

QUESTION ONE

A. In THREE points, explain the importance of studying philosophy from a Christian perspective.

(6 Marks)

1. Deepening Understanding of Faith: Philosophy helps Christians explore and articulate the intellectual foundations of their beliefs. By engaging with philosophical concepts, Christians can better understand and defend their faith, making sense of complex theological issues such as the nature of God, the problem of evil, and the relationship between faith and reason.

2. Ethical and Moral Guidance: Philosophy provides tools for analyzing and understanding moral and ethical principles. From a Christian perspective, studying philosophy can help believers develop a robust moral framework rooted in Christian teachings, enabling them to navigate ethical dilemmas in a way that aligns with their faith.

3. Engagement with the World: Philosophy equips Christians to engage with diverse worldviews and ideas. By understanding different philosophical perspectives, Christians can more effectively communicate their faith to others, participate in meaningful dialogue, and address contemporary cultural and intellectual challenges from a well-informed and thoughtful standpoint.

B. Describe how the biblical understanding of a human being can influence how you lead people.

(6 Marks)

1. Recognizing Inherent Worth and Dignity: The Bible teaches that all humans are created in the image of God (Imago Dei), which implies that every person possesses inherent worth and dignity. As a leader, this understanding fosters respect and compassion for others, motivating leaders to treat each individual with fairness, kindness, and honor, regardless of their status or position.

2. Servant Leadership: The example of Jesus Christ, who led through service and humility, serves as a model for Christian leadership. This approach emphasizes putting the needs of others before one's own, guiding and empowering people rather than exerting control or dominance. A leader influenced by this biblical view seeks to uplift and support their team, recognizing leadership as a form of stewardship and responsibility to care for those they lead.

3. Holistic Care for Individuals: The biblical view sees humans as complex beings with physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational needs. This perspective encourages leaders to consider the well-being of the whole person, not just their productivity or professional performance. It promotes a leadership style that values personal growth, ethical integrity, and the development of character, fostering an environment where individuals can thrive in all aspects of their lives.

C. Differentiate between biblical wisdom and human wisdom.

(8 Marks)

1. Source:

- **Biblical Wisdom:** Originates from God and is rooted in the fear of the Lord, as stated in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." It is revealed through Scripture and is considered divinely inspired. Biblical wisdom is often associated with living in alignment with God's will and understanding the moral and spiritual truths that govern life.

- **Human Wisdom:** Arises from human reasoning, experience, and understanding. It is shaped by cultural, historical, and personal contexts and is often based on empirical knowledge, logic, and observation. Human wisdom relies on human intellect and the natural world to make sense of life and solve problems.

2. Purpose:

- **Biblical Wisdom:** Aims to guide individuals in living a righteous and God-centered life. It seeks to align human behavior with divine principles, promoting virtues such as humility, compassion, and integrity. The ultimate purpose of biblical wisdom is to lead people closer to God and to live in accordance with His purposes.

- **Human Wisdom:** Often focuses on practical solutions to everyday problems, personal success, or societal well-being. While it can be ethical and beneficial, its primary goal is often centered on human flourishing, self-improvement, or achieving worldly success. It is more concerned with the here and now rather than eternal or spiritual outcomes.

3. Guiding Principles:

- **Biblical Wisdom:** Is governed by principles that reflect God's nature and character, such as love, justice, mercy, and truth. It

encourages a life of faith, trust in God, and obedience to His commands, even when these principles contradict worldly wisdom or societal norms.

- **Human Wisdom:** Is typically guided by principles derived from human experience, logic, and cultural norms. It may prioritize pragmatism, self-interest, or relativism, depending on the context. Human wisdom often values what is seen as rational, logical, and effective within a given society or situation, which can sometimes conflict with biblical principles.

D. Expound on SIX biblical values that can inform your work ethic as a professional.

(8 Marks)

1. Integrity:

- Biblical Foundation: Proverbs 10:9 says, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out." Integrity involves being honest and morally upright in all aspects of work.

- Application: As a professional, integrity means consistently doing what is right, even when no one is watching. It involves honesty in communication, transparency in actions, and a commitment to ethical standards, ensuring that trust is built and maintained with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders.

2. Diligence:

- Biblical Foundation: Proverbs 12:24 states, "The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor."

Diligence is the quality of being conscientious, hardworking, and thorough in one's tasks.

- Application: In the workplace, diligence translates to being proactive, paying attention to detail, and striving for excellence in every task. It involves taking initiative, being disciplined, and showing persistence in achieving goals, thereby contributing to the success of the organization.

3. Humility:

- Biblical Foundation: Philippians 2:3 encourages, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." Humility involves recognizing one's limitations and valuing the contributions of others.

- Application: A humble professional acknowledges the strengths and skills of their colleagues, is open to feedback, and is willing to learn and grow. Humility fosters collaboration and teamwork, allowing for the creation of a positive and supportive work environment where everyone's contributions are valued.

4. Stewardship:

- Biblical Foundation: 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." Stewardship involves responsibly managing the resources, talents, and opportunities God has entrusted to you.

- Application: In a professional setting, stewardship means using resources wisely, being efficient with time, and making decisions that reflect responsibility and accountability. It also involves recognizing the broader impact of one's work and

striving to contribute positively to the community and the organization.

5. Justice and Fairness:

- Biblical Foundation: Micah 6:8 instructs, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Justice involves treating others with fairness and equity, ensuring that all people are given their due.

- Application: Practicing justice in the workplace involves making decisions that are fair and impartial, promoting equal opportunities, and standing against discrimination or unethical practices. A just professional ensures that their actions contribute to a work environment where everyone is treated with respect and fairness.

