

Competitive Scholarship Day Exam Examples Religious Studies

The exam will be an essay response to film clips. At the beginning of the exam time, the student will watch 1-3 clips with religious themes. Scripts from the movie scenes and exam questions will be distributed. The exam will consist of a number of questions and topics related to the clips, and the student will need to formulate a position and respond to the given questions/topics. Supporting evidence for the position should come from the films and the student's experiences.

In this essay, we are looking at your depth of response and your ability and willingness to engage in a diverse range of religious questions and traditions. We are also assessing your ability to engage the films, work with them as primary texts and effectively communicate your thoughts. Formal coursework in religious studies is not required for this competition, though you should give evidence of an interest in and openness to the study of religion in all of its forms, ancient and modern.

Time Allowed: 2 hours

Notes will not be permitted in the exam.

Example 1:

The "Red pill, Blue pill" clip in *The Matrix* (1999) raises larger questions about the value of knowledge of the truth and the risks in attaining it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9vGMMPM5Lg>

What is the value of knowledge of the truth, and what are the risks in attaining it? Where does religion fall within the acquisition of truth, and how does the concept of "god" impact the relationship between truth and religion?

Example 2:

View these religion clips from *Life of Pi* (2012).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fya6Ig9E80s>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58t8lAw5lEY>

Answer

Either:

Consider how religion and reason might be opposed or complement one another, either in the film or in experiences you've had. Are they mutually exclusive? What is at stake with either?

