(b) 'The right to a child is an absolute right.' Discuss. [10]

- Explain what you mean by a right.
- You could consider whether a child is a right, or a gift.
- You could argue that infertility is a condition that should be treated by right as other medical conditions are.
- You could consider other alternatives to IVF.

Chapter 8**1 (a) Explain Natural Law theory. [25]**

- Outline of Natural Law theory from Thomas Aquinas and Aristotle.
- Explain how Natural Law in some ways is absolutist and depends on the idea that God created everything for a purpose.
- You could explain that Natural Law establishes common rules that are universal and based on reason.
- Explain the primary and secondary precepts and how the secondary precepts give some flexibility.
- You could consider the importance of both the intention and the act.

(b) 'Natural Law is not the best approach to euthanasia.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss how Natural Law protects the sanctity of life, but does not consider the quality of life and the feelings and emotions of all those involved.
- You could contrast the Natural Law approach with that of Situation Ethics or with Utilitarianism.
- You could point out that a teleological approach considers the quality of life etc. and that Natural Law can seem too rigid.

2 (a) Explain how Bentham's version of Utilitarianism can be used to decide the right course of action. [25]

- Explain Utilitarianism.
- Explain the principle of utility - action is right if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Explain the hedonic calculus and explain how it may be used to measure pleasure or pain.
- You could explain that Bentham's version of Utilitarianism is often known as Act Utilitarianism as the principle of utility is applied to each action.
- Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(b) 'Utilitarianism is the best approach to euthanasia.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss what you mean by the best approach and for whom it would be the best approach.
- You could compare the approaches of different forms of Utilitarianism to the issue and decide which is best.
- You could contrast Utilitarianism with another ethical theory.
- You could discuss how Utilitarianism considers the quality of life but ignores the sanctity of life.

3 (a) Explain why a follower of religious ethics might object to euthanasia. [25]

- Explain the main aspects of religious ethics and, if using Christianity, outline the differences between the application of Natural Law and of Situation Ethics to euthanasia.
- Explain the Sanctity of Life and why followers of religious ethics would most likely object to euthanasia.
- You could explain the doctrine of double effect and weak Sanctity of Life.
- You could explain the approaches of Natural Law and Situation Ethics and how they might vary when approaching euthanasia.
- You may approach the question using the ethics of any religion.

(b) 'Human dignity does not matter to a follower of religious ethics.' Discuss. [10]

- Contrast the Sanctity of Life with the argument for autonomy and Quality of Life.
- You could argue that the Sanctity of Life leaves no room for compassion and so human dignity does not matter.
- You could discuss an alternative approach such as that of Situation Ethics.
- You could argue that the preservation of life is more important than human dignity.

4 (a) Explain the main differences between Act and Rule Utilitarianism. [25]

- Explain that the terms Act and Rule were applied later, not by Bentham and Mill themselves.
- Explain that Act Utilitarianism is associated with Bentham and applies the principle of Utility to each action.
- Explain how the Hedonic Calculus could be applied.
- Explain the difference between strong and weak Rule Utilitarians.

(b) To what extent is Utilitarianism a useful method of making decisions about euthanasia? [10]

- Discuss what you mean by the best approach and for whom it would be the best approach.
- You could compare the approaches of different forms of Utilitarianism to the issue and decide which is best.
- You could contrast Utilitarianism with another ethical theory.
- You could discuss how Utilitarianism considers the quality of life but ignores the sanctity of life.

5 (a) Explain the moral issues surrounding euthanasia. [25]

- There are many approaches that can be taken to this question and it is not necessary to cover all of them.
- You could explain some of the following issues:
 - the Sanctity of Life and how it applies to euthanasia;
 - personhood and question how this concept applies to a person in PVS;
 - personal autonomy;
 - whether life should be maintained at all costs;

- the distinction between killing and letting die (James Rachels);
- the Doctrine of Double Effect;
- the issue of refusing treatment if it will not improve life expectancy;
- the slippery slope argument;
- issues surrounding passive euthanasia;
- DNR orders.

