

2016 CJC Prelim Paper 2 Answer Scheme

FROM PASSAGE A

1. What is the author implying by the use of the phrase “a strange aberration” (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
A comprehensive survey revealed that only about 14 percent of English speaking professional philosophers are theists. As for what little religious belief remains among their colleagues, most professional philosophers regard it as a strange aberration among otherwise intelligent people. (lines 1-4)	<p>The author is implying that amongst academics/ professional philosophers,</p> <p>a) it is a deviation/unexpected/ an anomaly/odd/ queer/ an exception/unconventional/uncommon/seldom found (1m) BOD: abnormal/peculiar Don't accept: Weird <i>alone</i> (colloquial expression) and weird occurrence/phenomenon/bizarre + uncanny (wrong connotation-attitude word)/different</p> <p>b) That logical/ rational/intellectual smart/clever/learned/educated/enlightened thinkers would believe in religion/have a faith. (1m) Unacceptable lift: intelligent Acceptable lift: people</p> <p>[Key idea: definition of aberration must be made explicit] Deviating from the ordinary</p>

2. What reasons are offered by the writer for belief in religious claims among the intellectual community in paragraph 2? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (3m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
<p>a) First, smart persons are good at defending ideas that they originally believed for non-smart reasons. They want to believe something, say for emotional reasons,</p> <p>b) and they then become adept at defending those beliefs (lines 7-8)</p> <p>c) Many don't believe religious claims but think them useful. (lines 9-10)</p> <p>d) They fear that in their absence (<i>of religious claims</i>) others will lose a basis for hope,</p> <p>e) morality</p> <p>f) or meaning. (lines 10-11)</p> <p>g) These educated believers may believe that ordinary folks can't handle the truth. They may feel it heartless to tell parents of a dying child that their little one doesn't go to a better place.</p>	<p>a) The academics/ intelligentsia's beliefs are based on feelings/sentiments/ illogical/ irrational explanations/bases/ rationales/ unwise/uneducated Unacceptable lift: emotional, stupid</p> <p>b) and they are apt at/ have a gift are good at supporting/ coming up with reasons/ arguments/ claims to support the value of religion which they initially believed due to emotions (acceptable lift: belief) BOD: protecting/ guarding/ stand by Unacceptable: excuses</p> <p>c) Despite not having any faith in religious ideology, they find religion to be advantageous/helpful/handy/beneficial/practical/effective in providing/functional/ has its utility in society Not accepted: applicable, value, worth, convenient</p> <p>d) They are afraid/worried that without religion, society will be devoid of optimism/ something to look forward to,</p> <p>e) ethical direction/ principles to guide them,</p> <p>f) and purpose. DNA: value OR (d-f) Religion is a means for people to deal with issues of life in a psychological fashion/ mental stress (BOD) [Inferred - 1m]</p> <p>(g) Inferred: unable to cope with reality/ provide solace and/or comfort Not accepted: show humanistic values in caring for others/ facts/ facts of life 1 - 2 points: 1m 3 points: 2m 4 and above: 3m</p>

3. Explain what the author means by “burden of proof” (line 24)? (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
And we should remember that the burden of proof is not on the disbeliever to demonstrate there are no gods, but on believers to demonstrate that there are. (lines 23-25)	<p>a) The author means that the obligation/duty/responsibility/onus/duty/need to prove / weight and/or pressure/ up to (the believers)/ should/ falls on/ lies in the hands of DNA: job</p> <p>b) the believers/devotees and not the unbeliever/skeptics (1m) (Agent must be specified)</p> <p>c) to offer/provide/give/support/show (reasoned) evidence/justification/substantiation (to) the claim/belief that there is a God (1m)</p> <p>Note: Burden of proof lies on the believer, not the unbeliever. If student presents the converse, ie the obligation to provide evidence does NOT lie with the unbeliever = (0m)</p> <p>2 marks or nothing. (a)+(b)+(c) required to have 2 marks.</p>