6. Servanthood:

- Biblical Foundation: Mark 10:45 teaches, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Servanthood is the willingness to serve others selflessly, putting their needs before your own.

- Application: In the professional realm, servanthood involves being a supportive and helpful colleague, mentor, or leader. It means being willing to go the extra mile for the benefit of others, fostering a culture of service within the organization, and contributing to the well-being and success of the team as a whole.

E. Discuss FOUR ways in which the human mind can be freed from the effects of the fall in Genesis 3.

(12 Marks)

1. Renewal through Scripture:

- Explanation: The Bible emphasizes the importance of renewing the mind through engagement with God's Word. Romans 12:2 states, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

- Application: Regular study, meditation, and application of Scripture help reorient the mind toward God's truth, countering the lies and distortions that resulted from the fall. This renewal allows for clearer thinking, better decision-making, and alignment with God's will.

2. The Holy Spirit's Transformation:

- Explanation: The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in transforming and renewing the mind. According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, believers are "being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" through the Spirit's work.

- Application: Yielding to the Holy Spirit's guidance allows the mind to be gradually sanctified. The Spirit helps believers discern right from wrong, empowers them to overcome sinful patterns of thought, and instills a mindset that reflects the character of Christ.

3. Prayer and Communion with God:

- Explanation: Prayer is a means of aligning one's thoughts with God's thoughts. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages believers to present their requests to God, resulting in "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding," guarding their hearts and minds.

- Application: Through consistent prayer and communion with God, the mind is gradually freed from anxiety, fear, and the negative effects of sin. This spiritual discipline fosters a mindset of peace, trust, and dependence on God, which counteracts the effects of the fall.

4. Engagement in Christian Community:

- Explanation: The Bible highlights the importance of community in spiritual growth. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together."

- Application: Being part of a supportive Christian community allows individuals to receive encouragement, accountability, and wisdom from others who are also seeking to live according to God's truth. This collective support helps to correct wrong thinking, provide counsel, and reinforce a godly mindset, which contributes to freeing the mind from the lingering effects of the fall.

QUESTION TWO

A. Summarize the redemption story of the Bible.

(8 Marks)

1. Creation: God creates the world and everything in it,

including humanity, made in His image. Everything is good, and humans enjoy perfect fellowship with God, each other, and creation (Genesis 1-2)

2. The Fall: Humanity disobeys God by eating the forbidden fruit, leading to sin entering the world. This act of rebellion breaks the relationship between God and humanity, bringing suffering, death, and separation from God (Genesis 3).

3. Promise and Covenant: Despite the fall, God begins His plan of redemption. He chooses Abraham and makes a covenant with him, promising to bless all nations through his descendants. This covenantal relationship continues through the Israelites, with God giving the Law to guide them and reveal His holy standards (Genesis 12, Exodus 19-20).

4. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer: In the fullness of time, God sends His Son, Jesus Christ, as the promised Savior. Jesus lives a sinless life, fulfills the Law, and dies on the cross to pay the penalty for humanity's sin. His resurrection conquers death and provides the way for reconciliation between God and humanity (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

5. The Church and the Mission: After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the Holy Spirit is given to believers, empowering them to spread the message of redemption. The Church, as the body of Christ, is called to live out and proclaim the Gospel, inviting others into a restored relationship with God (Acts, New Testament letters).

6. Restoration and New Creation: The story culminates in the return of Christ, who will judge the living and the dead, fully defeat sin and evil, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

In this final restoration, all things are made new, and humanity enjoys eternal life in perfect communion with God (Revelation 21-22).

B. Discuss how the following FOUR aspects in the New Testament distorted by sin are restored in Christ.

i. Image of God

ii. Relationship with God

iii. Corruption of the human heart

iv. Work

(12 Marks)

i. Image of God

- Distortion by Sin: The image of God in humanity, which reflects God's character, was marred by the fall. Sin corrupted human nature, leading to a loss of moral purity, holiness, and the ability to perfectly reflect God's character (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23).

- Restoration in Christ: Through Christ, the image of God is being restored in believers. Colossians 3:10 states that those who are in Christ "have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." Jesus, as the perfect image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), restores what was lost by transforming believers into His likeness, enabling them to once again reflect God's character in righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24).

ii. Relationship with God

- Distortion by Sin: Sin severed the intimate relationship humanity once had with God, leading to spiritual death, alienation, and the inability to fully know or be in fellowship with God (Genesis 3:8-10, Isaiah 59:2).
- Restoration in Christ: Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross reconciles humanity to God, restoring the broken relationship. Romans 5:10 explains that "while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." Through faith in Christ, believers are adopted into God's family (Galatians 4:5), and the barrier of sin is removed, allowing for a restored, intimate relationship with God, where they can call Him "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

iii. Corruption of the Human Heart

- Distortion by Sin: Sin corrupts the human heart, leading to evil thoughts, desires, and actions. Jeremiah 17:9 describes the heart as "deceitful above all things, and desperately sick," highlighting the deep moral and spiritual corruption caused by sin.
- Restoration in Christ: Through Christ, the human heart is renewed and purified. Ezekiel 36:26-27 prophesies the giving of a new heart and a new spirit, which is fulfilled in Christ. Believers are given a new heart through the work of the Holy Spirit, who regenerates and sanctifies them, enabling them to live according to God's will (Titus 3:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17). This inner transformation empowers believers to live with purity, love, and righteousness, reflecting the character of Christ.

iv. Work

- Distortion by Sin: After the fall, work became burdensome, frustrating, and marred by toil and futility (Genesis 3:17-19). Sin distorted the purpose and joy of work, turning it into a source of hardship and frustration.

