

Wretched Worldview

**Atheism:
The Christian Response**

Essay Test Answer Key

Essay Test Answer Key

These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline.

1. How does the Bible describe the human condition? Use Scripture to support your answer.
Man is not inherently good, he is born with a deceitful and desperately wicked heart; spiritually dead in his sin; separated from God; living in the domain of darkness; a slave to his sin; hostile towards God.

Scripture references can include:

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:10-18, 8:7-8

Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:18

Colossians 1:13, 21

Titus 1:15-16

2. What is the gospel of Jesus Christ? Be as clear as possible. Also include the biblical response to the gospel.
God created the world and declared it very good. His final creation, Adam and Eve, disobeyed Him, plunging the world into sin. Man, being sinful, could not save himself. God the Father, in His infinite mercy and love, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live the perfect life we cannot live and die the brutal death we deserve. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven where He sits right now at the right hand of God the Father. One day He will come again to judge the living and the dead. Those whose sins have been forgiven because they put their faith in Jesus Christ and trusted in His death on their behalf will spend eternity in heaven. Those whose sins have not been forgiven will spend eternity in hell bearing the punishment for their sin.

The student should provide plenty of biblical references to support his answer.

3. According to Romans 1:18-32, what does creation teach us about God? Why do people reject the existence of God? What is the result of this rejection? Give examples of how this is evident in our society.
According to verses 18-20, God has made some of His attributes and divine nature evident through His creation. Some people, however, have chosen to suppress this truth in unrighteousness (verse 18), and worship the creation (including themselves) rather than the Creator (verses 21-25). Because of this, God has given them over to their degrading passions and depraved minds which have resulted in all kinds of unrighteousness and wickedness as detailed in verses 26-32.

The student should have no problem coming up with numerous examples of this in our society!

4. Contrast the Christian worldview to the atheist worldview. Describe in as much detail as possible at least three major differences between the two, including the logical ramifications that result from the beliefs held within each worldview.

The student should give a detailed response. Possible answers (with supporting detail) include the origin of the universe, man's basic nature, the end of man, the purpose of life, the nature of good and evil.

Examples of the ramifications of each worldview may include:

The value of life - high value of life in a Christian worldview because it asserts man is made in God's image; low value in an atheist worldview because it asserts man has evolved from random chance.

Holding to a standard of right and wrong - in a Christian worldview, God has set forth an objective, eternal standard in the Bible. In an atheist worldview, the standard is based upon whatever man deems right or wrong at any given time and place therefore it is changing and subjective.

The end of man - in a Christian worldview, man recognizes he is under God's authority and will one day give an account of himself to God. Because God is the ultimate judge of all men, perfect justice will ultimately be served. Because there is no God in the atheist worldview, there is no higher authority than man. Thus man is free to do as he pleases. If he gets away with breaking the law, he will never be held to account for his actions. There is nothing beyond this life and there is no hope for ultimate justice.

5. Analyze this DVD by describing:

Five things you learned

Five things you disagreed with (and explain why); and

Five things you're going to use in your next discussion with an atheist or agnostic.

The student's answer should be thoughtful and comprehensive, demonstrating a working knowledge of what he learned from watching the DVD and answering the study guide questions.