4. Explain what the author means by ‘we shouldn’t conclude that their beliefs are true because they are fervently held’ (lines 33-34). **Use your own words as far as possible.** (1m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
We shouldn’t conclude that their beliefs are true because they are fervently held .	<p>The author intends to convey that</p> <p>(a) a passionate / strong/ insistent/ conviction in faith/ a passion for/ a strong belief / idea/ in one’s faith alone / staunch believer</p> <p>(b) is not enough to decide/determine/justify/support/assert their belief is correct/accurate that God exists..</p> <p>Acceptable lift: belief</p> <p>(a)+(b) required to have 1 mark.</p>

5. Explain what the author is suggesting when he compares religion to whisky help(ing) a drunk’ (line 39). (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
Religion may help us in the way that whisky helps a drunk, but we don’t want to go through life drunk (line 39-40)	<p>[Literal]</p> <p>(a) To be drunk is to be affected temporarily with diminished physical and mental control by means of alcoholic liquor, or to be stupefied or excited by liquor/whisky makes the drunk more intoxicated/escape from reality (1m)</p> <p><i>Needs to explain “drunk”.</i></p> <p>Don’t Accept: Hallucinate, groggy</p> <p>Accept: Just as a drunk is reliant on whisky for solace and comfort/</p> <p>NB: The aspect/experience of being “drunk” needs to be conveyed.</p> <p>(b) [Inferred/Intended Meaning] - 1m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The author is suggesting that believers are deluded and rely on their faith to numb themselves/to give them a false sense of happiness and hope so that they can get through the challenges of life - The author is suggesting that religion may act as a temporary escape/respite from our realities but we should not do so because this will cause us to miss out on our

	<p>real lives/lose our focus/clarity on our lives/ allowing users a transient escape from reality.</p> <p>DNA: Religion makes matters worse (w/o any clarification → too vague.)</p> <p>NB: Focus is on the context of “going through life” conveyed in a <u>negative</u> sense.</p> <p>(a) and (b) are marked separately.</p> <p>NB: If the same phrase is used to describe (a) and (b) without any attempt to paraphrase for (b), only award for (a). E.g. “Just as how whisky helps the drunk create an illusional world, religion helps believers create an ideological illusion of the world.” (X)</p> <p>Model answer: Whisky helps a drunk to avoid facing reality by offering a temporary escape. Like whisky helps a drunk, religious belief does not resolve our problems at hand but aggravates them by allowing us to live a life of false perceptions.</p>
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FROM PASSAGE B

6. According to the author in paragraph 1, why has Man not been able to explain God’s existence? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (1m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
Every argument he can produce to support His existence is well-balanced by a sensible refutation .	<p>As every attempt to verify/prove/justify/substantiate God’s presence/existence has been adequately/appropriately/sufficiently/logically debunked/countered/disproof by man’s logical/reasonable/valid/legitimate explanation.</p> <p>BOD: credible source</p> <p>Acceptable lift: “every”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>There has not been a singular and universal answer that can explain the existence of God, and this has been an enduring question throughout human civilisation.</p>

7. Explain the author's use of parenthesis in paragraph 2. (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
<p>It may not reveal to us the ultimate truth...it should help us to build our religions or agnostic or even atheistic (it does not matter what!) convictions and foundations which are intellectually mature and sound. (lines 6-9)</p> <p>*the responses must address both the parenthesis and the exclamation mark*</p>	<p>[Function of Parenthesis]</p> <p>(a) To provide an expression/interjection/additional point</p> <p>OR emphasise the author’s opinion/ posit the author’s argument/perspective on/his views (1m)</p> <p>Note: the exclamation mark mimics prosody which functions to stress the author’s point</p> <p>DNA: to show</p> <p>[Context]</p> <p>(b) that regardless of one’s belief/faith/conviction,</p> <p>(c) questioning/ seeking answers to the existence of God or whatever belief we subscribe to, will help us develop / grow</p> <p>To get 1 mark, students must get (b) + (c)</p>

8. Using material from paragraphs 1 to 5 only, summarise the reasons why religion is viewed as part and parcel of man's existence. Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (8m)

Religion has always been part and parcel of man's existence as ...

