

# GCSE PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



*Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence*



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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 scientific theory is most compatible with the cosmological argument?**

- A. Darwin's theory of evolution
- B. Big Bang theory
- C. Quantum mechanics
- D. Relativity theory

**2. How do Catholics view revelation?**

- A. As a collection of mysterious codes
- B. As a way in which God has made himself known to humans
- C. As a series of human inventions
- D. As purely metaphorical stories

**3. What does omniscient mean?**

- A. God has unlimited power
- B. God has complete knowledge
- C. God has unlimited goodness and love
- D. God is present everywhere

**4. What does omnibenevolent mean?**

- A. God has complete knowledge
- B. God has limited goodness and love
- C. God has unlimited ceremonies
- D. God has unlimited goodness and love

**5. What is one reason St. Augustine believes evil exists?**

- A. Suffering is misunderstood by humans
- B. As a punishment stemming from previous life actions
- C. As an absence of good due to free will
- D. To motivate humans to seek faith

- 6. Why does lack of evidence suggest that religious experiences may not prove the existence of God?**
- A. There is no historical documentation
  - B. The events are often long and detailed
  - C. There is no testable evidence to prove religious experiences
  - D. The testimony is universally accepted
- 7. What does the revelation show about God's actions through Jesus?**
- A. He sent Jesus out of love for humans
  - B. He sent Jesus to perform miracles
  - C. He sent Jesus to become wealthy
  - D. He sent Jesus to establish a new kingdom on Earth
- 8. What is one feature of marriage in society?**
- A. Marriage is only a religious ceremony.
  - B. Marriage is exclusively a legal contract.
  - C. Marriage remains both a legal and religious ceremony.
  - D. Marriage has no legal implications.
- 9. What is considered the most important source of revelation for Catholics?**
- A. The Bible
  - B. The Church
  - C. Nature
  - D. Prayer
- 10. What does the cosmological argument reveal about God's nature?**
- A. God is omnibenevolent
  - B. God is omnipotent
  - C. God is omniscient
  - D. God is transcendent



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which scientific theory is most compatible with the cosmological argument?

- A. Darwin's theory of evolution
- B. Big Bang theory**
- C. Quantum mechanics
- D. Relativity theory

*The Big Bang theory is most compatible with the cosmological argument because both address the origins of the universe. The cosmological argument posits that everything that exists has a cause, leading to the conclusion that there must be a first cause or an uncaused cause, often identified as God. The Big Bang theory supports the idea that the universe had a beginning approximately 13.8 billion years ago, which aligns with the notion that there is a definitive start to the universe that necessitates an explanation for its existence. In contrast, Darwin's theory of evolution focuses on biological processes and the development of species rather than the origin of the universe itself. Quantum mechanics deals with the behavior of particles at the subatomic level and does not directly address cosmological origins in the same way. Relativity theory, while influential in our understanding of space and time, also does not specifically provide a foundation for discussing the ultimate cause of the universe. Thus, the Big Bang theory effectively complements the cosmological argument by suggesting a point of origin from which the universe arose, supporting the idea of a first cause.*

## 2. How do Catholics view revelation?

- A. As a collection of mysterious codes
- B. As a way in which God has made himself known to humans**
- C. As a series of human inventions
- D. As purely metaphorical stories

*Catholics view revelation as a way in which God has made himself known to humans. This understanding emphasizes the belief that God actively communicates with humanity through various means, including scripture, tradition, and the person of Jesus Christ. For Catholics, revelation is not merely theoretical but is seen as a relational dynamic where God seeks to engage with individuals, revealing his nature, will, and purpose for humanity. This belief is foundational to Catholic theology, as it underscores the significance of divine communication and its role in guiding believers' faith and moral understanding. Other perspectives that suggest revelation as a collection of mysterious codes, a series of human inventions, or purely metaphorical stories do not align with traditional Catholic beliefs, which affirm the importance and truth of God's revelation in human history.*

## 3. What does omniscient mean?

- A. God has unlimited power
- B. God has complete knowledge**
- C. God has unlimited goodness and love
- D. God is present everywhere

*The term "omniscient" specifically refers to having complete or unlimited knowledge. In theological contexts, when we say that God is omniscient, we are emphasizing that God possesses perfect knowledge of all things past, present, and future, including the thoughts and intentions of individuals. This attribute suggests that nothing is hidden from God's awareness. While other attributes of God, such as being omnipotent (unlimited power) or omnipresent (present everywhere), are significant aspects of divine nature, they do not pertain to the meaning of omniscience. Therefore, the correct interpretation aligns well with the understanding that omniscience is solely focused on knowledge rather than power, goodness, or presence.*

#### 4. What does omnibenevolent mean?

- A. God has complete knowledge
- B. God has limited goodness and love
- C. God has unlimited ceremonies
- D. God has unlimited goodness and love**

*Omnibenevolent refers to the idea that God possesses unlimited goodness and love. This concept suggests that God's nature is perfectly good, embodying love and benevolence toward all of creation. In various theological contexts, omnibenevolence is seen as an essential attribute of God, portraying a being that is inherently good and merciful, having the best intentions for every individual. Understanding this term within the wider discussion of God's attributes is crucial. It contrasts with notions of limited goodness or love, which would imply that God is not perfectly good or that His love has restrictions. The other options, such as complete knowledge or ceremonial aspects, do not directly relate to the notion of omnibenevolence, as they focus on different attributes of God rather than His goodness and love.*

