



OUNDLE

School

13+ Academic Scholarship 2026

Theology, Philosophy & Religion

Time allowed: 1h30

Name: _____

Instructions

- Dictionaries are not allowed
- **Answer on lined paper.** Write your name clearly at the top of each sheet of paper that you use.
- Answer **ALL** the questions in **Section One**. Choose **TWO** questions from **Section Two**. You should divide your time equally between both sections.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 40

SECTION ONE: COMPREHENSION

Answer **all** questions. You may refer to the text to support any points that you make.

“If philosophy makes an important contribution to ethics in clarifying concepts and critically analysing universal principles, religion can also make distinctive contributions to ethics in both theory and practice. The most fundamental ethical convictions, such as the value of the individual and respect for nonhuman nature¹, are dependent on one’s understanding of ultimate reality.²”

- Ian Barbour, *Ethics in an Age of Technology – Volume 2*, p. 42.

¹ ‘nonhuman nature’ = animals and the environment.

² ‘ultimate reality’ = God or religious belief.

1. Explain, for the author, the role of (a) philosophy and (b) ultimate reality in ethics to decide what is right and wrong. [6 marks]
2. In your own words, although with reference to the text, explain why the author might be concerned with people using *only* philosophy in ethics to decide what is right or wrong. [7 marks]
3. ‘Religion has no place in telling people what is right and wrong or how to live their lives.’ Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [7 marks]

[Total: 20 marks]

SECTION TWO: ESSAY WRITING

Choose **TWO** questions from the following choice of FIVE. Each essay is marked out of 10.

1. Religious Texts

Describe one event or teaching from a religious or holy text you have studied. Explain its importance and significance to the followers of the faith from which it comes.

2. Religion in the modern world

‘As we gain more and more scientific knowledge, there is less and less a place for religion in people’s lives.’ Do you agree?

3. Worship

With reference to a religion you have studied, explain how and why worship takes place.

4. Philosophers

With reference to one philosopher you have studied, explain their contribution to philosophy, and evaluate the success of their contribution.

5. Ethics

‘Punishing people for their crimes is an ineffective way to reform an offender.’ Do you agree?

[Total: 20 marks]