Lifted	No.	Suggested Answer
Para 1 "Ever since Man in his early days on earth first felt the impact of uncontrollable forces around him, he has been pondering over the question of the existence of God ."	A	(i) Since the beginning / from the moment Man appeared on earth/ ever since the inception of Man's civilization , (ii) religion has been important /man has been trying to comprehend the idea of God
Para 2 It may not reveal to us the ultimate truth (inferred)	B	[Inferred] even if the questions do not disclose/we never know the final/actual reality of why/ whether God exists
it can enable us to find out much about ourselves	C	Discover our sense of self/ our identities/ qualities / who we are / innate in us/ self-discovery/ self-actualization Accepted lift: ourselves
Our needs	D	What we lack/require/What is essential in life/what is important/vital to us/ necessities/ basic requirements DNA: Demands, desires
And nature	E	What it means to be human /What we are like/ Our innate/ inherent qualities/characteristics/ personalities DNA: inherent values
It should help us build our religions or agnostic or even atheistic (it does not matter what!) convictions and foundations	F	It assists us in strengthening/growing/developing/ solidifying/craft/construct/solidify/forms/structure our beliefs/faith and principles, whatever they may be.
which are intellectually mature and sound .	G	that are intelligent/smart/ logically/ rational/ reasonably deep and sensible/valid
Para 3 The upholding of religious beliefs in an age of science and technology is not at all futile and meaningless	H	In the age of science and technology/ despite advances made in S&T, religion is still perceived as useful/beneficial and relevant/important to us. (Must have context of S&T; S&T is acceptable lift)
Most psychologists, if not all, assure us of our innate need for religion	I	Religion is an inherent/inborn/predisposed natural requirement/necessity for man/ man is programmed/ wired to have religious belief. Accept: 'desires' as a paraphrase for 'need' in context; DNA: 'demand' on its own
It is safe to say that everyone of them fell ill because he had lost what the living religions of every age have given to their followers and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook."	J	[Inferred] Faith/ a religious dimension/ a religious perspective can ward off psychological/ mental problems (Don't Accept: No specific psychological problems like insanity.) Accept: one tends to fall mentally ill without religion
Para 4 To be sure, religions have, throughout the course of human civilisations, helped man to realise that there is more to life than the satisfaction of his physical desires .	K	In the course of man's history, religion has helped man rise above material needs/ wants/ materialism/ pleasures of the flesh/ tangible longings/wants DNA: sexual wants/ bodily needs
They have often been the inspiration for him to strive after his image of the ideal	L	Religion has enthused/motivated/ roused Man with the aspiration to strive for the ultimate perfection/ perfect truth/ perfection in spiritual enlightenment DNA: model/dreams/goals
thus giving expression to his noble aspirations	M	Which is manifested in his more lofty/ illustrious/admirable/praiseworthy/honourable/desires/ ambitions/ inspirations/ dimensions of humanity

		Do not accept: 'great' as a paraphrase for 'noble' ; righteous
in the forms of moral laws ,	N	as expressed in his creation of ethical principles/rules/codes/regulation (to guide society)
religious art and architecture Accepted lift: religious	O	religious paintings / sacred art/ artistic realm / design/ churches/ buildings/places of worship
Hymns and	P	gospel music/praise and worship songs/religious/holy/sacred songs
myths	Q	legends/folklore/religious stories
Para 5 And the existence of religion... has not been geographically limited . Until the emergence of communism, no human group had been without religion .	R	(Inferred) Religion is a universal aspect of human civilisation/ cuts across space/cultures/countries/affects people in all corners of the world/everywhere/there has never been any people devoid of faith. Accept: not confined to space/ is worldwide (BOD)
the existence of religions with their all-embracing influence on the conduct of man's life	S	Religion pervades/ has a total/ all-encompassing effect/ impact on the behaviour/lifestyle of Man
But communism with its opiate doctrines and charismatic leaders can be regarded as a secular religion	T	Communism is a worldly form of faith/ godless religion * Sense of 'secular' must be captured→ "still considered a form of religion"
A religion is in essence, a man's response and devotion	U	Religion is our reaction/ dedication/commitment DNA: Loyalty, conviction Mark for either a paraphrase of 'response' or 'devotion'
to what he is deeply convinced to be the right relationship between himself and his world	V	to what we <u>strongly</u> believe to be the correct/ideal relationship between humanity and the world/Earth,
the communists, in being totally persuaded to uphold what they believe to be giving meaning to their existence , are much akin to devotees of traditional religions	W	making life purposeful/significant.