- Restoration in Christ: In Christ, work is redeemed and given new purpose. Colossians 3:23 encourages believers to work "heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," emphasizing that work done in Christ is part of serving God's kingdom. Through Christ, work is restored to its original purpose as a meaningful and fulfilling activity that contributes to God's creation and reflects His glory. Believers are called to work with integrity, diligence, and joy, knowing that their labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

QUESTION SIX

A. Highlight FOUR limitations of pure reason in the quest to understand God and the universe. (8 Marks)

1. Inability to Fully Grasp the Infinite:

- Limitation: Human reason is finite, bound by time, space, and experience. However, God is infinite, transcendent, and beyond the full grasp of human understanding. Reason can lead to certain conclusions about God's existence or attributes, but it falls short in fully comprehending the infinite nature of God. The concept of infinity, eternity, and the nature of God's omnipotence or omniscience often surpasses the capacity of human reasoning.

- Example: The Trinity—God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is a complex theological doctrine that defies complete logical explanation. While reason can help in understanding aspects of this doctrine, it ultimately remains a mystery that surpasses human understanding.

2. Subjectivity and Bias:

- Limitation: Human reason is often influenced by personal biases, cultural backgrounds, and subjective experiences. These factors can skew reasoning processes, leading to conclusions that may be more reflective of individual or cultural perspectives than objective truth. This subjectivity limits the ability of reason alone to arrive at an impartial understanding of God and the universe.

- Example: Different philosophical systems and worldviews can lead to vastly different conclusions about the nature of reality or the existence of God. A materialist might reason that only the physical world exists, while a theist might reason that God is the ultimate reality, demonstrating how bias and worldview shape conclusions.

3. Inability to Comprehend Revelation:

- Limitation: Certain truths about God and the universe are believed to be revealed rather than discovered through reason alone. Revelation, as understood in religious contexts, involves truths that are disclosed by God and may not be accessible through human reason or empirical observation. Pure reason may struggle to fully comprehend or accept these revealed truths, as they often involve supernatural elements that lie beyond the scope of rational investigation.

- Example: The Incarnation, where Christians believe that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ, is a revealed truth that cannot be fully understood or proven through reason alone. It is accepted by faith based on divine revelation rather than solely through logical deduction.

4. Limitations in Addressing Moral and Existential Questions:

- Limitation: Pure reason alone may fall short in addressing the deeper moral, existential, and spiritual questions that arise in the quest to understand God and the universe. Questions of purpose, meaning, and morality often transcend purely rational explanations and require insights that come from spiritual, emotional, or relational dimensions of human experience.

- Example: The problem of evil—why a good and omnipotent God allows suffering—is a profound moral and existential question that has challenged philosophers and theologians for centuries. While reason can offer various theodicies or explanations, it often struggles to provide a fully satisfactory answer that addresses the emotional and spiritual dimensions of human suffering.

B. Using FOUR philosophical arguments for the existence of God, answer an atheist who believes God does not exist. (12 Marks)

1. The Cosmological Argument:

- Explanation: The cosmological argument is based on the principle of causality—that everything that begins to exist has a cause. The universe exists and had a beginning, so it must have

a cause. This cause, which is not bound by time, space, or matter, is argued to be God.

- Application: Ask the atheist to consider the origin of the universe. If the universe had a beginning, as supported by the Big Bang theory, what caused it to exist? Since the universe cannot cause itself, the cause must be something beyond the physical universe. This "First Cause" or "Uncaused Cause" is what many identify as God.

2. The Teleological Argument (Design Argument):

- Explanation: The teleological argument posits that the intricate order, complexity, and purposeful design observed in the universe point to the existence of an intelligent designer. The fine-tuning of the universe's constants and conditions for life are examples often cited in this argument.

- Application: Present the atheist with the complexity and order found in nature, from the precise conditions required for life on Earth to the intricate design of biological systems. The argument suggests that such complexity is unlikely to have arisen by chance and more plausibly points to an intelligent designer, which many identify as God.

3. The Moral Argument:

- Explanation: The moral argument asserts that if objective moral values and duties exist, then there must be a moral lawgiver. Without God, moral values would be subjective and relative, but most people recognize certain moral absolutes (e.g., murder is wrong).

- Application: Engage the atheist in a discussion about morality. Ask whether they believe in objective moral values

and, if so, where these values originate. The moral argument suggests that the existence of objective moral values is best explained by the existence of a transcendent moral lawgiver—God.

4. The Ontological Argument:

- Explanation: The ontological argument is a more abstract, philosophical argument that suggests the very concept of God implies His existence. It begins with the definition of God as the greatest conceivable being. If God exists only as an idea in the mind but not in reality, then a greater being could be conceived—one that exists both in the mind and in reality. Therefore, God must exist in reality.

- Application: Although more complex, this argument invites the atheist to consider the logical implications of the concept of God. If one can conceive of a greatest possible being, and existing in reality is greater than existing only in the mind, then this being must exist in reality. This argument challenges the atheist to think deeply about the concept of God and the nature of existence.

QUESTION THREE

A. Describe the problem of induction. (4 Marks)

The problem of induction is a philosophical issue concerning the justification of inductive reasoning—the process of drawing general conclusions from specific observations. It highlights the

challenge of validating the reliability of inductive inferences. Here's a detailed description:

Concept of Induction:

Inductive reasoning involves making generalizations based on observed patterns or repeated instances. For example, if every observed swan is white, one might conclude that all swans are white. Induction is foundational to scientific reasoning and everyday decision-making, where patterns and regularities are used to predict future occurrences or formulate theories.

The Problem:

The problem of induction is essentially about the justification for believing that future unobserved instances will follow the same patterns as past observed instances. The core issue is that inductive reasoning assumes that the future will resemble the past, but this assumption itself is not guaranteed by the observations.