(b) To what extent is the quality of life the least important factor when considering euthanasia? [10]

- You could discuss the Sanctity of Life and how all life is God-given and valuable.
- You could consider the effect of euthanasia on society and doctor/patient relationships if Quality of Life is the deciding factor.
- You could discuss the difficulty of determining the Quality of Life as it is subjective.
- You can discuss dying with dignity.
- You could use the arguments of Peter Singer or Situation Ethics to support the importance of the Quality of Life.

Chapter 9**1 (a) Explain the differences between the Hypothetical and the Categorical Imperatives. [25]**

- Explain Kant's ethical theory and the importance of duty.
- You need to explain that there are two kinds of imperatives: the non-moral or Hypothetical and the moral or Categorical.
- Explain the differences between the Categorical and the Hypothetical Imperatives.
- Explain that while the Hypothetical Imperative is teleological the Categorical Imperative is deontological.
- Give examples to illustrate this; possibly Kant's own examples.

(b) How useful is Kant's theory when considering embryo research? [10]

- You could consider the status of the embryo and the difficulty of applying the Categorical Imperative.
- You could argue that Kant's theory is useful as it is rational and not influenced by emotions.
- You might argue that a different ethical theory such as Utilitarianism, Situation ethics or Natural Law is a better approach.

2 (a) Explain the main ethical principles of the religion you have studied with regard to genetic engineering. [25]

- Explain the importance of the Sanctity of Life in a religious ethical approach to genetic engineering if it destroys life.
- Then you could go on to explain that religious ethics may not have the same concerns about the genetic engineering of animals or plants. You could also discuss the subject of using adult stem cells.
- You could use Natural Law as an approach.
- You could explain the teachings of different Christian churches.
- You can explain the issue from the point of view of any religion studied.

(b) 'Religious ethics prevents progress in genetic engineering.' Discuss. [10]

- You need to discuss whether religious ethics does have any effect in preventing progress in genetic engineering.
- You could use the Sanctity of Life in your argument.
- You could also discuss what is meant by progress, and whether religious ethics does help by considering the person, the effects on the environment and how we treat animals and plants.

3 (a) Explain how a follower of Natural Law might respond to issues raised by genetic engineering. [25]

- Outline Natural Law and the importance of a single purpose applicable to all humans.
- Explain the role of reason so that we do good and avoid evil.
- Explain how the primary precepts reflect God's Eternal Law, and how the secondary precepts depend on our own judgement of what to do in any situation.
- Look at some of the different types of genetic engineering.
- Explain how Natural Law could be applied e.g. the primary precept of self-preservation would lead to rejecting any genetic engineering that destroys life but allowing GM crops could save lives.
- You could also explain that genetic engineering can be justified as it preserves life by curing diseases.

(b) 'All genetic engineering is ethically justified.' Discuss. [10]

- Analyse the different approaches to genetic engineering.
- Give reasons for and against genetic engineering, using examples.
- Discuss that for some genetic engineering is wrong as it interferes with nature, but others justify it as it improves human life.

4 (a) Explain the strengths of Natural Law theory. [25]

- Briefly explain Natural Law according to Aquinas.
- Explain the primary precepts and the importance of the idea that God created everything for a purpose.
- Explain that Natural Law is straightforward and easy to apply.
- Explain that the purpose of morality is the fulfilment of our natures.
- Explain that Natural Law allows societies to have common rules.
- Explain that both the act and the intention are important.
- You could explain the flexibility of the secondary precepts.

(b) To what extent can a follower of Natural Law accept embryo research? [10]

- Discuss whether the embryo is a person or not.
- Discuss the idea of human life having a purpose and whether embryo research frustrates this.
- Discuss whether the benefits of embryo research might benefit society or might simply be an apparent good.

