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Draw a cross through the box (X) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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SCHOLARSHIP EXEMPLAR



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Scholarship 2024 Religious Studies

Time allowed: Three hours
Total score: 24

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–20 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (XXXX). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

DEBATE ABOUT THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose ONE of the questions below. Write an essay that answers the question you have chosen in relation to the debate about the complementarity of science and religion.

Space for planning is provided on page 4 of this booklet. Begin your answer on page 5.

EITHER: QUESTION ONE

"Sceptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense."

– Carl Sagan, cosmologist

"My view is that if your philosophy is not unsettled daily, then you are blind to all the universe has to offer."

– Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist

Questioning strongly held religious beliefs and scientific theories is difficult for some, but it has been argued that the search for truth in both science and religion needs an openness to questioning and testing.

How might a willingness to question and test beliefs and hypotheses, both religious and scientific, contribute to the debate about the complementarity of science and religion?

OR: QUESTION TWO

"Art and religion first; then philosophy; lastly science. That is the order of the great subjects of life, that's their order of importance."

– Dame Muriel Spark, novelist and short story writer

"There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, and science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win, because it works."

– Stephen Hawking, mathematician and physicist

The differences in scientific and religious approaches to understanding the world, and life, can be a strong combination for the betterment of humankind and the planet.

What challenges might there be to science and religion working together to address issues such as poverty, global warming, environmental disasters, pandemics, or times of societal collapse?

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The assessment continues on the following page.**

PLANNING

- intro (thesis) ✓
- Scopes monkey trial ✓
- Richard Dawkins / Alvin Plantinga (philosopher of religion) ✓
- ~~Gerardo~~ The Vatican Observatory
- Carl Sagan / William Lane Craig (Christian philosopher) ✓
- Laudato Si ✓
- Francis Collins / Sam Harris (American philosopher & neuro-scientist) ✓
- Implications ✓
- Conclusions ✓

Question:

The differences in scientific & religious approaches to understanding the world, and life, can be a strong combination for the betterment of humankind and the planet

What challenges might there be to science & religion working together to address issues such as poverty, global warming, environmental disasters, pandemics, or times of societal collapse

Select (✓) ONE essay question to answer.

☐ Question One

☒ Question Two

difference

"There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, and science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win, because it works." - Stephen Hawking. In an increasingly interconnected world, issues such as climate change, poverty and pandemics, require knowledge from all aspects of life. When it comes to understanding the challenges there might be to science and religion working together to address these issues, this can be understood through a framework that fosters constructive dialogue. Using Ians Barbour's "Barbour's taxonomy" (Framework) dialogue model, I will assess these challenges in this essay, using case studies, the scopes monkey trial, Laudato Si and the Vatican observatory, and figures such as Richard Dawkins, Carl Sagan and Francis Collins. It is ^{influential} necessary to define key terms in order to outline the boundaries being discussed. ^{Science} Religion can be defined by the dictionary as "the systematic study of the behaviour and structure of the physical and natural world through observation, experimentation and the testing of theories against the evidence obtained." Religion can be defined by the dictionary as "the belief or worship of super-human power or powers, especially by a God or Gods." An alternative definition ^{for religion} given by E.O. Wilson, a renowned biologist is "a complex of cultural phenomena which tries to explain the meaning of life ~~the~~ and guide behaviour through an organised system of beliefs / practices often centered around the sacred and the divine. Complementarity can be defined by the

dictionary as "combine in such a way as to enhance or emphasise the qualities of each other and another" compatible can be defined as "able to exist or occur together without problems or conflict". It is important to know the difference between compatible and complementarity as they are vastly different but often get confused with each other. Ian Barbour's 'Barbour's taxonomy' consists of 4 models. The conflict model (which says that science and religion are incompatible / do not cross over.) the independent model (which says that science and religion are 2 different fields that ask different questions, not compatible nor conflicting) the dialogue model (which says that there is some overlap between science and religion and there is value in dialogue) and the interdependent model (which says that science and religion fully cross over and rely on each other).

The Scopes monkey trial happened in 1925. It was a legal case in Tennessee where high school teacher John T. Scopes was accused of violating state ^{a public} law by teaching evolution in school. The trial became a focal point of the debate between science's understanding of evolution ~~and the~~ ^{and} religious beliefs in creationism. The trial highlighted the tension between science and religion and fueled debates on how to reconcile religious beliefs with scientific discovery. ~~Scopes was found~~ ^{The trial was} a result of a Tennessee law called the 'butcher's act'.

which made teaching ~~human~~ evolution in school illegal. Scopes was found guilty and charged \$100. The verdict was later overturned due to a technicality. The Scopes monkey trial was one of the most famous conflicts between science and religion and highlights the need for constructive dialogue when it comes to challenges in teaching in education.