1. Lack of Logical Guarantee:

- Explanation: Inductive arguments do not provide a logical guarantee of their conclusions. Even if every observed instance of something follows a pattern, there is no logical necessity that this pattern will hold in all future cases. For example, just because all observed swans have been white does not logically guarantee that all swans are white, as future swans might be of a different color.

2. Hume's Challenge:

- Explanation: The Scottish philosopher David Hume famously addressed this issue in the 18th century. Hume argued that the principle of induction—that the future will resemble the past—cannot itself be justified by reason. This is because any attempt to justify induction would rely on inductive reasoning itself, creating a circular argument. Therefore, the belief that past patterns will continue is based on habit or psychological expectation rather than rational certainty.

3. Problem of Uniformity:

- Explanation: The problem of induction also involves the assumption that the uniformity of nature holds—that the laws and patterns observed in the past will apply universally and consistently. This assumption is not self-evident and cannot be proven purely through inductive means. The challenge is that this uniformity cannot be established without assuming the very principle it aims to justify.

4. Practical Approach:

- Explanation: Despite the philosophical problem, induction is a practical tool that works effectively in science and daily life. Scientists rely on induction to develop theories and make predictions, even though they acknowledge that such inferences are not logically certain. The problem of induction highlights the philosophical limits of inductive reasoning but does not necessarily undermine its practical utility.

Conclusion:

The problem of induction raises important questions about the nature and justification of our reasoning processes. It emphasizes the difficulty of establishing a rational foundation

for inductive inferences and challenges the assumption that patterns observed in the past will necessarily continue in the future. While it underscores the limitations of inductive reasoning, it also highlights the importance of empirical evidence and the role of induction in human understanding and scientific progress.

B. Explain why skepticism and agnosticism are seen as threats to epistemology.

(4 Marks)

Skepticism and agnosticism are considered significant challenges to epistemology—the study of knowledge, its nature, and the limits of human understanding—because they question the very foundations and possibilities of acquiring knowledge. Here’s how each poses a threat:

1. Skepticism

Definition: Skepticism is the philosophical view that doubts or questions the possibility of certain or absolute knowledge. Skeptics often challenge the reliability of our senses, the validity of reasoning, or the certainty of knowledge claims.

Threats to Epistemology:

- **Undermining Certainty:** Skepticism challenges the certainty of knowledge by arguing that we can never be completely certain about what we know. This undermines the epistemological goal of establishing secure and reliable knowledge.
- **Relativism and Doubt:** If skepticism is taken seriously, it can lead to relativism, where all knowledge claims are seen as

equally valid or invalid, leading to a form of intellectual paralysis. This makes it difficult to establish objective standards for evaluating knowledge.

- **Impact on Scientific Inquiry:** Skepticism can also affect scientific inquiry by questioning the validity of empirical evidence and the methods used to acquire knowledge. This challenges the foundations of scientific methods, which rely on the assumption that observation and experimentation can lead to reliable knowledge.

2. Agnosticism

Definition: Agnosticism is the view that the existence of certain entities (often God or the divine) or the ultimate nature of reality is unknown or unknowable. Agnostics claim that human reason and evidence are insufficient to determine such matters definitively.

Threats to Epistemology:

- **Limits on Knowledge Claims:** Agnosticism raises doubts about the scope of human knowledge, particularly concerning metaphysical or transcendent issues. This can limit the domain of epistemology by suggesting that certain areas of inquiry are inherently beyond human understanding.

- **Epistemological Humility:** While epistemological humility can be a healthy approach, extreme agnosticism can lead to a form of intellectual resignation, where even well-supported knowledge claims are dismissed as unknowable. This can undermine efforts to build a coherent epistemological framework and to address significant philosophical and practical questions.

- Impact on Theoretical Foundations: Agnosticism about the existence of fundamental entities or principles (like God) can affect the foundations of various philosophical and theological systems. This may challenge the coherence and continuity of knowledge systems that depend on certain metaphysical assumptions.

Conclusion

Both skepticism and agnosticism pose challenges to epistemology by questioning the certainty, scope, and foundations of knowledge. Skepticism threatens the possibility of achieving reliable and objective knowledge, while agnosticism questions the reach of human understanding and the limits of epistemological inquiry. Addressing these challenges requires careful consideration of the nature of knowledge, the methods of acquiring it, and the philosophical assumptions underlying various claims to knowledge.

C. Naserian struggles to reconcile how the all-good, all-powerful, and all-knowing God exists, yet evil suffering exists. Defend God's existence in a world where evil suffering exists. (12 Marks)

The problem of evil, which questions how an all-good, all-powerful, and all-knowing God can coexist with the existence of evil and suffering, is a profound philosophical and theological issue. Defending God's existence in the context of such suffering involves addressing this apparent contradiction. Here are several approaches that can be used to offer a defense:

1. Free Will Defense

Explanation: The Free Will Defense argues that evil and suffering result from the free choices of human beings. An all-good and all-powerful God created humans with free will, which is essential for genuine love, moral responsibility, and personal growth. Free will allows humans to make meaningful choices, but it also means they can choose evil, leading to suffering.

Defense:

- **Moral Growth:** Free will enables humans to develop virtues such as courage, compassion, and forgiveness, which are often forged in the face of suffering and adversity. These virtues contribute to personal and moral development that would not be possible without the presence of challenges and choices.
- **Authenticity of Love:** Genuine love and moral goodness require the ability to choose freely. A world where love and goodness are real and authentic must also include the possibility of choosing otherwise, even if this means the potential for evil and suffering.