23 points in total

Grading System

Points	1 pt	2-3 pts	4-5 pts	6-7 pts	8-9 pts	10-11 pts	12-13 pts	14+ pts
Marks	1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m

9. Explain the author's use of two rhetorical questions in lines 29-31. (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
The rise of scientific literacy has caused us to ask some questions: should we consider God as existing because He is <u>useful</u> or should we consider Him as useful because He exists? Is the presence of God <u>necessary</u> for existence to be <u>meaningful</u> ?	<p><u>Function of the use of 2 rhetorical questions</u></p> <p>(a) To highlight/emphasise/reinforce/assert DNA: advocate OR (b) the need to reflect on / think about / think more / provoke / evoke thinking <u>Context</u> (c) the need/importance/value/significance/ purpose/ relevance of God.</p> <p>(a) OR (b): 1 mark (c): 1 mark DNA: useful (lift)</p>

10. What does the word 'undeniably' (line 33) suggest about the author's attitude towards religion? (2m)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
After all, religion is undeniably part and parcel of man's existence (lines 34-35)	<u>[Definition of Undeniably]</u> (a) Cannot be refuted/disputed/ definitely (1m) DNA: unavoidable/ inevitable/ inseparable <u>[Attitude/Context]</u> (b) Strongly in favour of, strongly supportive of religion's importance to man/strong approval towards religion. (1m) Not Accepted: optimistic, complete agreement Note: The intensity of both words must be captured

The Application Question

11. Author A argues that belief without reason is unjustifiable while Author B is of the view that religion remains an important part of Man's existence. How important is religion for you and your society, and how far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages? [10m]

*Responses should be annotated with **R** where a text reference is made, **Ex** where explanation of the passage, candidate's views or example are given and **Ev** where analysis and evaluation are provided.*

Requirements

Candidates should:

1. Explain how far the author's views on religion are or are not applicable to them
2. Explain how far issues related to religion are or are not applicable to their society
3. Support their views with reasoned argument
4. Show some understanding of the ideas in the passages
5. Explain ideas from both passages

Explanation and Text Reference

Candidates should show understanding of and make reference to *some* of the following issues raised in the Passage [See Table below]

Evaluation

Candidates should:

1. Question or show reasons for seeing some of the authors' views as applicable or not applicable
2. Give examples from their own and their society's experience in support of their views
3. *May* put forward original ideas on the importance of religion.
4. Provide insights on Singaporeans' attitudes and practices
5. Develop objective evaluation of the ideas in the passage

Coherence

Candidates should:

1. Adopt a consistent viewpoint
2. Argue logically
3. Organise their answers into cohesive, themed paragraphs
4. Link paragraphs to show continuity and direction of argument
5. Maintain relevance to the task in everything they write
6. End with a summative or concluding paragraph or sentence

R1: [Scope] [R1] How important is religion for you and your society

R2: How far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages

R3: [EV]

R3: [Context]

