



Viva Exam – Religious Studies – HT2

(Year 8)

Your
**Viva
exam**

supports you in developing your confidence, self-expression and curricular understanding.

It does so by improving your **oracy**.

When a University student writes a thesis (their final paper or exam), they have to defend what they have written whilst their Professors ask questions. This is often referred to as a **Viva exam**.

Viva is short for **Viva Voce**, this is the Latin for ‘with living voice’, or in other words **spoken** not written.

Across this Half Term you will prepare for a **Viva exam** on the curricular area we are studying, this will be **instead** of your End of Term exam.

Your teacher will support you in **preparing** by **suggesting** what you may speak about, **providing** materials to support you, **checking** in on your planning and progress and giving you **feedback** after you have spoken so that you know what you have done well and what you will need to improve, next time.

This pack contains the basic materials and guidance you will need, to prepare for your **Viva exam**.

‘Viva’ Exam – RE – Year 8 – Half Term 2 (Autum 2)

Student Name:

Expectations:

- To speak unaided and without interruption on the subject of ‘If God is all loving and kind, why does he allow so much evil in the world – agree or disagree?’ for two minutes.
- To accept and respond to one unknown question from your teacher following your speech and within this two-minute period.

Resources Permitted:

- Cue card notes are permitted, however, higher marks will be received for speaking without aides.

Marking and Grading:

As with your End of Term, your Viva will be given a 0-9 grade, students should always aim to meet or exceed their target grade. However, there is no need to feel bad if you don't, all this means is that you are learning and making progress!

Your total marks will be multiplied by five to produce a percentage, just like you get in your other End of Term exams, the teacher will then convert this percentage so that your termly report can show a grade in this area.

Viva exams are marked in four categories, please see the mark scheme below:

Preparation Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Complete and exemplary evidence of written preparation.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Purposeful but incomplete evidence of written preparation.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Limited or no written evidence of preparation.
Timing and Content Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Speaks for the full allocated time, without pause or interruption. Speaks exclusively on the subject selected, is precise, concise and purposeful. Speaks without the use of any written or visual aids.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Speaks for more than half of the allocated time, with limited pause or interruption. Speaks exclusively on the subject selected, but lacks precision and focus at times.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Speaks for less than half of the allocated time and or fails to focus on the subject and lacks purpose.
Manner and Presentation Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Projects and modulates consistently, uses rhetorical skill, body language and positioning throughout and with exemplary effect.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Projects well but modulates and uses body language inconsistently, increasing evidence of rhetorical skill.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Fails to project or modulate voice, use of body language is limited, rhetorical skill is largely unevidenced.
Response to questioning Mark:	Level 3 – Award 4-5 Marks Responds convincingly and thoughtfully to both questions, in line with the Level 3 criteria for Timing and Content and Manner and Presentation.
	Level 2 – Award 2-4 Marks Responds convincingly to elements of both questions or to just one question but not the other.
	Level 1 – Award 0-2 Marks Is unable to respond at all or convincingly enough, to either question.

Overview:

During this Viva you will need to plan and prepare to speak on whether you agree or disagree that forgiveness is more powerful than punishment. You will also need to answer one question (which you won't know in advance) from your teacher.

- 1. Stage 1 – Decide on the subject of your speech.**
- 2. Stage 2 – Plan your speech and condense this plan into notes.**
- 3. Stage 3 – Practice your speech, learn to do it without notes and with greater confidence.**
- 4. Stage 4 – Share your speech with parents, peers and your teacher, for feedback.**
- 5. Stage 5 – Deliver your speech to the class and your teacher.**

You may make subject specific modifications to the grid below, however, anything highlighted in green must remain.