2. Soul-Making Theodicy

Explanation: The Soul-Making Theodicy, proposed by John Hick and others, suggests that suffering and evil serve as a means of soul-making or character development. According to this view, life's trials are necessary for spiritual and moral growth.

Defense:

- **Character Building:** Suffering and challenges can lead individuals to develop resilience, empathy, and a deeper

understanding of themselves and others. These experiences contribute to the development of character and spiritual maturity, which would be less likely to occur in a world without difficulties.

- **Greater Goods:** Certain virtues, such as bravery and perseverance, require the presence of suffering and adversity to be fully realized. These greater goods justify the existence of suffering as a component of a broader plan for human growth.

3. The Greater Good Argument

Explanation: The Greater Good Argument posits that the existence of evil and suffering can be reconciled with God's goodness and omnipotence if it leads to a greater overall good that would not be possible otherwise.

Defense:

- **Purposeful Suffering:** Some forms of suffering may lead to greater goods that are beyond human comprehension. For example, the existence of free will, the development of character, and the deepening of relationships can be seen as goods that justify the presence of evil in a world designed to achieve these outcomes.

- **Redemptive Suffering:** In some religious traditions, suffering is viewed as having redemptive value, contributing to a higher purpose or divine plan. The idea is that God can bring good out of evil and suffering, using it to fulfill a greater, often incomprehensible, purpose.

4. Mystery and Divine Wisdom

Explanation: This approach acknowledges that human beings may not be able to fully understand or comprehend God's reasons for allowing suffering and evil due to the limitations of human knowledge compared to divine wisdom.

Defense:

- **Epistemic Humility:** Recognizing that human beings have limited knowledge and perspective can lead to the acceptance that there may be reasons for suffering that are beyond human understanding. Just as a child might not understand the reasons behind a parent's decisions, humans might not grasp the full scope of divine purposes.

- **Trust in Divine Goodness:** Even if the reasons for suffering are not fully understood, trust in the fundamental goodness and wisdom of God can provide a framework for accepting that there may be reasons that humans are not privy to but that align with a greater good or divine plan.

Conclusion

These defenses aim to reconcile the existence of an all-good, all-powerful, and all-knowing God with the reality of evil and suffering in the world. They argue that suffering and evil can be integrated into a larger framework that includes free will, character development, greater goods, and divine wisdom, providing a basis for understanding how God's existence can be consistent with the presence of suffering.

QUESTION FOUR

A. Describe FOUR factors that led to the decline of the deistic worldview. (4 Marks)

The deistic worldview, which emerged prominently during the Enlightenment, posited that God created the universe and then refrained from intervening in its affairs, allowing it to operate according to natural laws. This perspective gradually declined due to several key factors:

1. Advances in Science

Explanation: Scientific advancements provided naturalistic explanations for phenomena that were previously attributed to divine intervention. The development of theories such as evolution, the theory of relativity, and quantum mechanics offered naturalistic accounts of the origins and workings of the universe, challenging the deistic view of a distant, non-intervening deity.

Impact:

- **Evolutionary Theory:** Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection offered a comprehensive explanation for the diversity of life without invoking a designer. This scientific development diminished the need for a deistic explanation of biological complexity.

- **Cosmology and Physics:** Discoveries in cosmology and physics provided explanations for the origins and structure of the universe, reducing the perceived need for a deistic creator who merely set the universe in motion.

2. Criticisms from Religious Thought

Explanation: Various religious and philosophical critiques challenged the deistic perspective, arguing that it failed to account for the richness of religious experience and the dynamic relationship between God and creation. Critics from within the Christian tradition and other faiths argued that deism's impersonal conception of God was inadequate.

Impact:

- **Theological Critiques:** Christian theologians and philosophers argued that a personal, intervening God was essential to the faith's understanding of redemption, divine providence, and moral order. This criticism undermined deism's appeal by suggesting that a non-intervening deity could not fulfill key theological functions.

- **Philosophical Challenges:** Philosophers such as Immanuel Kant critiqued the deistic notion of a distant God, arguing that moral and existential questions required a more engaged and relational understanding of the divine.

3. Rise of Romanticism and Emotionalism

Explanation: The Romantic movement emphasized emotion, intuition, and personal connection with the divine, in contrast to the rational and impersonal nature of deism. Romanticism celebrated individual experience and spirituality, often rejecting the deistic emphasis on reason alone.

Impact:

- **Personal Connection:** Romantic thinkers and writers emphasized a personal and emotional relationship with the divine, which contrasted sharply with deism's distant and detached view of God. This shift towards valuing personal

spiritual experience over rational abstraction contributed to the decline of deism.

- **Cultural Shifts:** Romanticism influenced cultural attitudes towards religion, favoring expressions of faith that were experiential and relational rather than purely rational.

4. Increased Interest in Mysticism and Revivalism

Explanation: The 19th and early 20th centuries saw a resurgence of interest in mysticism, spiritual revival movements, and charismatic experiences that emphasized a direct and personal encounter with the divine, contrary to the deistic view of God as a remote creator.

Impact:

- **Mystical Traditions:** Mysticism and revivalist movements highlighted the importance of personal, direct experiences with God, which were at odds with deism's belief in a non-intervening deity. These movements often experienced divine intervention and miracles, challenging the deistic position.

- **Revivalism:** Religious revivals emphasized the need for an active and present God who engages with individuals and communities, reinforcing the idea of a God who is involved in human affairs rather than distant and detached.

Conclusion

The decline of the deistic worldview was influenced by scientific advancements that provided naturalistic explanations, religious and philosophical critiques that challenged its impersonal conception of God, the rise of Romanticism and emotionalism that favored personal spirituality, and the increased interest in

mysticism and revivalism that emphasized a more engaged and dynamic understanding of the divine. These factors collectively contributed to the diminishing influence of deism in favor of more relational and experiential approaches to spirituality and religion.