Textual Reference		EX + EVALUATION (Logic + Context)	
From Passage A	From Passage B	R2+ R3: More in agreement with / Less with	R1+ R3: More in agreement with / Less with
<p>Para 1 Should you believe in God? Not according to most academic philosophers.</p> <p>Para 3 Advancing education is detrimental to religious belief. This suggests another part of the explanation of religious belief - scientific illiteracy</p>	<p>Para 2 The questions on the existence of God may not reveal to us the ultimate truth,... what is most important, it should help us to build our religions or agnostic or even atheistic (it does not matter what!) convictions and foundations which are intellectually mature and sound.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Para 3 Most psychologists assure us of our innate psychological need for a religion.</p> <p>It enables us to find out much more of ourselves, our needs and nature</p>	<p>[R2]: Agree more with A</p> <p>[EX] There is no place for religion as it makes a person wishy washy and it seems silly for a thinking man in the age of science and technology to believe in such vague assertions.</p> <p>[R3] With increasing education levels and influence in liberal ideologies in Singapore, we are also seeing an increase in the number of youths who declare that they have no religious affiliation. (The Department of Statistics' General Household Survey 2015 report:those who said that they had no religious affiliation constituted 18.5 per cent of the resident population last year - up from 17 per cent in 2010.) http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/youth-in-singapore-shunning-religion</p> <p>E.g. Having prayed to Buddha as a child and after spending her early teens worshipping Jesus, copywriter Hannah Jasmine Kok, 23, no longer believes in the divine. She said she left the Buddhist faith at 13 as she could not relate to rituals she performed with her parents, and dropped out of church after three years because she "didn't think it was going anywhere". Now an atheist, she said: "I think it is highly improbable that any god exists. There is no evidence for it."</p> <p>[EV] Academics and religious leaders The Straits Times spoke to said the trend of non-religious affiliation is in tandem with an increasingly educated populace, some of whom might move away from religion if it does not connect with their lives and needs. The Institute of Policy Studies' senior research fellow Mathew Mathews said this is more common for individuals who grew up in families where religion was already nominally practised.</p>	<p>[R1 for A]: How important</p> <p>Religion is important in the private sphere but has no place in politics and policy.</p> <p>http://www.straitstimes.com/politics/religion-has-been-a-force-for-good-but-also-used-as-tool-for-intolerance-terror-shanmugam</p> <p>"Human history has shown that religion can be a force for good. But in the hands of some, it has been abused to encourage intolerance, bigotry and the denial of another person's right to pray to a different God, Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam said on Tuesday (Jan 19). Those who spread these ideas are motivated by power, and while their ideas will not win, the cost in terms of blood and misery will be high, he said, in outlining the use of religion for political ends. Citing the examples of the Crusades and the Inquisition, the Muslim conquests in India, and conflicts between Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists in Asia, he said all religions have featured in conflict. But the real reason for strife "was the basic human lust for power, profit, control of people and lands". In particular, some have capitalised on issues that Muslims are concerned about to achieve their political ambitions, and to cultivate an us-versus-them mentality in the region over the last few decades, said Mr Shanmugam."</p> <p>[EV-R1] If that were the case, religion should thus be left out of the political domain to protect Singapore, a secular and multicultural state, where religion plays no part particularly in regulation in the scientific industry due to a pragmatic mindset in a relentless drive towards economic growth. For example, Singapore has one of the most</p>

