



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Scholarship Examination 2016

Divinity

Tuesday, 26th April 2016
2.00 pm

Time allowed: 1 hour

*Answer all the questions in Section A and
one question from each of Sections B and C.*

All sections carry equal marks.

*Begin each section on a separate sheet of paper
with your name at the top.*

Section A

Read the extract below; answer **ALL** the questions that follow it.

Atheism is as natural as religion, study suggests

Atheism is as natural as religion, new research suggests, throwing doubt onto the notion humans are preprogrammed to believe in deities.

A new study by the University of Cambridge has discovered that, contrary to popular belief, vast swathes of the ancient world did not believe in Gods. Largely written out of the history books, many atheists in fact thrived in polytheistic societies - those that worshipped multiple deities - according to a new book.

The claims, made in *Battling the Gods* by professor of Greek Culture, Tim Whitmarsh, throw doubt onto the idea we are hardwired to believe in a higher power – referred to as ‘religious universalism’. He says, “The fact that this was happening thousands of years ago suggests that forms of disbelief can exist in all cultures, and probably always have.”

(Rebecca Flood *The Independent* 18 February 2016)

1. Describe the findings of this recent study. [10]
2. Explain why ‘disbelief can exist in all cultures’. [10]
3. ‘Human beings live better lives if they believe in God.’ Do you agree? [5]

[Total for section A: 25 marks]

Section B

Old & New Testament Set Texts

*Answer **ONE** question. Each question has two parts.*

1. a) Describe the story of the Fall. [10]
b) 'Men and women are not equal.' Do you agree? [15]

2. a) Describe the story of David and Bathsheba. [10]
b) 'By today's standards, David would be regarded as a bad ruler.' Do you agree? [15]

3. a) Describe Jesus' conversation with the rich young man. [10]
b) 'Human beings are good, not evil.' Do you agree? [15]

4. a) Describe the discovery of the empty tomb. [10]
b) 'Jesus' resurrection is an historical fact.' Do you agree? [15]

[Total for section B: 25 marks]

Section C

General

Choose **ONE** question. Think carefully about the arguments for and against the statement and how you structure your answer.

1. 'It is racist to argue against immigration.' Do you agree? [25]
2. 'Pacifists are cowards.' Do you agree? [25]
3. 'Sometimes eating people can be justified.' Do you agree? [25]
4. 'Religion is dying.' Do you agree? [25]

[Total for section C: 25 marks]

END OF PAPER