B. Summarize what you think should be the relationship between faith and reason. (4 Marks)

The relationship between faith and reason is a nuanced and often debated topic. Ideally, faith and reason should be seen as complementary rather than mutually exclusive. Here's a summary of how they can interact constructively:

1. Complementarity

Explanation: Faith and reason can complement each other, each addressing different dimensions of human experience. Faith provides insights and commitments that go beyond empirical evidence, while reason offers tools for critical thinking and understanding.

Interaction:

- **Faith:** Often deals with spiritual truths, values, and beliefs that transcend empirical observation and rational analysis. It addresses existential questions, moral principles, and divine mysteries that may not be fully accessible through reason alone.
- **Reason:** Focuses on logical analysis, evidence-based inquiry, and systematic understanding. It helps in interpreting and

evaluating claims, including those related to faith, by applying critical thinking and empirical methods.

2. Integration

Explanation: Integrating faith and reason allows for a more holistic understanding of reality. When harmonized, they can provide a fuller picture of both the natural and spiritual dimensions of life.

Interaction:

- **Reason and Faith Integration:** Reason can be used to explore and articulate faith-based beliefs, providing coherence and intellectual support for those beliefs. Conversely, faith can guide the application of reason, offering a framework within which rational inquiry can be pursued meaningfully.
- **Mutual Enrichment:** Faith can inspire reason to explore deeper questions, while reason can challenge and refine faith to ensure that beliefs are intellectually robust and coherent.

3. Dialogue and Critique

Explanation: An ongoing dialogue between faith and reason allows for mutual critique and refinement. Both can benefit from engaging with each other, leading to a more nuanced and balanced perspective.

Interaction:

- **Critical Dialogue:** Faith-based claims should be open to rational scrutiny, and reason should be open to considering faith-based perspectives on matters beyond empirical science. This dialogue helps to ensure that faith is not blind and that

reason does not dismiss spiritual insights without consideration.

- **Refinement and Growth:** Engaging with challenges from both perspectives can lead to growth and refinement in understanding. For example, faith might be enriched by new insights gained through reason, while reason might be challenged and expanded by the insights provided by faith.

4. Limits and Boundaries

Explanation: Recognizing the limits of both faith and reason helps to avoid conflicts and misunderstandings. Each has its domain and limitations, and acknowledging these boundaries can lead to more respectful and productive interactions.

Interaction:

- **Limits of Reason:** Reason has limits in addressing purely metaphysical or spiritual questions that may not be fully accessible through empirical methods or logical analysis.

- **Limits of Faith:** Faith, while providing valuable insights, may not always align with empirical evidence or rational inquiry, and it may require reinterpretation in light of new discoveries or understanding.

Conclusion

Faith and reason, when viewed as complementary and integrative, can enrich and support each other. Faith offers spiritual and existential insights, while reason provides tools for critical evaluation and understanding. By engaging in respectful dialogue and acknowledging their respective limits, faith and reason can together provide a more comprehensive and

balanced approach to understanding reality.

C. Propose how you can use the biblical worldview to address challenges that professionals face in your discipline. (12 Marks)

Using a biblical worldview to address challenges in a professional discipline involves applying biblical principles and values to practical issues encountered in the workplace. Here's how a biblical perspective can guide and support professionals in various disciplines:

1. Ethical Decision-Making

Challenge: Professionals often face ethical dilemmas that require balancing personal values with professional responsibilities.

Biblical Approach:

- **Principle of Integrity:** The Bible emphasizes honesty and integrity (Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:25). Professionals can use these principles to guide their decisions, ensuring that their actions align with ethical standards and moral principles.
- **Seeking Wisdom:** Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages seeking wisdom from God and trusting in His guidance. Professionals can pray for wisdom and reflect on biblical teachings to navigate complex ethical situations and make sound decisions.

2. Handling Conflict and Building Relationships

Challenge: Conflicts and relationship issues often arise in the workplace, affecting teamwork and productivity.

Biblical Approach:

- **Principle of Reconciliation:** Matthew 18:15-17 provides guidance on resolving conflicts through direct communication and reconciliation. Professionals can apply these principles to address conflicts constructively and maintain healthy working relationships.

- **Love and Respect:** Ephesians 4:2 calls for humility, gentleness, and patience in dealing with others. Applying these attitudes can help in building positive relationships and fostering a supportive work environment.

3. Workplace Stress and Burnout

Challenge: Professionals frequently experience stress and burnout due to high demands and pressures in their roles.

Biblical Approach:

- **Principle of Rest:** The Bible emphasizes the importance of rest and renewal (Exodus 20:8-10; Matthew 11:28-30).

Professionals can benefit from incorporating regular rest and self-care into their routines, acknowledging the need for balance and renewal.

- **Trust in God:** Philippians 4:6-7 encourages believers to cast their anxieties on God and find peace in Him. Professionals can practice prayer and trust in God's provision to alleviate stress and find comfort during challenging times.

4. Purpose and Meaning in Work

Challenge: Finding purpose and meaning in one's work can be difficult, especially in roles that may seem disconnected from personal values or goals.

Biblical Approach:

- **Work as Service:** Colossians 3:23-24 teaches that work should be done as service to the Lord, not merely for human approval. Viewing work as a way to serve others and honor God can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

- **Stewardship and Excellence:** 1 Peter 4:10 highlights the importance of using one's gifts and abilities to serve others. Professionals can approach their work as a form of stewardship, striving for excellence and contributing positively to their field and community.