		<p>Traditional religions have also been slow to engage young people and help them appreciate their faith.</p> <p>Singapore Buddhist Federation president Seck Kwang Phing believes the youthful face of the non- religious group ties in with a change in attitudes among the young, who have become more independent in their thinking. They ask and argue and do not simply allow their parents to select their faiths on their behalf.</p> <p>Young people today are also exposed to a range of ideologies, which results in a spectrum of views within the non-religious category. The segment therefore includes atheists and agnostics; humanists and secularists; as well as free-thinkers and other individuals who might not necessarily be anti-religion.</p> <p>Educated youth believe in a "rational" approach where it is unnecessary for divine guidance to make a right or wrong decision. Reason alone can guide such decision-making. Some experts have also argued that the relative stability of a country also means there is less concern about the future because the present is "non-threatening". When this is the case, there is less incentive to look to religion for divine intervention or for security.</p> <p><u>[R2] Disagree with A, Agree more with</u></p> <p><u>[EX] a)</u> While those more literate may be influenced by their learned knowledge to refute the truth or usefulness of religions, this may not always be the case because education itself can confirm the truth of religious doctrines.</p> <p>E.g. Archaeologists have confirmed biblical events with their findings; e.g. the fallen walls of Jericho, the flood did happen, finding of Goliath's skull.</p> <p><u>[EX] b)</u> Some faith seems necessary in things of the spirit which are beyond the scope of our physical world. There needs to be some reliance on moral, spiritual and idealistic conceptions, or else we have no anchorage on spiritual conceptions. The final mysteries still remain far</p>	<p>liberal policies in relation to the regulation of stem cell research.</p> <p><u>[EV]</u> In Singapore, due to the different connotations people associate with religions, its importance is dependent on the type of religion and the person's character.</p> <p><u>[EX]</u> It is very important to the Muslims for example, because Islam is closely linked to how Malays view their nuclear family and extended family members, so much so that it has become part of their identity such that even if the individual is a learned man, he will still view Islam as very important to him. Similarly, Buddhism and Chinese religion (mixture of ancestor worship and Taoism) are religions that are passed down from parents to children, hence, even if Singaporeans are highly educated, it is not always true that they will therefore no longer find any need for faith.</p> <p><u>[R1 for B]: How important</u></p> <p>a) Authoritative testimony assures us that there is an innate need for religion. It has been claimed that Singapore is a city without soul, such that Singaporeans are generally materialistic and focused their current needs rather than their spiritual needs. Religion would therefore play an essential role in some way making us less materialistic and enable us to appreciate the other things in life.</p> <p>b) As long as Man's spiritual needs are based on unthinking, narrow, dogmatic conceptions, it should have little place in societies like Singapore which prides herself in being an inclusive society. Cults and certain more extremist and fundamentalist interpretations of religion reflect the danger of misplaced belief/faith and how it would influence people negatively. It would also be highly problematic if people acted on their beliefs blindly such that religion/faith can create rifts within society based on the lines drawn between religion (or between the religious and nonreligious).</p>
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		<p>beyond the reach of the human mind and are likely to remain so, as there is still so much more that religion can explain.</p> <p>[EV] In fact, the more people know, the closer they may find themselves associating with Socrates, especially scientists like Einstein and well-known writer C.S. Lewis, who cannot but acknowledge a greater Being is out there as they personally experienced the limitations of Man's knowledge.</p> <p><u>[R2]: Disagree with B, agree with A</u></p> <p>Religious aspirations are merely there to answer our psychological needs and that isn't grounds enough to allow people to place religion an important part of their lives. Because of the existential void in their life, people turn to drugs or drink etc. and religion is merely an opiate of the masses as stated by Marx.</p> <p>[EV] Even if religion does little but meet a psychological need, it cannot be sweepingly discarded and considered irrelevant and unimportant, especially if religion has effectively brought comfort, peace and purpose to a believer as evidenced in the author's A's acknowledgement that many who do not believe religious claims still think them useful (albeit begrudgingly), fearing that in their absence others will lose a basis for hope, morality or meaning especially in the face of suffering and death.</p>	<p>Some young people could also be identifying more with liberal ideologies that clash with religious teachings on topics such as homosexuality. Social anthropologist Lai Ah Eng of the National University of Singapore (NUS) said this group might therefore find religions "variously limiting, irrational, oppressive, unreasonable and unscientific".</p> <p>This is particularly apparent when considering LGBT rights in Singapore-- (1) Wear White campaign against the Pink Dot movement, (2) The pulping of the NLB books-- and how anti-LGBT groups are primarily fronted strongly by religious organisations. This would impact on the social stability of the nation and prove detrimental to the future of Singapore.</p> <p>On the other hand, some youth and religious experts interviewed noted the high-profile failures of institutional religions to uphold their credibility as a moral voice, which may also have turned some people away from religion. Some cited high-profile incidents such as the City Harvest case, where church leaders were found guilty of misusing around \$50 million in church funds.</p>
<p><u>Para 4:</u> If we combine reasonable explanations of the origin of religious beliefs and the small amount of belief among the intelligentsia with the problematic nature of beliefs in gods, souls, afterlives or</p>			<p><u>[R1 for B]: How important</u> Historically, religious institutions have been vital in the Singapore's development. For instance, the first schools in Singapore were missionary in nature (e.g. Saint John's Institution (now known as <i>Saint Joseph's Institution</i>), was founded in 1852 as an all-boys Catholic school and is the first missionary establishment of the La Salle Brothers in Asia [Wikipedia]. Architecturally, historical sites in Singapore such as St Andrews' Cathedral, Sri Mariamman Temple, Masjid Jamae and Sultan Mosque also form part of the important cultural landscape in Singapore.</p>

