GCSE PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://gcsephilosophyethics.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

SAMPLE

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What does discrimination entail?

A. Treating people less favorably because of their gender, ethnicity, color, sexuality, age, class, etc.

B. Promoting diversity across all platforms

C. Equally supporting all societal classes

D. Ignoring people's ethnicity in professional settings

2. Who suggested the Principle of Credulity?

A. Albert Einstein

B. Isaac Newton

C. Richard Swinburne

D. Thomas Aquinas

3. How does Bertrand Russell challenge the cosmological argument?

A. By saying the universe has no beginning

B. By arguing that the universe does not need a cause

C. By suggesting God does not exist

D. By proposing the theory of evolution

4. What is one successful outcome from the solutions to the problem of suffering?

A. Many Christians find the theoretical solutions helpful

B. It stops Christians from suffering

C. Christians enjoy suffering more

D. Suffering is completely eradicated

5. According to Catholic teachings, what is the main purpose of sexual relations?

A. To express love between partners

B. To experience physical pleasure

C. Bring together a man and a woman who are married for the purpose of having children

D. To ensure fidelity

SAMPLE

6. What did Plato and Aristotle call the first cause of all other moving things?

A. Prime Mover

B. Original Designer

C. First Spark

D. God

7. How do different faiths reflect their beliefs in marriage ceremonies?

A. All faiths conduct identical ceremonies.

B. Marriage ceremonies are purely secular across faiths.

C. Each faith reflects its unique beliefs in its marriage ceremonies.

D. Only Catholic ceremonies have religious elements.

8. Who often provides free counseling to support families within the church?

A. Catechism instructors

B. Marriage Care organizations

C. Sunday school teachers

D. Church ushers

9. What are the four purposes of sacramental marriage?

A. Loving, lifelong, exclusive, and fruitful

B. Honest, devoted, exclusive, and fruitful

C. Lifelong, supportive, committed, and loving

D. Committed, nurturing, loving, and fruitful

10. Which of the following was part of St Thomas Aquinas' "Five Ways" to prove God's existence?

A. The problem of evil

B. The design argument

C. The existence of miracles

D. The cosmological argument

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

1. A
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What does discrimination entail?

A. Treating people less favorably because of their gender, ethnicity, color, sexuality, age, class, etc.

B. Promoting diversity across all platforms

C. Equally supporting all societal classes

D. Ignoring people's ethnicity in professional settings

Discrimination involves treating individuals or groups less favorably based on certain characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, color, sexuality, age, or class. This definition emphasizes the negative impact of bias and prejudice in social interactions, workplaces, and institutions. Discrimination results in unequal treatment and opportunities, which can lead to further systemic issues in society. The other options reflect different concepts that are not aligned with the definition of discrimination. Promoting diversity and equally supporting all societal classes are positive actions aimed at reducing inequality rather than embodying discrimination. Ignoring people's ethnicity in professional settings may suggest a form of color-blindness or an attempt to be neutral, which again does not capture the essence of discrimination, as it fails to address the inequality that may exist and overlooks the importance of acknowledging and valuing diversity.

2. Who suggested the Principle of Credulity?

A. Albert Einstein

B. Isaac Newton

C. Richard Swinburne

D. Thomas Aquinas

The correct answer is Richard Swinburne. He is known for articulating the Principle of Credulity, which suggests that if it seems to a person that something is the case, then, unless there are strong reasons to doubt it, that person is entitled to believe it. This principle plays a significant role in discussions about the nature of belief and the justification of religious experience. While Albert Einstein made immense contributions to physics and our understanding of the universe, he did not specifically engage with the philosophical concepts related to belief in the way Swinburne did. Thus, his name is not associated with the Principle of Credulity.

3. How does Bertrand Russell challenge the cosmological argument?

A. By saying the universe has no beginning

B. By arguing that the universe does not need a cause

C. By suggesting God does not exist

D. By proposing the theory of evolution

Bertrand Russell challenges the cosmological argument primarily by asserting that the universe does not need a cause. His position emphasizes that the premise of the cosmological argument, which suggests that everything must have a cause, does not necessarily apply to the universe itself. Russell questioned the idea that the universe requires a cause or an explanation beyond its existence. He suggested that it could simply be a brute fact, something that exists without needing to be caused by something else. This perspective fundamentally undermines one of the core assumptions of the cosmological argument, which is the necessity of a first cause (often identified as God) to explain the existence of the universe. By proposing that the universe might not require such a cause, Russell invites a reconsideration of the traditional metaphysical reasoning surrounding existence and causation.

SAMPLE

4. What is one successful outcome from the solutions to the problem of suffering?

A. Many Christians find the theoretical solutions helpful

B. It stops Christians from suffering

C. Christians enjoy suffering more

D. Suffering is completely eradicated

The choice regarding many Christians finding the theoretical solutions helpful is correct because it reflects a significant outcome in addressing the problem of suffering. Theoretical solutions, such as theodicies, offer framework and understanding that help believers make sense of their suffering in the context of their faith. These solutions often provide comfort and reinforce their belief in a loving and just God, which can be foundational for maintaining faith during difficult times. Meanwhile, the other options do not adequately address the reality of suffering within Christianity. Believers do not escape suffering through these solutions; rather, they seek to understand and endure it. Enjoyment of suffering is not a typical expectation or outcome among Christians, and the complete eradication of suffering is not considered achievable within the complexities of human experience, according to many theological perspectives.

5. According to Catholic teachings, what is the main purpose of sexual relations?

A. To express love between partners

B. To experience physical pleasure

C. Bring together a man and a woman who are married for the purpose of having children

D. To ensure fidelity

According to Catholic teachings, the main purpose of sexual relations is to express love between partners. While experiencing physical pleasure is often a natural and enjoyable part of sexual relations, it is not the main purpose according to Catholic teachings. Bringing together a man and a woman for the purpose of having children, as well as ensuring fidelity within a marriage, may also be important aspects of Catholic teachings on sexuality, but they are not the main purpose.