Conclusion

Integrating a biblical worldview into professional practices involves applying principles such as integrity, reconciliation, rest, and purpose. By aligning professional conduct with biblical values, individuals can address challenges effectively, maintain ethical standards, build positive relationships, manage stress, and find meaningful fulfillment in their work. This approach not only guides behavior but also enriches the professional experience by aligning it with a deeper sense of purpose and responsibility.

QUESTION FIVE

A. Justify the statement, "The wisdom of the world cannot lead people to God." (4 Marks)

The statement "The wisdom of the world cannot lead people to God" reflects a belief that human wisdom, derived from secular or worldly sources, is insufficient to attain a true understanding or relationship with the divine. This perspective is often rooted in the belief that divine knowledge and relationship require something beyond human reason and empirical knowledge. Here's a justification for this statement:

1. Limits of Human Reason

Explanation: Human wisdom is constrained by its reliance on empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and human experience. These methods are valuable but have limitations when it comes to comprehending the infinite and transcendent nature of God.

Justification:

- **Finite Understanding:** Human reason operates within the limits of finite understanding and cannot fully grasp the infinite nature of God. According to 1 Corinthians 1:20-21, worldly wisdom is inadequate for knowing God because it relies on human reasoning that is limited and fallible.

- **Inherent Limitations:** The wisdom of the world is based on observable phenomena and human experience, which cannot encompass the full scope of divine reality or provide ultimate answers to metaphysical questions. As stated in Isaiah 55:8-9, God's ways and thoughts are higher than human ways and thoughts.

2. Spiritual Revelation

Explanation: Many religious traditions, including Christianity, assert that true knowledge of God comes through divine revelation rather than human reasoning alone. This revelation is seen as a gift from God rather than a product of human effort.

Justification:

- **Divine Revelation:** In Christianity, knowledge of God is believed to come through revelation, such as the Scriptures and the person of Jesus Christ (John 14:6). This revelation provides insights into God's nature and purpose that go beyond what can be discovered through human wisdom alone.

- **Faith and Grace:** According to Ephesians 2:8-9, faith in God is a gift from God's grace, not something earned through human wisdom or works. This perspective highlights that a relationship with God is initiated and sustained by divine action rather than human effort.

3. Moral and Spiritual Blindness

Explanation: The wisdom of the world can lead to moral and spiritual blindness, focusing on temporal and material concerns rather than spiritual truths. This focus may obscure or detract from an understanding of God.

Justification:

- **Moral Relativism:** Worldly wisdom often promotes relativism and subjective moral standards that may conflict with absolute moral truths revealed by God. This can lead to a distorted understanding of moral and spiritual realities, as mentioned in

Romans 1:21-22, where human wisdom is described as leading to foolishness when it neglects the knowledge of God.

- **Spiritual Distraction:** Worldly wisdom can prioritize material success, power, and pleasure, potentially distracting individuals from seeking spiritual truth and a relationship with God.

Matthew 6:24 highlights the conflict between serving God and serving wealth, illustrating how worldly pursuits can hinder spiritual understanding.

4. The Role of the Holy Spirit

Explanation: In Christian theology, the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in guiding individuals to a true understanding of God and spiritual truth. The Spirit's role is to illuminate and reveal divine truths that human wisdom alone cannot attain.

Justification:

- **Spiritual Insight:** According to 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, the Holy Spirit reveals deep truths about God that are not accessible through human wisdom. The Spirit provides insight and understanding that transcend natural human capabilities, indicating that knowledge of God requires divine assistance.

- **Transformation:** The Holy Spirit also transforms individuals' hearts and minds, enabling them to perceive and respond to spiritual truths. This transformation goes beyond intellectual understanding and involves a deeper spiritual awakening.

Conclusion

The statement "The wisdom of the world cannot lead people to God" is justified by recognizing the limitations of human reason, the necessity of divine revelation, the potential for

moral and spiritual blindness, and the critical role of the Holy Spirit in understanding and relationship with God. This perspective underscores that while human wisdom is valuable, it is not sufficient on its own for attaining a true and comprehensive knowledge of the divine.

B. Describe FOUR branches of philosophy. (4 Marks)

Philosophy is a broad field that encompasses various branches, each focusing on different aspects of human thought and experience. Here are four key branches of philosophy:

1. Metaphysics

Definition: Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy concerned with the nature of reality and existence. It explores fundamental questions about what exists, the nature of objects, their properties, and the relationships between them.

Key Areas:

- **Ontology:** The study of being and existence. It addresses questions about what entities exist and how they can be categorized.
- **Identity and Change:** Examines how entities maintain their identity over time and how they can change.
- **Space and Time:** Investigates the nature of space and time, and their role in the structure of reality.

Example Questions:

- What is the nature of existence?
- What is the relationship between mind and body?

- Do abstract entities (like numbers) exist independently of human thought?

2. Epistemology

Definition: Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that studies knowledge, belief, and justification. It focuses on the nature, scope, and limits of human knowledge.

Key Areas:

- **Sources of Knowledge:** Examines where knowledge comes from, such as perception, reason, memory, and testimony.
- **Justification:** Explores how beliefs can be justified or rationally supported.
- **Skepticism:** Investigates doubts about the possibility of knowledge and the challenges to certainty.

Example Questions:

- What constitutes knowledge as opposed to mere belief?
- How can we know if our beliefs are justified?
- What are the limits of human knowledge?

3. Ethics

Definition: Ethics is the branch of philosophy that deals with questions of morality and the principles that govern human conduct. It explores what is right and wrong, good and bad, and the nature of moral values.

