

Evaluative essay-writing

The next page contains a structure for writing a response to a question that asks you to weigh up different sides of an argument.

The sheet mentions Christians and the Bible, but you can apply the model to any religious tradition – and to non-religious worldviews too.

This is not a model for exam writing – it is designed for you to get used to weighing up different points of view.

You could take some of the statements (or 'quotations') from an exam course you are studying for, or why not try one of these to get you thinking:

'Jesus was more than a teacher or healer – he was God on earth.'

'Following a religion is the best way to live.'

'The belief that God sacrificed Jesus for the sins of humanity shows that God is cruel, not loving.'

'Good deeds are necessary for salvation in any religion.'

'There is no god, and therefore no ultimate morality. We must decide what is right and wrong ourselves.'

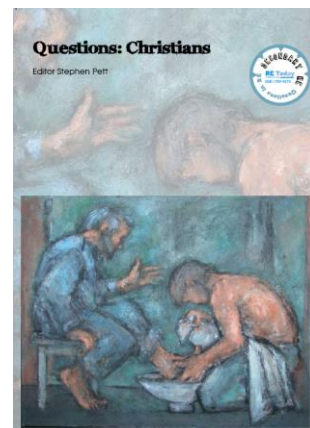
'You don't need to be religious to be good.'

This resource has been taken from

Questions in RE: Christians

For more resources like this, please visit

<https://shop.retoday.org.uk/category/.questions.se>
<https://shop.natre.org.uk/natre-membership/>



QUOTATION

Six words/concepts to use in the answer:

Key words to use in the discussion
– ask your teacher for ideas

This quotation means . . .

Explain the meaning as you see it.

Three questions I'd like to ask/answer about this quote . . .

Begin to notice the deeper meanings of the quote.

This quote is connected to Christianity because . . .

It might link to beliefs, or to the Bible, or to actions.

I think the main point about this quote is . . .

Say clearly what the key issue is.

Christian teaching also says . . .

Remember that Christian views are pretty varied. Connect another idea to the quote.

One Christian belief that connects to this quote is . . .

Beliefs about God? Humanity? Life and its meaning? Jesus?

Some people disagree with this idea, for example . . .

because . . .

Atheists? Muslims? Buddhists?

Some people disagree with this idea, for example . . .

because . . .

Quakers? Some other Christians? Agnostics?

The main argument in favour of my view is . . .

An argument is where two or more reasons are connected logically to draw a conclusion.

One strong argument against my point of view is . . .

But I disagree with this because . . .

Personal meaning: My own experience about this topic is . . .

Say what has happened to you and what it means.

My own view of this quotation is . . . because . . .

Always give more than one reason if you can.

Conclusions: the main points

Time to be decisive and balanced.

It's important to be balanced, so I'd also like to say . . .

The best answers show you understand views other than your own.

Checklist:

- Have you referred to the Bible as much as you can?
- Have you given your own interpretations carefully?
- Have you explained another viewpoint, and given reasons for it?
- Have you turned reasons into arguments using clear logic?