6. What did Plato and Aristotle call the first cause of all other moving things?

A. Prime Mover

B. Original Designer

C. First Spark

D. God

Plato and Aristotle referred to the first cause of all other moving things as the Prime Mover. This concept is foundational in their philosophical framework, where they sought to answer the question of why anything exists at all. The Prime Mover is characterized as an uncaused cause responsible for the motion and existence of everything else in the universe. Aristotle specifically developed this idea, arguing that since everything that moves must have been set in motion by something else, there must be an ultimate source or a first mover that itself is unmoved. For him, this Prime Mover is perfect and necessary, existing outside of the physical realm and serving as a final cause of movement and change in the world. In contrast, other options do not align with the philosophical terminology used by Plato and Aristotle. The term "Original Designer" may imply a creator-type figure but lacks the metaphysical grounding found in the Prime Mover concept. "First Spark" could suggest a moment of creation or ignition, but it does not capture the ongoing, unchanging nature of the Prime Mover. Lastly, while "God" can be associated with the Prime Mover in some interpretations, it is a broader and more ambiguous term that does not specifically reflect the philosophical rigor of

SAMPLE

7. How do different faiths reflect their beliefs in marriage ceremonies?

A. All faiths conduct identical ceremonies.

B. Marriage ceremonies are purely secular across faiths.

C. Each faith reflects its unique beliefs in its marriage ceremonies.

D. Only Catholic ceremonies have religious elements.

The correct understanding recognizes that each faith reflects its unique beliefs in its marriage ceremonies. Different religious traditions have specific rituals, symbols, and practices that illustrate their theological principles and cultural values. For example, in Christianity, weddings often include elements like the exchange of vows, the use of scripture, and the blessing of the couple by a minister, reflecting beliefs about the sanctity of marriage. In contrast, Hindu weddings may involve rituals such as the Saptapadi, where the couple takes seven steps together, symbolizing their commitment and partnership. This diversity highlights how marriage ceremonies are adapted to align with the beliefs and customs of each faith, showcasing their distinct interpretations of marriage. The other options do not accurately encompass this aspect: many faiths differ significantly in their practices, marriage ceremonies are not purely secular as they typically incorporate religious elements, and religious elements are not exclusive to Catholic ceremonies.

8. Who often provides free counseling to support families within the church?

A. Catechism instructors

B. Marriage Care organizations

C. Sunday school teachers

D. Church ushers

The correct answer highlights the role of Marriage Care organizations, which are specifically dedicated to supporting couples and families through various forms of relationship counseling. These organizations often provide professional and trained counselors who can offer guidance, support, and practical help to families facing challenges. Their mission typically aligns with the values of many religious communities, emphasizing the importance of maintaining healthy family relationships. The other options, while they may have roles in a church setting, do not primarily focus on providing extensive counseling services. Catechism instructors generally teach religious education and foundational beliefs. Sunday school teachers primarily engage with children to impart religious teachings. Church ushers usually assist with the logistical aspects of church services, such as seating and collections, rather than providing emotional or relational support.

SAMPLE

9. What are the four purposes of sacramental marriage?

A. Loving, lifelong, exclusive, and fruitful

B. Honest, devoted, exclusive, and fruitful

C. Lifelong, supportive, committed, and loving

D. Committed, nurturing, loving, and fruitful

The answer identifies the four purposes of sacramental marriage as loving, lifelong, exclusive, and fruitful, which are key concepts found within many religious understandings of marriage, particularly in Christianity. The purpose of marriage being "loving" highlights the importance of love as the foundational element of the relationship. In a sacramental context, love is often understood not merely as an emotion, but as a committed choice and action that benefits both partners and reflects divine love. "Lifetime" underscores the belief in the enduring nature of the commitment between married individuals. A sacramental marriage is intended to last until death, emphasizing fidelity and the idea that marriage creates a sacred bond that is not to be severed lightly. The "exclusive" nature of marriage points to the commitment between two individuals that is unique and dedicated solely to each other. This exclusivity is seen as essential for the growth of a deep and lasting relationship, fostering trust and security. Finally, the term "fruitful" reflects not only the potential for physical procreation but also the broader idea of a marriage that cultivates spiritual and emotional growth. It is seen as contributing to the well-being of the couple, their family, and the community. These elements together capture the essence of what many religious traditions consider

10. Which of the following was part of St Thomas Aquinas' "Five Ways" to prove God's existence?

A. The problem of evil

B. The design argument

C. The existence of miracles

D. The cosmological argument

The design argument is indeed one of the key components of St. Thomas Aquinas' "Five Ways" to demonstrate the existence of God. Aquinas is well-known for his philosophical approach, where he sought rational explanations to understand the divine. In the context of the design argument, Aquinas posited that the order and purpose we observe in the world cannot simply be the result of random chance. Instead, this intricate design indicates a designer. Aquinas referred to the universe's complexity and the functionality of natural things as evidence of an intelligent being who instills purpose and order in creation. He articulated this in his work, where he described how the existence of things that act towards an end suggests an intelligent source guiding them towards that purpose. Understanding this argument is essential as it reflects Aquinas' broader approach to faith and reason, showing how he sought to frame theological concepts within a rational understanding of the world. This distinguishes it from the other options, which do not form part of his "Five Ways." The problem of evil, for instance, deals with moral and philosophical questions rather than an argument for God's existence. The existence of miracles, while significant in a theological context, is not part of the foundational proofs Aquinas offers, and the cosmological

SAMPLE

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://gcsephilosophyethics.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

SAMPLE