Stage 1

When deciding on the subject of your speech you should:

- Choose whether you agree or disagree with the statement.
- Ensure you can support your viewpoint using content we have studied on evil and suffering in Christianity and from an differing viewpoint
- You should think about the concept of evil and suffering, If God is truly loving and kind, then why do innocent people suffer? Why do earthquakes destroy homes, and why do children go hungry? Some argue that if God is all-powerful and all-loving, He would stop suffering — but perhaps it's not that simple. So, perhaps the question isn't "Why does God allow evil?" but "How do we respond to it?" In the end, many believers find comfort in the idea that even in suffering, God is with them — not stopping every storm but walking through it with them.
- Check that you're confident in your existing knowledge and willing to build on it.

Stage 2

When planning your speech you should consider:

- Create a clear structure with an introduction, main points and conclusion.
- Choose at least one teaching from Islam and/or Sikhism to support your view.
- Consider using rhetorical devices to make your argument more persuasive.

At this stage, you will map out the flow of your speech. You should plan how to open with a hook, organise your key ideas, include one or more teachings from Christianity, and draw a clear conclusion. Think about rhetorical techniques like repetition, rhetorical questions, or analogy to persuade your audience. Keep it within the two-minute time limit.

Stage 3

When practicing your speech you should:

- Practice repeatedly those parts you are weakest in, do not waste time practicing again and again, what you already know.
- Watch and listen to yourself, for instance speak out loud, use a mirror, record yourself, you will need to be comfortable with the sound of your own voice and the value your opinion carries.
- Focus on pace, rhythm, modulation and tone, as much as the content of your speaking, become comfortable pausing throughout your speech, rather than saying 'um'.

Stage 4

When sharing your speech you should consider:

- What are the initial reactions of others, do they seem more interested in some parts of the speech than others?
- What questions are people asking you afterwards, could these be questions that are likely to be asked of you on the day?
- What feedback do your audience give you on the use of your voice, your body language and communication style, are you confident and present enough?

Stage 5

When delivering your speech you should:

- Have notes with you in case you get stuck but attempt to go by memory as much as possible.
- Position yourself in the room, standing, at the front, use the space and consider walking around it as you speak.
- Focus on the faces of your audience, look for signs as to whether they are engaged or excited, consider whether you need to modulate your tone, increase volume, or lean move heavily on a rhetorical device.

During the final stage, focus on being calm, confident and engaging. You may use brief notes but rely on memory as much as you can. Make eye contact, speak clearly, and try to connect with your audience. Once your speech ends, be prepared to answer one unseen question from your teacher, using what you know from class.

God is All Loving	God does not love us
	
<p>Christians have several responses to the problem of evil and suffering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christians believe that God wants them to help those who suffer. In the New Testament, Jesus regarded evil and suffering as something to be fought against and he healed the sick, fed the hungry and challenged those who were evil.• Christians feel that they should pray for those who suffer from poverty, sickness, famine, war and so on. Christians believe that prayer is a powerful way of dealing with a problem.• Many Christians believe that evil and suffering is not God's fault. According to Genesis 1, God created humans in His image, which means He created them with free will. To be free, means to be free to do either good or evil.	<p>Some people cannot believe that a good God would have designed a world with natural evils in it. They may express the problem in this way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If God is all-powerful, He must be able to remove evil and suffering from the world.• If God is all-loving, He must want to remove evil and suffering because it would lead to unhappiness for His people.• If God exists, there should be no evil and suffering in this world.• For some people this argument proves to them that God does not exist. <p>Natural evil is suffering that has not been caused by humans. Earthquakes, volcanoes, illness and so on</p>

Story of Job:

- Shows that good people can suffer — suffering isn't always a punishment for sin.
- Explores the idea of innocent suffering and trusting God through hardship.
- Suggests that humans may not understand God's greater plan.
- Raises questions about why God allows evil and suffering, even to the faithful.

are not caused by humans but they result in human suffering

- Why does God allow those who are already in poverty/suffering put them through even more pain?
- Why are pure innocent babies abused by those are meant to protect them or given a death date just shortly after they have been born? ... This proves God allows us to suffer and does nothing to stop it!