

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course:** PHILO 4483, Christian Faith and Science

**Instructor:** William A. Dembski, Fleming 215D

**Grader:** Jack Greenoe

**When:** 7:00am, April 30, 2012

**Due:** 12:00 noon, April 30, 2012

**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 at the above email address by Monday, April 30th at 12:00 noon (a 15-minute grace 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 *The Descent of Man*.
  - 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. Former head of the Human Genome Project and now head of the National Institutes of Health.
  - g. Philosopher who introduced the term “promissory materialism.”
  - h. Seventeenth century Jewish philosopher who argued against the possibility of miracles.
  - i. Philosopher cited by Antony Flew as a role model for following the evidence wherever it leads.
  - j. German who likened Christianity to smallpox.
  
2. Distinguish the following and note the significance of each distinction [3 points each/30 points total]:
  - a. Methodological vs. Metaphysical Naturalism
  - b. Creationism vs. Intelligent Design
  - c. Monism vs. Dualism in 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 to debate atheist Richard Dawkins on the relation between faith and science. Dawkins claims that science and reason render 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 generic religious belief or for an alternative faith 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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. A young person from your church has just returned home for the summer after his first year in college. He is distraught about his Christian faith because, after his college experience, he now sees modern science as incompatible with biblical teachings. His parents ask you to sit down with this young man and bring him back to faith. What do you say to him? [10 points]