

Final Exam

28960 Christian Doctrine and the Natural Sciences Dr. William Dembski, Fall 2005

This is a take-home final. It is open book. You have exactly two hours (120 minutes) to take it. The exam must be taken in one sitting (if this proves impossible, resume the exam as quickly as possible and attach an explanation as to why you were interrupted and for how long). The exam is due by midnight Eastern Standard Time on Friday, December 2, 2005 as an email attachment sent to wdembski AT sbts DOT edu (or else it must be received by mail/FedEx/UPS by that date at my home address: 538 Post Oak Lane, Riesel TX 76682).

Do not scroll to or view next page unless ready to take exam.

2 hour absolute limit.

STOP

(unless ready to take exam)

Answer the following four questions. Each carries equal weight.

1. You are debating Eugenie Scott, who heads the National Center for Science Education, a pro-evolutionary watchdog group intent on stamping out intelligent design. In her opening remarks, she dismisses intelligent design as religiously motivated and points you to all the theistic evolutionists who believe in evolution and yet retain their Christian belief. In response, you are going to argue that evolution is likewise motivated by a metaphysical position, namely, Epicurean materialism. Show how Epicurean materialism underwrites evolution. Be clear what you mean by evolution.
2. It's 1999, and Stephen Jay Gould's book *Rocks of Ages* has just come out. You have been invited to participate at a panel discussion in which Gould summarizes his book and outlines his view of the relation between science and religion (i.e., NOMA -- nonoverlapping magisteria). Your task on the panel is to critique NOMA and articulate your own view of the proper relation between science and religion. What would you say?
3. It's some time in the future. New leadership at the Templeton Foundation has decided it's time to use the \$50,000,000 that the foundation spends yearly on promoting the relation between science and religion to overthrow scientific materialism and the evolutionary worldview it has fostered. You are the Templeton Foundation's new program director and are charged with overseeing its programs and directing its funds. Sketch out a 20-year plan for defeating scientific materialism if you had \$50,000,000 per year in current value to do so. What sorts of programs would you institute? How would you spend the money? [Example of a zero-credit answer: give all the money to the ACLU or to the UN.]
4. You are a staunch modernist in the sense defined by Phillip Johnson in his book *Reason in the Balance*. It is 1995, the year that book was published, and you have been called to debate Johnson concerning his critique of modernism and his argument for theistic realism. In your opening statement, you are going to present the strongest defense you can of modernism and you are also going to attack Phillip Johnson's idea of theistic realism. In thus adopting the mantle of a modernist, what would you say? Make the best case you can against Johnson.