

Name: _____

Course: PHILO 4483, Christian Faith and Science

Instructor: William A. Dembski, Fleming 215D

Grader: Jack Greenoe

When: 7:00am, May 3, 2010

Due: 12:00 noon, May 3, 2010

Place: In cyberspace

Send to: dembski.grading.1@gmail.com

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM

Please answer each of the following questions. Answer every part of each question. Be concise. This exam is open-book, but you can only consult the books assigned for class, the notes you took in class, and the Bible. You may not cruise the Internet in search of answers or in any way seek the help of others. Your completed exam needs to be emailed to the grader, Jack Greenoe, by Monday, May 3 at 12:00 noon (a 15-minute grade period is allowed—after that points will be deducted). In turning this paper in you agree, on pain of divine judgment, that this is entirely your own work.

1. Identify the following (give first and last name where applicable) [1 point each/10 points total]:
 - a. Author of *On the Origin of Species*.
 - b. Widely regarded as the greatest scientist of all time.
 - c. Currently the best known atheist in the English-speaking world.
 - d. Roman poet who served as an apologist for Epicurus.
 - e. Noted Christian apologist who interacted with Antony Flew in the 1950s.
 - f. Christian apologist who likened the Fall of the world to a stage-play that the actors and stage managers had messed up.
 - g. Philosopher who introduced the term “promissory materialism.”
 - h. Jewish philosopher who argued against the possibility of miracles in the 17th century.
 - i. Scientist who reported (falsely) that homosexuals constitute 10 percent of the male population.
 - j. German who likened Christianity to smallpox.

2. Distinguish the following and note the significance of the distinction [3 points each/30 points total]:
 - a. Methodological vs. Metaphysical Naturalism
 - b. Creationism vs. Intelligent Design
 - c. Eliminative vs. Reductive Neuroscience
 - d. Evolutionary vs. Natural Law Ethics
 - e. Natural vs. Supernatural
 - f. Theism vs. Deism
 - g. Natural Theology vs. Revealed Religion
 - h. Information vs. Energy
 - i. Natural Selection vs. Intelligent Selection
 - j. Chronos vs. Kairos

3. You are debating atheist Christopher Hitchens on the relation between faith and science. Hitchens claims that science and reason have rendered religious faith obsolete. Outline your opening statement in the debate. What view of the relation between science and faith would you take? How would your own Christian faith make a difference to the debate (as opposed to arguing for a generic religious faith or an alternative one such as Islam)? [10 points]

4. According to Francis Collins, evolution can and must be true. What does he mean by evolution? What evidence does he cite in its support? At one point he argues that science is self-correcting and

therefore evolution would have been refuted by now if it were false. Evaluate this argument. Is it a legitimate scientific attitude to view a given scientific theory as for all practical purposes beyond refutation or reversal? Explain. [10 points]

5. Sketch the argument for a retroactive view of the Fall. Why is such an argument being made at this time? Would there have been any interest in making such an argument prior to the rise of modern science (i.e., before the 16th and 17th centuries)? Explain. What challenges has science posed to the traditional view of the Fall? How do you personally handle these scientific challenges to the Fall? [10 points]

6. How, if at all, do NDEs (Near-Death Experiences) challenge materialist neuroscience? What is the evidence for such experiences? How do we know that people with these experiences aren't just making stuff up? How do materialists respond to these experiences? Evaluate NDEs from a Christian perspective? Is there place for caution? Should Christians readily embrace these experiences? Explain. [10 points]

7. Isaac Newton proposed that God assumed the roles of creator, designer, and mechanic. Describe how materialism has come to undermine each of these roles of God. Describe some recent considerations from science that seem to invite God back into the material world. Is, for instance, God's role as designer a legitimate consideration for science? Explain. [10 points]

8. You are debating Richard Dawkins about the existence of God. He claims that invoking God as an explanation of biological complexity is absurd because such a God would be more complex than the things he is explaining and thus wouldn't explain anything. Evaluate this argument. [10 points]