supernatural phenomena generally, we can conclude that (supernatural) religious beliefs are probably false.			
<p>Para 5: It is easy to believe something without good reasons if you are determined to do so. But there are problems with this approach. ... If someone makes a claim without concern for reasons and evidence, we should conclude that they simply don't care about what's true. We shouldn't conclude that their beliefs are true because they are fervently held.</p> <p>OR Comparing the conclusions: Para 6</p> <p>Faith without reason simply doesn't satisfy most of us, hence our willingness to seek reasons to believe. ...if you conclude that religious beliefs are untrue, then religious answers to life's questions are worthless....religion may help us in the way that whisky helps a</p>	<p>Para 3 (any of the arguments) a)The upholding of religious beliefs ... is not... futile... we must be certain that such beliefs are not based on unthinking, narrow, obsolete and dogmatic conceptions. b)Most psychologists assure us of our innate psychological need for a religion. c)It enables us to find out much more of ourselves, our needs and nature. OR</p> <p>Para 6: The rise of scientific literacy has caused us to ask some questions...even though religion seems to be facing a decline today, consideration of these questions will continue in some way to help us to develop our understanding of our relationship with the world around us. After all,</p>	<p>[R2]: Agree with A more than B a) So many of life's mysteries are capable of and await a solution, that an obsession with the final mystery seems hardly necessary or justified. Religion does not provide reliable answers to the problems in nature and they all provide different versions of the Truth, a Truth that cannot be logically and empirically proven. So religion can in a certain sense foster a mentality of dependence and of seeking assistance elsewhere when we should be the ones who deliver and find solutions to the problems of our planet. It cannot come from the skies. b) Intellectuals are of the belief that religion does not advance society but retards society. It can be politically and culturally divisive/setting a country back educationally, economically and scientifically.</p> <p>[R2]: Disagree more with B than A</p> <p>Although it can be claimed that religion has been very much a part and parcel of Man's existence, this is a general sweeping statement. It is not necessarily the case or even in the future. E.g. Western Europe is unlike the United States where 97% of the people believe in God. Sweden is the most unreligious country in society today. It has set religion aside/ marginalised religion and not made it a central priority in society. The argument can therefore be challenged that this is not so throughout the world.</p>	<p>[R1 for B]: How important http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/youth-in-singapore-shunning-religion</p> <p>There is concern that with the decline in belief om a faith, Reverend Father Jude David, co-chaplain of the Catholic Church's Office for Young People, believes that without religion "Singapore would certainly lose a part of her soul or spirit". Reverend Dominic Yeo, the general superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Singapore, agreed. He said religion teaches its followers to be moral, adding: "We need to guard our nation, our children and the next generation against moral decadence."</p> <p>Others are concerned about solidarity in households where the parents or grandparents are deeply religious. NUS sociologist Paulin Straughan said disparities in religious ideology could result in intergenerational fault lines and a widening gap "because religion, when it is functional, pulls families together".</p> <p>[EV] However, on a positive note, religion is still seen as important to most in Singapore Society considering the religious composition in Singapore which has remained relatively stable.</p> <p>http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/religion-still-helps-shape-views-morality</p> <p>Religion 'still helps shape views on morality'. When it comes to issues such as sex, marriage and gambling, religion still plays an important part in shaping what people perceive as acceptable behaviour, an Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) survey on religion has found. For example, about 57 per cent of respondents across all religious groups said it was wrong for those who are not</p>

<p>drunk, but we don't want to go through life drunk.</p>	<p>religion is undeniably part and parcel of Man's existence</p>		<p>married to have sex. Among those with no religion, a smaller number, about 37 per cent, felt the same way.</p> <p>[EV] This indicates that people's perceptions about morality and their religious values are often intertwined, said IPS senior research fellow Mathew Mathews, who led the survey.</p> <p>"With people who identify with particular religions... it is more likely you will feel a strong sense of importance of certain kinds of values, and you will police it and it will reinforce your ideas of (morality)," he said.</p> <p>Buddhist Federation's Venerable Seck is not worried about the growing pool of non-religious Singaporeans. To him, good values and morals are more important and as long as there is moral education and the ability to differentiate between what is right and wrong, there will always be common ground among the religious and non-religious." [EV] suggesting that there can always be a place for religion in Singapore society today.</p>
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THE END