

FREE WILL & LIBETARIANISM PART B REVISION

Make a list below of everything that you know you need to learn for part B questions on 'Free Will & Libertarianism'.

B) Religious Views on Free Will are convincing. (30)

Draft Mark scheme:

On a scale of 1-10, how do you feel about answering a question on this topic?

B) Religious Views on Free Will are convincing. (30)

Agree:

- **Religious views on Free Will have support from Holy Texts:**

- Bible - *'If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed'*

- Quran - *'Allah showed him two ways - good and evil'*

- **Theological support might show that theories on Free Will are convincing:**

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, known as Mormonism, accepted Pelagius' theories: *'The theology of Mormonism is completely Pelagian' (McMurrin) Book of Mormon: 'because they are re-deemed from the fall, they are free forever....'*

- The Methodist Church's doctrine on Salvation is based on Arminian principles. John Wesley taught a person is free to accept & reject salvation

- **Theories of Free Will support God's attributes**

- Omni benevolence - as all humans can achieve salvation. Russell argues 'God must be a monster' if you are predestined. This idea of Omni benevolence is supported by Pelagius.

- God's Omni benevolence was also supported by Arminius supporters - Remonstrants at the Synod of Dort: salvation is freely conditioned by faith

- God is allowing humans to make their own choices—people are not pre-programmed robots

- Arminius: *'Man is not an automaton in the hands of God'*

Disagree:

- **Holy texts also support predestination:**

- Bible - *'A Person's days are determined'*

- Qur'an - *'And you do not will, except what Allah wills'*

- **Theological support might show that theories on Free Will are not convincing:**

- Augustine: 'Doctrine of Original Sin'

- Calvin: 'Doctrine of Election'

These have received support from many:

- Council of Carthage in 418 approved Doctrine of Original Sin, and dismissed Pelagius' theory

- Synod of Dort supported Calvin's 'Doctrine of Election', and reject Arminius concept of Free Will

- **Theories of Free Will support God's attributes**

- Predestination supports God's omnipotent nature - a being so powerful could have had an eternal pre-destination plan for humanity, as supported by Augustine

- Augustine reacted angrily to Pelagius' free will theories and Johnathan Edwards supported him as he said if a human could chose their own response to God, then salvation would become dependent on a

B) Asses the extent to which an individual has free choice.

(30)

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High:

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- The Methodist Church's doctrine on Salvation is based on Arminian principles. John Wesley taught a person is free to accept & reject salvation

- **The concepts of Libertarianism:**

- Philosophical/Sartre - *'Man is not free, not to be free'*

- Scientific/Dr Sirigu - Genetic formulas

- Psychological/Rodgers - *'Self-actualisation'*

Low:

- **Holy texts also support predestination:**

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- **The concepts of Hard Determinism:**

- Philosophical/Locke - *'free will is illusion'*

- Scientific/Darwin - DNA & Genetic Fixity

- Psychological/Pavlov/Watson - *'Classical Conditioning'*

B) Assess the extent to which philosophical/scientific and/or psychological views on libertarianism inevitably lead people to accept libertarianism. (30)

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High:

• **The concepts of Libertarianism:**

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- Scientific/Dr Sirigu - Genetic formulas
- Psychological/Rodgers - 'Self-actualisation'

Low:

• **The concepts of Hard Determinism:**

- Philosophical/Locke - *'free will is illusion'*
- Scientific/Darwin - DNA & Genetic Fixity
- Psychological/Pavlov/Watson - 'Classical Conditioning'

You cannot write about religious views such as Augustine, Calvin, Pelagius and Calvin here !!

B) Asses the extent to which free human beings should follow a normative ethic. (30)

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their response to the question above. The box is currently blank.

B) Asses the extent to which free human beings should follow a normative ethic. (30)

High:

- Can help an agent use their free will to choose morality rather than immorality
- An agent may become immoral without a path to follow
 - *use examples of Divine Command/Utilitarianism/other normative ethics to support these two point above*
- Even though Divine Command offer objective absolute principle of morality, human reason and free will is not reduced, as you need to freely reason whether Divine Command is / or is not the rational understanding of God's eternal moral law.
 - *could link in weaknesses/strengths of Divine Command*

Low:

- Some normative ethics can be seen to compromise an individuals free will, as they do not need to rationalise about what is moral—the moral action is just provided for them
 - *give examples of Divine Command here including commandments eg 'You shall not murder'*
- How convinced are we that a human really does have free will—if humans don't, then the effectiveness of normative ethics can be questioned.
 - *link in the likes of Augustine here, Calvin or concepts of hard determinism*

B) 'Free Will makes the use of prayer irrelevant' (30)

Draft Mark scheme:

On a scale of 1-10, how do you feel about answering a question on this topic?

B) 'Free Will makes the use of prayer irrelevant' (30)

Agree

- **Prayer is relevant to an omnibenevolent God—he would wish to have a relationship with human beings**

- Support this with Pelagius' & Arminius' supporters

- **Prayer can be used to build up a rapport with God, to seek guidance or forgiveness**

- Use Pelagius for support - the work of the Holy Spirit could be enhanced by prayer & he believed human could seek forgiveness and that sins need to be freely confessed through prayer

Disagree

- **If humans have free will, then the use of prayer is irrelevant, as God is not omnipotent**

- Illustrate this with Augustine's response to Pelagius and how Arminius diminishes God's omnipotence.
Could link in Johnathan Edwards too.

- **Human Free will does not allow God to perform miracles as an answer to prayer, as miracles by nature involve God compromising human free will**

- Refer to Aquinas here for support on primary and secondary miracles: use example of Joshua where he made it possible for him to defeat the enemies of Israel

- Refer to C.S Lewis - '*nature behaves in accordance with fixed laws—a miracle is God introducing a new law*' - therefore compromising free will!

B) Beliefs about free will can be reconciled with beliefs about predestination. (30)

Draft Mark scheme:

On a scale of 1-10, how do you feel about answering a question on this topic?

B) Beliefs about free will can be reconciled with beliefs about predestination. (30)

Agree:

Disagree: