

GCSE Philosophy and Ethics Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. Which philosopher argued that the universe's uniqueness makes analogies to explain it impossible?**
 - A. David Hume**
 - B. William Paley**
 - C. Immanuel Kant**
 - D. René Descartes**

- 2. What did Joan of Arc's visions instruct her to do?**
 - A. Build a church**
 - B. Write a holy text**
 - C. Force the English from their French homeland**
 - D. Become a nun**

- 3. Which denomination has been ordaining women for nearly 100 years?**
 - A. The Catholic Church**
 - B. Some Baptist and Pentecostal Churches**
 - C. Orthodox Church**
 - D. Evangelical Churches**

- 4. What is an argument against the lack of evidence being a barrier to believing in religious experiences?**
 - A. Faith does not require proof**
 - B. Evidence is always available but ignored**
 - C. Religion is a scientific endeavor**
 - D. Religious texts provide all necessary proof**

- 5. What analogy did William Paley use to provide evidence for the design argument?**
 - A. The complexity of the eye**
 - B. The Grand Canyon**
 - C. A watch found in a field**
 - D. The structure of DNA**

6. What is a biblical response in Psalms to the problem of suffering?

- A. Suffering strengthens faith**
- B. Humans cannot understand suffering**
- C. Learning from previous suffering**
- D. Suffering leads to free will**

7. What do Catholics agree couples should practice in their relationship?

- A. Freedom**
- B. Faithfulness**
- C. Exploration**
- D. Separation**

8. What is the term used to describe the family as the place where children learn the faith and pray?

- A. Domestic church**
- B. Parish group**
- C. Family unit**
- D. Community center**

9. What stance does the Church of England hold on contraception?

- A. Contraception is a sin or going against God's purpose.**
- B. Contraception is never acceptable.**
- C. Contraception should only be used by the elderly.**
- D. Contraception should be mandated by law.**

10. When did the Church of England get its first woman bishop?

- A. 1994**
- B. 2004**
- C. 2014**
- D. 2024**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which philosopher argued that the universe's uniqueness makes analogies to explain it impossible?

- A. David Hume**
- B. William Paley**
- C. Immanuel Kant**
- D. René Descartes**

David Hume argued that the uniqueness of the universe limits our ability to make reliable analogies to explain it. His skepticism about human reason and the capacity to draw conclusions from empirical evidence leads him to suggest that because the universe is not only vast but also singular in its nature, we cannot rely on comparisons to other known entities or experiences. This philosophical stance stems from his views on causation and induction, where he posits that we cannot assume that future or unknown phenomena will behave like known ones due to a lack of evidence for such patterns in the unique fabric of reality. This perspective creates a challenge for any attempted analogy, as it inherently assumes a homogeneity that Hume contends does not exist in our understanding of the universe.

2. What did Joan of Arc's visions instruct her to do?

- A. Build a church**
- B. Write a holy text**
- C. Force the English from their French homeland**
- D. Become a nun**

Joan of Arc's visions instructed her to lead the French army and fight against the English to free their homeland. Joan believed that her mission was directed by God and that it was her divine duty to save France from the English. Becoming a nun or writing a holy text were not part of her visions and plans. Though she was considered a holy figure in her time, her goal was not to build a church. Thus, option C is the most accurate answer.

3. Which denomination has been ordaining women for nearly 100 years?

- A. The Catholic Church**
- B. Some Baptist and Pentecostal Churches**
- C. Orthodox Church**
- D. Evangelical Churches**

The correct answer highlights that certain Baptist and Pentecostal churches have indeed been ordaining women for nearly a century. These denominations have a history of supporting and promoting women's roles in ministry, often emphasizing the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. This belief allows women to take on leadership roles and serves as a recognition of their spiritual gifts and capabilities, irrespective of gender. In contrast, the Catholic Church has a longstanding tradition that does not permit the ordination of women. Similarly, the Orthodox Church maintains a traditional stance on gender roles within the clergy, restricting priesthood to men. Evangelical churches vary widely in their beliefs and practices regarding women's ordination, but most of them do not have the same historical continuity in ordaining women as the Baptist and Pentecostal traditions. Therefore, the emphasis on the nearly 100-year history of ordaining women aligns best with the practices of certain Baptist and Pentecostal churches.

4. What is an argument against the lack of evidence being a barrier to believing in religious experiences?

- A. Faith does not require proof**
- B. Evidence is always available but ignored**
- C. Religion is a scientific endeavor**
- D. Religious texts provide all necessary proof**

The correct answer highlights that faith itself can exist independently of empirical evidence. Many religious traditions emphasize the importance of personal belief and conviction over the requirement for tangible proof. This viewpoint holds that faith is a deeply personal and subjective experience that can be deeply felt by individuals without needing to be supported by objective evidence. In this context, the belief in religious experiences does not rely solely on the presence of empirical data, but rather on the individual's personal journey, spirituality, and transformative experiences. This position recognizes that many adherents find meaning and purpose through their faith, even in the absence of traditional proof. The other viewpoints, while they might hold some relevance in individual discussions, do not effectively counter the argument about the lack of evidence as a barrier. Suggesting that evidence is always available but ignored implies a universal accessibility that may not resonate with everyone, while framing religion as a scientific endeavor mischaracterizes the nature of religious experience. Likewise, claiming that religious texts provide necessary proof also relies on the acceptance of those texts as authoritative and does not address the broader question of evidence in a personal context.

5. What analogy did William Paley use to provide evidence for the design argument?

- A. The complexity of the eye**
- B. The Grand Canyon**
- C. A watch found in a field**
- D. The structure of DNA**

William Paley used the analogy of a watch found in a field to illustrate his design argument, which is part of his broader work in Natural Theology. In this analogy, he suggested that if one were to come across a watch while walking in a field, one would naturally conclude that it must have been made by an intelligent designer due to its intricate parts working together for a specific purpose. This reasoning serves to highlight the complexity and functionality of the universe, akin to the watch, suggesting that just as a watch implies a watchmaker, the natural world implies a creator. Paley's analogy emphasizes the idea that the order and purpose found in nature cannot merely be the result of chance; they indicate deliberate design. By comparing the natural world to a watch, he effectively argues that the existence of complex systems, such as living organisms, points towards the existence of an intelligent designer, which aligns with the central premise of the design argument.

6. What is a biblical response in Psalms to the problem of suffering?

- A. Suffering strengthens faith**
- B. Humans cannot understand suffering**
- C. Learning from previous suffering**
- D. Suffering leads to free will**

A biblical response found in Psalms regarding the problem of suffering is that suffering strengthens faith. Throughout the book of Psalms, many passages reflect on how individuals endure pain, distress, and hardship, yet through these experiences, they often come to a deeper trust in God. The Psalms frequently emphasize a reliance on God in times of trouble, with believers expressing their struggles while simultaneously affirming their faith and hope in divine support and redemption. This theme suggests that enduring suffering can lead to spiritual growth, resilience, and a renewed commitment to faith. The consistent cry for help paired with expressions of trust in God's goodness and sovereignty during times of suffering highlights the idea that such challenges can ultimately serve to fortify one's belief and reliance on God. The other options may touch on aspects of suffering but do not encapsulate the core message of the Psalms regarding how suffering can transform and reinforce one's relationship with faith and trust in God.

7. What do Catholics agree couples should practice in their relationship?

- A. Freedom**
- B. Faithfulness**
- C. Exploration**
- D. Separation**

Catholics agree that couples should practice faithfulness in their relationship. Freedom may lead to infidelity and trust issues, which goes against the Catholic belief in marriage and commitment. Exploration of one's sexuality may go against the Catholic teachings on abstinence and purity outside of marriage. Separation goes against the Catholic belief in unity and the value of marriage as a lifelong commitment. While freedom, exploration, and separation may be important concepts in a relationship, faithfulness is the most important aspect for a Catholic couple to focus on in order to build a strong, committed, and faithful marriage.

8. What is the term used to describe the family as the place where children learn the faith and pray?

- A. Domestic church**
- B. Parish group**
- C. Family unit**
- D. Community center**

The term "Domestic church" is used to describe the family setting as a key environment for learning faith and practicing prayer. This concept emphasizes the importance of the home as a sacred space where religious teachings, values, and practices are passed down from parents to children. The idea is rooted in the belief that families can nurture spiritual growth and help cultivate a sense of belonging to a larger faith community. The other terms, while they describe aspects of religious community and social structures, do not capture the specific role of the family in religious education and practice in the same way. A parish group refers to a local church community; a family unit is a more general description of the familial structure without the religious connotation; and a community center typically serves secular community needs rather than the specific religious upbringing found within the domestic church.

9. What stance does the Church of England hold on contraception?

- A. Contraception is a sin or going against God's purpose.**
- B. Contraception is never acceptable.**
- C. Contraception should only be used by the elderly.**
- D. Contraception should be mandated by law.**

The Church of England maintains a nuanced view on contraception. While it does not endorse the idea that contraception is inherently sinful or against God's purpose, it acknowledges that responsible family planning can be consistent with Christian teachings. The Church emphasizes the importance of love, commitment, and responsibility within relationships, allowing for the use of contraception to help couples manage their family size and health. Therefore, the stance aligns with the belief that contraception can serve a good purpose within the context of marriage and family life, as long as it is used thoughtfully and with moral consideration.

10. When did the Church of England get its first woman bishop?

- A. 1994**
- B. 2004**
- C. 2014**
- D. 2024**

The first woman bishop in the Church of England was appointed in 2014, marking a significant milestone in the church's history and its progression towards gender equality in leadership roles. This development followed years of discussion and debate within the church about the role of women in the clergy. The decision to allow women to become bishops was formalized in legislation approved earlier that year, allowing Libby Lane to be consecrated as the Bishop of Stockport. This event symbolized a shift in the church's approach to gender and clerical authority, paving the way for further advancements in this area. The other years listed do not correspond to the first appointment of a woman bishop, as women were not ordained as bishops until the changes were enacted and realized in 2014.

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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!

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