Key Areas:

- **Normative Ethics:** Studies ethical theories and principles that guide moral behavior, such as utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics.
- **Applied Ethics:** Applies ethical principles to specific issues or fields, such as bioethics, environmental ethics, and business ethics.
- **Meta-Ethics:** Analyzes the nature and meaning of ethical terms and judgments, exploring questions about the nature of moral values.

Example Questions:

- What is the right thing to do in a given situation?
- Are moral values objective or subjective?
- How should ethical principles be applied to contemporary issues?

4. Logic

Definition: Logic is the branch of philosophy that studies the principles of valid reasoning and argumentation. It focuses on the structure of arguments and the rules that determine whether conclusions follow logically from premises.

Key Areas:

- **Formal Logic:** Examines systems of logic involving symbolic representations, such as propositional and predicate logic.
- **Informal Logic:** Studies everyday reasoning and argumentation, including fallacies and the principles of effective argumentation.

- **Philosophical Logic:** Explores advanced topics in logic, such as modal logic, which deals with necessity and possibility.

Example Questions:

- What constitutes a valid argument?
- How can logical fallacies undermine reasoning?
- How do different systems of logic handle various types of propositions?

C. Critique the following theories of ethics in philosophy:

i. Deontology

ii. Utilitarianism

iii. Emotivism

iv. Virtue ethics

(12 Marks)

Here's a critique of the four major ethical theories in philosophy: deontology, utilitarianism, emotivism, and virtue ethics. Each theory offers a distinct approach to ethics, and each has its strengths and weaknesses.

i. Deontology

Definition: Deontology is an ethical theory that emphasizes duties and rules. It argues that the morality of an action is determined by whether it adheres to a set of principles or rules, regardless of the consequences.

Strengths:

- **Principled Approach:** Deontology provides a clear set of rules or principles that guide moral behavior. It emphasizes respect for individuals and their rights, leading to a strong commitment to justice and fairness.

- **Consistency:** By focusing on adherence to moral rules, deontology aims for consistency in ethical decision-making, avoiding the subjective nature of consequences.

Weaknesses:

- **Rigidity:** Deontology can be criticized for being too rigid and not taking into account the complexities of real-life situations. Strict adherence to rules may lead to morally questionable outcomes in certain circumstances.

- **Conflict of Duties:** Deontological theories sometimes struggle with conflicts between duties. For instance, if two moral duties come into conflict, deontology may not provide a clear resolution.

ii. Utilitarianism

Definition: Utilitarianism is an ethical theory that evaluates actions based on their consequences, aiming to maximize overall happiness or well-being. The most well-known form is "act utilitarianism," which assesses each action individually, while "rule utilitarianism" assesses the utility of following general rules.

Strengths:

- **Practical and Flexible:** Utilitarianism offers a practical framework for decision-making, as it focuses on outcomes and aims to maximize overall well-being. This approach can

accommodate a wide range of situations and adapt to changing circumstances.

- **Focus on Welfare:** By emphasizing the greatest good for the greatest number, utilitarianism aims to promote the overall welfare and consider the impact of actions on all affected parties.

Weaknesses:

- **Potential for Injustice:** Utilitarianism can justify actions that harm individuals if those actions lead to a greater overall benefit. This can result in sacrificing individual rights or justice for the sake of collective happiness.

- **Difficulty in Measurement:** Calculating and comparing happiness or well-being can be challenging and subjective. The theory assumes that all forms of happiness or well-being are comparable, which may not reflect individual differences.

iii. Emotivism

Definition: Emotivism is a meta-ethical theory that suggests moral statements do not express objective truths but rather express emotional attitudes or preferences. According to emotivism, ethical judgments are essentially expressions of feelings rather than factual claims.

Strengths:

- **Reflects Moral Diversity:** Emotivism acknowledges the diversity of moral opinions and values, recognizing that ethical judgments are often rooted in personal feelings and cultural contexts.

- **Encourages Tolerance:** By understanding moral judgments as expressions of emotions, emotivism can promote tolerance of differing moral perspectives, as it emphasizes that moral disagreements are based on personal attitudes.

Weaknesses:

- **Relativism:** Emotivism can lead to moral relativism, where all moral claims are seen as equally valid expressions of personal feelings. This can undermine the possibility of resolving moral disagreements or establishing common ethical standards.

- **Lack of Objective Guidance:** Since emotivism denies objective moral truths, it may struggle to provide a framework for making ethical decisions that go beyond personal or cultural preferences.

iv. Virtue Ethics

Definition: Virtue ethics focuses on the character and virtues of the moral agent rather than on the rules or consequences of actions. It emphasizes developing good character traits (virtues) such as courage, honesty, and compassion, and living a flourishing life.

Strengths:

- **Focus on Character:** Virtue ethics prioritizes the development of moral character and virtues, encouraging individuals to cultivate good habits and moral integrity.

- **Holistic Approach:** It offers a holistic view of morality that considers the individual's overall well-being and personal growth, rather than just isolated actions or rules.

Weaknesses:

- **Lack of Clear Guidelines:** Virtue ethics may be criticized for lacking clear, actionable guidelines for decision-making. It provides a general framework for living a virtuous life but may not offer specific answers to complex ethical dilemmas.
- **Cultural Variability:** Different cultures may have varying conceptions of what constitutes a virtue, which can lead to disagreements about which traits are virtuous and how they should be prioritized.

Conclusion

Each ethical theory offers valuable insights into moral philosophy but also faces notable criticisms. Deontology emphasizes adherence to moral rules but can be rigid. Utilitarianism focuses on maximizing overall well-being but may overlook individual rights. Emotivism highlights the role of personal attitudes in moral judgments but may lead to relativism. Virtue ethics centers on character development but can lack concrete decision-making guidelines. Understanding these theories and their critiques provides a richer perspective on ethical reasoning and moral practice.
