

PREDESTINATION & DETERMINISM PART B REVISION

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

B) Religious believers should not accept predestination.

Draft Mark scheme:

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

B) Religious believers should not accept predestination.

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 God predestines humanity.

(30)

Draft Mark scheme:

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

B) Asses the extent to which God has predestined humanity. (30)

Low:

- **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 redeemed 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:**

- Same as above

High:

- **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 predestination support God's attributes:**

- Same as above

B) Assess the extent to which philosophical/scientific and/or psychological views on determinism illustrate that we have no free will. (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) Assess the extent to which philosophical/scientific and/or psychological views on determinism illustrate that we have no free will. (30)

Low:

• **The concepts of Libertarianism:**

- Philosophical/Sartre - *'Man is not free, not to be free'*
- Scientific/Dr Sirigu - Genetic formulas
- Psychological/Rodgers - *'Self-actualisation'*

Weakness of concepts of Determinism

- *Locke just speculates that free will is an ignorant illusion*
- *Determinism is self-refuting*
- *Leads to the idea that morality is totally incoherent*
- *Modern quantum mechanics and Heisenbergs uncertainty principle argues that modern science is no longer confident about causation*
- *If determinism is true, why do humans experience emotions?*

High:

• **The concepts of Hard Determinism:**

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

Strengths if Determinism

- It can be a deterrent as it could modify peoples behaviour through punishment

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

B) 'Hard/Soft Determinism are strong arguments'. (30)

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their response to the question above. The box occupies most of the page below the question text.

B) Hard & Soft Determinism are strong arguments. (30)

Page 90-92 of the text book! Arguments are similar to the above question :) But, you could mention soft-determinism also below!!

Agree:

- *Cumulative effect of all the concepts of hard determinism together*
- *Hobbs use of language 'forced' and 'caused' is strong, as it is understood and used by many in everyday language*

Disagree:

- The distinction between soft and hard determinism is technical, not practical

B) 'Moral responsibility is an illusion' (30)

Draft Mark scheme:

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

B) 'Moral responsibility is an illusion' (30)

Agree

- Augustine—People are hopelessly corrupted
- Spinoza—'There is no absolute free will'
- *John Hospers*—Moral values are worthless—moral choice is all 'a matter of luck'
- Skinner—'Man has no will'
- *Darrow*—'*punishment as punishment is not admissible, unless they have had free will to follow their course*'

Disagree

- Philip Foot—'Because actions are motives, this in no way leads to the conclusion that they are predetermined from the beginning of the universe'
- Pelagius & Arminius' contributions - moral responsibility is not an illusion for them
- Sartre - 'man is not free, not to be free'
- Rational Choice Theory—eg of Mark Duggan

B) Assess the extent to which predestination influences our understanding of God. (30)

Draft Mark scheme:

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

B) Assess the extent to which free will influences our understanding of God. (30)

High:

- Supports that God is omnipotent: Augustine & Calvin
- Supports God's omnipotence due to support of predestination in religious texts
- Support that God is omnibenevolent - Augustine: God's grace shows his loving nature
- Supports the idea of God carrying out miracles: Lewis: 'God only does these miracles to remind us of his omnipotence'

Low:

- It is the theory of free will that illustrates God's omnipotence - Arminius for example
- It is the theory of free will that illustrates God's omnibenevolence

Does predestination really illustrate God's loving nature:

- Would a loving God elect some, and leave others a reprobates? 'God is a monster'
- If people's lives are predestined, then God must have created moral evil eg holocaust
- Is god really all-loving, if man has no free actions?
- Predestination rules out miracles as a result to spontaneous prayer—eg of Joshua