#### 5. What is one reason St. Augustine believes evil exists?

- A. Suffering is misunderstood by humans**
- B. As a punishment stemming from previous life actions
- C. As an absence of good due to free will
- D. To motivate humans to seek faith

*St. Augustine's view on the existence of evil is closely tied to his concept of good and evil, particularly the idea that evil is not a substance in itself but rather a lack or absence of good. This understanding positions evil as a privation, meaning that it arises when good is diminished or absent. Suffering, in this context, is a result of this absence and can be misunderstood by humans who may see it as a standalone experience rather than a lack of goodness. Augustine emphasizes that free will is a crucial element in understanding evil. Humans have the choice to pursue good or evil, and when they choose wrongly, it brings about suffering. His perspective highlights the importance of free will in human experience, suggesting that while suffering exists, it is ultimately tied to the choices people make rather than being inherently good or evil. The other options address different interpretations of the existence of evil and its purposes, but they do not directly align with Augustine's core thesis regarding the absence of good as the reason for evil.*

#### 6. Why does lack of evidence suggest that religious experiences may not prove the existence of God?

- A. There is no historical documentation**
- B. The events are often long and detailed
- C. There is no testable evidence to prove religious experiences
- D. The testimony is universally accepted

*The reasoning behind the assertion that a lack of evidence suggests religious experiences may not prove the existence of God is centered on the notion of testability and empirical verification. Specifically, without testable evidence to substantiate these experiences, one cannot draw definitive conclusions about their validity or the existence of God based solely on personal accounts or subjective experiences. In this context, while historical documentation may contribute to the understanding of certain events or experiences, it is the absence of universally accepted, empirical evidence that raises skepticism about the ability of religious experiences to demonstrate the existence of a deity. Religious experiences often rely on individual perceptions, which can vary greatly, thus challenging their status as solid proof of God's existence.*

## 7. What does the revelation show about God's actions through Jesus?

- A. He sent Jesus out of love for humans**
- B. He sent Jesus to perform miracles
- C. He sent Jesus to become wealthy
- D. He sent Jesus to establish a new kingdom on Earth

*The assertion that God sent Jesus out of love for humans reflects a central tenet in Christian theology. This concept emphasizes that God's choice to send Jesus is fundamentally rooted in his desire for a loving relationship with humanity. This idea supports the notion that Jesus' mission is seen not simply as a demonstration of power through miracles or a means to establish an earthly kingdom, but rather as an embodiment of divine love and compassion. Through Jesus, believers understand that God seeks to bridge the gap between humanity and the divine, offering forgiveness, salvation, and a model of love and service. This aligns closely with scriptural teachings that highlight God's love and grace, reinforcing the belief that Jesus' coming was a profound act of love for the salvation of humankind.*

## 8. What is one feature of marriage in society?

- A. Marriage is only a religious ceremony.**
- B. Marriage is exclusively a legal contract.
- C. Marriage remains both a legal and religious ceremony.
- D. Marriage has no legal implications.

*In society, marriage is understood as more than just a religious ceremony; it serves both legal and social functions. The correct answer highlights that marriage incorporates both legal and religious aspects, meaning it is recognized as a significant personal commitment that is formalized through both social traditions and legal frameworks. This dual feature allows marriage to provide couples not only with social recognition but also legal rights and responsibilities, such as inheritance rights, tax benefits, and spousal benefits. This comprehensive understanding of marriage reflects its importance in various cultural contexts, where it signifies a partnership built upon emotional and legal foundations. The other options do not capture this multifaceted nature of marriage. While some marriages may emphasize religious elements or legal contracts, limiting it to one aspect overlooks the complexity and varying significance marriage holds in different societies.*

## 9. What is considered the most important source of revelation for Catholics?

- A. The Bible**
- B. The Church
- C. Nature
- D. Prayer

*The Bible is considered the most important source of revelation for Catholics because it is believed to contain the inspired word of God. Catholics view the Scriptures as a foundational text through which God reveals His truth, teachings, and divine will to humanity. The Bible encompasses the history of salvation, the teachings of Jesus, and the writings of the apostles, which collectively guide the faith and moral decisions of believers. While the Church plays a vital role in interpreting the Bible and teaching its messages, it is the Scriptures themselves that remain the primary source of revelation. Nature and prayer also have significance in understanding God's presence and guidance, but they are not seen as direct sources of revelation in the same way that the Bible is. Therefore, the Bible occupies a central place in Catholic theology and practice as the ultimate authority on faith and moral guidance.*

## 10. What does the cosmological argument reveal about God's nature?

- A. God is omnibenevolent
- B. God is omnipotent**
- C. God is omniscient
- D. God is transcendent

*The cosmological argument primarily seeks to establish the existence of God based on the existence of the universe and the principle of causality, asserting that everything that exists has a cause. This line of reasoning leads to the conclusion that there must be an uncaused cause, which is identified as God. The nature of God revealed by the cosmological argument is that of omnipotence, meaning God is all-powerful. This is because, in order to be the uncaused cause of everything, God must possess the ability to create and sustain the universe without being dependent on any other source or force. The argument suggests that since everything within the universe is contingent and requires a cause, the existence of God as the necessary being implies immense power, as this being is responsible for the existence of all that is. While the other attributes, such as omnibenevolence (all-goodness), omniscience (all-knowing), and transcendence (beyond and independent from the material universe), could also be intellectual conclusions drawn about God in philosophical theology, the cosmological argument directly points to God's omnipotent nature as the fundamental aspect that allows for the existence of everything else.*

## 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](mailto: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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