5 (a) Explain how Utilitarianism might be applied to embryo research. [25]

- Explain Utilitarianism and the principle of utility.
- Explain that Utilitarianism is teleological and focused on consequences.
- Apply this to embryo research showing how it can benefit sufferers of genetic diseases.
- Explain that a Utilitarian would look at the merits of each situation, but would also need to consider the costs involved.

(b) To what extent can embryo research be justified? [10]

- Analyse the different approaches to embryo research and show how it may or may not be justified.
- Do not just list the strengths and weaknesses of embryo research.
- You could discuss the reasons for the research.
- You could discuss why some people find embryo research wrong e.g. destruction of embryos.

Chapter 10**1 (a) Explain how religious ethics might be applied to issues of war and peace. [25]**

- Apply Just War theory with examples.
- Explain the different forms of pacifism: absolute, relative, contingent, etc. and show how they fit into religious ethics.
- You could contrast Just War and pacifism.
- You could consider Christian realism.
- The approaches to issues of war and peace can be explained from the point of view of any world religion.

(b) 'A religious believer could never justify war.' Discuss. [10]

- You could argue that a religious believer should be a pacifist.
- Or you could defend the Just War theory.

2 (a) Explain the theories of ethical and religious pacifism. [25]

- Explain Absolute Pacifism, which sees all war as wrong, and Contingent Pacifism, which accepts war/violence in some circumstances.
- You could explain that all pacifists see the killing of the innocent and taking of human life as morally unjustifiable.
- You could give examples to illustrate your answer.
- You could explain that religious pacifist views are rooted in Christianity and were very strong in the early Church.
- You could use some of the teachings of Jesus.
- You could explain the pacifist views of any religion studied.

(b) Assess the claim that killing in war is more justifiable than other types of killing. [10]

- You could argue that killing is always wrong in any circumstances or that it can be justified in some circumstances.
- You could compare killing in war with killing by euthanasia or abortion.
- You could say that Just War theory allows killing in some situations.
- You could argue that all life is sacred and any killing is wrong.

3 (a) Explain how the followers of the religion you have studied justify going to war. [25]

- You could explain the ethics of any religion studied e.g. the Lesser Jihad in Islam and Ahimsa in Hinduism.
- Buddhism would not justify going to war.
- You could explain teachings from religious texts such as the Bible or Qur'an.
- You could explain the *jus ad bellum* criteria of Just War Theory.
- Explain the teachings of scholars such as Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Francisco de Vitoria and Francisco Suarez.
- Illustrate your answer with examples from actual wars.
- You could explain a Christian Realist approach to war such as that of Niebuhr.

(b) 'Religious believers should be pacifist.' Discuss. [10]

- Discuss the fact that many religious followers choose to be pacifist and explain why.
- You could evaluate the Buddhist point of view that religious believers should be pacifist.
- Evaluate the pacifist approach of Christian denominations such as Quakers and why many main stream Christians are pacifists. You could consider the Sanctity of Life.
- You could argue against the statement as it does not allow the protection of the weak.

4 (a) Explain Kant's ethical approach to war and peace. [25]

- Briefly explain Kant's ethical theory and then apply it to war and peace.
- You could explain that it is the duty of a soldier to defend his country and to defend the weak.
- You could apply the Categorical Imperative to war and peace.
- You could explain that Kant would justify violence in self-defence – but if everyone followed this maxim of only allowing war in self-defence, war would be eliminated.
- You could also explain Kant's Perpetual Peace which is based on the third maxim of living in the Kingdom of Ends where he recommends a federation of states bound together by a covenant prohibiting war.

(b) 'Kantian ethics offer little help when considering issues of war and peace.' Discuss. [10]

- In answering this question you could base your answer on part (a).
- You could consider the problem of conflicting maxims; is it better to do your duty as a soldier and to kill in war or to fight only in self-defence?
- Or you could contrast Kantian ethics with a different ethical theory such as Utilitarianism.