



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Scholarship Examination 2017

Divinity

Tuesday, 25th April 2017
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** of the questions that follow it.

Priests' college sings praises to gender-free God

An Oxford theological college has asked students to avoid calling God “He” and to replace “mankind” with “humankind”, in an attempt to counteract gender bias.

Wycliffe Hall, which trains Church of England clergy, has produced an “inclusive language policy” for staff and students. This recommends that “the one who” be used instead of “He” in references to God and advocates choosing hymns in which references to “son” can be changed to “child”.

The document explains: “The patriarchal masculine has become a form of alienation for many women and indeed many men.”

College students and staff must use a version of the Bible, Today’s New International Version that has gender-neutral language. For example: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” becomes “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”

(Sian Griffiths, The Sunday Times -22 January 2017)

1. Outline the changes Wycliffe Hall is recommending. [10]
2. Explain the reasons behind these changes. [10]
3. ‘God cannot be described by human language.’ 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) Outline the message of Isaiah. [10]
b) 'Prophets were the politicians of the ancient world.' Do you agree? [15]
2. a) Describe the giving of the Ten Commandments. [10]
b) 'Rules are inflexible and not suitable as an ethical guide.' Do you agree? [15]
3. a) Outline the story of Peter's confession. [10]
b) 'Peter's confession is the most important story in the gospels.' Do you agree? [15]
4. a) Describe how Jesus was prepared for crucifixion. [10]
b) 'Jesus was innocent of any crime.' Do you agree? [15]

[Total for section B: 25 marks]

TURN OVER

Section C

General

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

1. 'Good animals go to heaven, bad animals go to hell.' Do you agree? [25]

2. 'God is dead.' Do you agree? [25]

3. 'Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact.' Do you agree? [25]

4. 'The best way to help the poor is to fight climate change.' Do you agree? [25]

[Total for section C: 25 marks]

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