Richard Dawkins is an evolutionary biologist and a vocal advocate for atheism. He believes that scientific evidence is incompatible with religious beliefs. His book "The God delusion" argues that belief in God is not only irrational but also harmful. ~~He~~^{He} has been very influential on the new atheism movement and his arguments have fueled discourse on the ^{debates on the} incompatibility of science and religion. ^{- which has led to many debates} However Alvin Plantinga, a philosopher of religion argues that Dawkins fails to address more sophisticated, theological arguments and dismisses the idea that religious beliefs could be rational.

The vatican observatory is one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world, highlighting the church's longstanding interest in the study of science, specifically cosmos. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII reestablished the vatican observatory, showing his support in ~~the~~ science. This particular case study shows that constructive dialogue can be positive when it

comes to addressing challenges such as scientific discovery. The Vatican explores the theological implications of scientific discovery in the context of the sacred divine.

"Science is not only compatible with spirituality, it is a profound source of spirituality" - Carl Sagan. Carl Sagan was an astronomer, astrophysicist and science communicator known for his ability to popularise complex scientific ideas. In his book "the demon haunted world" he ~~argues that we should have a~~ ^{argues} a skeptical and scientific approach ^{to understanding} the world but also respecting the cultural and emotional significance of religious experiences. ^{Sagan} He ~~has~~ inspired a sense of ^{wonder} and curiosity about the world and he influenced people's perception of science as a source of awe and wonder, bridging the gap between science and religion and also inspiring a generation to question the basis of their beliefs, whether scientific or religious. However, William Lane Craig, a Christian philosopher, argues that Sagan fails to address the ideas of the supernatural and metaphysical, leading to an incomplete understanding.

Laudato si is an encyclical made by Pope Francis. The encyclical addresses ^{environmental} problems such as climate change from a Catholic perspective. The encyclical calls for constructive dialogue between scientific evidence alongside religious morality and

Spiritual guidance when it comes to addressing environmental stewardship. Laudato si "On care for our common home" is the full name of this encyclical. It calls for everyone to come together to solve these environmental issues. Laudato si ~~is~~ also criticises the notion that technology alone can solve environmental problems without moral and spiritual guidance. This case study shows how constructive dialogue can help with the challenge (such as, an incomplete understanding/knowledge on these issues, ^{due} ~~led~~ to one side ^{the religion} not wanting to accept the evidence given by science) faced by science and religion working together to solve these issues.

"I find no conflict between a rigorous scientist and a person of Faith" - Francis Collins.

Francis Collins is a geneticist and former director of the National Institute of Health. He finds no conflict between his religious faith and his scientific work. In Collins' book "The Language of God", he argues that belief in God can be harmonised with the acceptance of scientific evidence. Francis Collins has become a key influential figure in promoting the idea that science and religion can co-exist peacefully. He has influenced discussions on the compatibility of scientific discovery with religious beliefs. However, Sam Harris, an American philosopher and

neuroscientist argues / criticises that colling religious beliefs, like the resurrection of Jesus, are incompatible with collins scientific work.

Some potential implications ~~for the~~ ^{of this} include. Improvement in public / Global policy. If there is constructive dialogue between science and religion, this could lead to better global policies to do with issues such as environmental disasters, global warming and pandemics. Because ~~of the~~ quite a lot of world leaders are religious, if we combine scientific evidence with religious morals / spiritual guidance, we could eliminate challenges such as conflict, misunderstandings and an unequal bias towards one end of the spectrum and we can create a good understanding of both and use the strengths of each side to combat these challenges. However, problems may arise when religious morals get in the way of the progress of things such as reproductive rights, stem cell research and climate initiatives. Another social implication ~~that is~~ ^{is} education in schools. If we foster constructive dialogue between science and religion, ~~it can~~ ^{it can} lead to a better understanding of the world and would eliminate the ^{potential} challenge faced of not having a full understanding of either side which could lead to conflicts as shown / exemplified in the scopes monkey

trial case study. ~~highlighted~~

So, in conclusion, in an increasingly interconnected world, issues such as climate change, poverty and pandemics, require knowledge from all aspects of life. And when it comes to understanding the challenges there might be to science and religion working together to address these issues, this can be understood through a framework that fosters constructive dialogue. The potential challenges faced include... not enough knowledge from one side, potential misunderstandings of meaning and an unwillingness to try and understand one side. Case studies such as the Scopes monkey trial in 1925, the Vatican observatory and Laudato Si all are examples of this alongside key influential ~~discussed~~ ^{discussed} figures such as Richard Dawkins, Carl Sagan and Francis Collins. There are also many potential wider ^{positive} implications to this such as, a possible ^{positive} impact in forming global policies and a positive impact in school education. By fostering constructive dialogue we can create a better world that embraces all sides. "My view is that if your philosophy is not unsettled daily, then you are blind to all the universe has to offer." - Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Scholarship

Subject: Religious Studies

Standard: 93603

Total score: 14

Aspect	Score	Marker commentary
1	05	The candidate introduced a wide array of relevant sources concerning the topic. They used examples that added depth to the discussion.
2	05	The candidate gave a clear and precise interpretation of the question. Some important points were missing, along with an inadequately defended generalisation.
3	04	The candidate produced a relatively simple but logical argument that was explicit and clear.