

Philosophy of Religion

Dr. Hicks

Final Exam

Please select four of the following questions. Time: Two hours.

1. Define religion. What are, in your judgment, the similar features of, for example, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity that make them all religions? Attending to their key metaphysical, epistemological, human nature, and ethics components, conclude with the best definition of religion that you can devise.
2. Explain the concepts *theist*, *atheist* and *agnostic*. Present atheist George Smith's argument that religion, especially Christianity, is agnostic. Contrast theist C. S. Lewis's view that Christianity need not be an agnostic. In your judgment, is religion ultimately agnostic?
3. Prove or disprove the existence of a god. For one of the following arguments, give a detailed presentation of the argument and the major objections or criticisms to it. Conclude with your assessment of what the argument proves or fails to prove.
 - a) The Design Argument
 - b) The Argument from Evil
4. Define faith. Select two of the following thinkers and present detailed accounts of their views of faith. In your judgment, whose view of faith is most accurate? If you think that none of these thinkers captures faith correctly, present your alternative account.
 - a) Søren Kierkegaard
 - b) Antony Flew
 - c) R. M. Hare
 - d) Basil Mitchell
 - e) C. S. Lewis
 - f) William James
5. "Morality depends upon religion"—true or false? Present the Divine Command Theory of ethics and, using at least two of the following thinkers, either defend or criticize religious morality.
 - a) Mother Teresa
 - b) C. S. Lewis
 - c) George Smith
 - d) A. C. Grayling
6. Compare two of the following thinkers' views on the practicality of religion. In your judgment, does the practical value of religion depend upon its being true?
 - a) Alexis de Tocqueville
 - b) Karl Marx
 - c) Sigmund Freud

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