

SCIENCE AND RELIGION
GRADED PAPER 2 REVIEWS
WILLIAM MOSLEY

Paper 1

This review is short and misses a great deal of material on which you might have commented. You did provide useful suggestions at the grammatical level, but you failed to respond substantively to the arguments, the quality of the thesis, and the tone of the prose itself.

(1) This paper had substantial flaws. The arguments were weak, the analysis of the examples were one-sided, and the conclusion failed to consider or address possible opposition. You did this author a disservice by suggesting that this paper was persuasive. There was a great deal of room for you to be helpfully critical of the arguments presented.

Grade: C+ with minor lateness → C.

Paper 2

This review is short but effective. In particular, it successfully and insightfully raises questions about the content of the arguments. You could have been more direct and forceful in pointing out the limitations of these arguments; it is not enough just to state that you were not persuaded when you could have presented a specific counterargument. However, you focused on the correct substantive elements.

Grade: A- with minor lateness → B+.

Paper 1

1. Thesis- "The synthesis, opposition, and partnership of science and religion present advantages and disadvantages to the pursuit of knowledge and increased quality of life. Yet based on the historical relationship of science and religion, each field could contribute most to this basic aim as distinct yet complementary partners."

①

- a. Your paper qualifies your thesis in every respect but one. You tackled the issues of the synthesis, opposition, and partnership of science and religion with great fluidity and clarity. However, there is an issue with the layout of the advantages and disadvantages with respect to the "quality of life." The "pursuit of knowledge" portion is exemplified and well understood but there should be more about how science and religion coalesce to enrich the lives of people.

2. Second paragraph, Page 1

"Attempting to synthesize science and religion fails to increase human understanding of the world or improve quality of life— while initially appearing to produce less conflict, merging faith and science results in increased difficulties and can undermine both **bodies** of thought."

- a. Maybe **schools** would be a better word for this sentence.

3. Second paragraph, Page 2

"Allowing science and religion exist as opposing forces can..." ✓

- a. Add "to" between religion and exist.

4. Second paragraph, Page 2

"Ideas like heliocentricity, evolution, and the **geologic** age of earth..."

- a. Geologic is redundant

OK, but not really.

5. First Paragraph, Page 3

"Although the conflict between science and religion can be productive, its tendency to become unreasonable and violent undermines each field by threatening truth and quality of life."

- a. Seems contradictory to the rest of the paragraph. Consider rephrasing what is meant by . Do you mean the opposite?

what?

6. Second Paragraph, Page 4

"In order to best serve humanity, science and religion seek a greater understanding of the world and man's place in it, and with that knowledge attempt to improve **humans'** quality of life."

- a. "Humans" seems unnecessary if you are talking about quality of life. it is already implied that humans are being discussed. ✓

Paper 2

Thesis- "Neither science nor Christianity can be reconciled.

There is no sense, therefore, in synthesizing the belief in observable evidence with the belief in blind faith."

1. Second paragraph, Page 1

a. "Instead, it can be used as a model the possibility of reconciling science and religion."

i. "model of the possibility"

2. First paragraph, Page 2

a. It might be beneficial to add more detail about the "seeing man."

Yes. | b. Why can't a seeing man have faith (in the literal sense)? Why couldn't he choose to believe? These are the types of questions I was left with after this example. If you maybe integrate some more characteristics of this man there would be less confusion.

c. "Yet perhaps, the blind man had no idea whether or not a car would come and merely chose to believe it for his own comfort."

i. Remove the comma and the "yet".

d. "...as human the senses are not always trustworthy..."

i. Reword this portion, it seems too cliché for your argument.

3. First Paragraph, Page 3

a. "Therefore, science cannot win this battle, for any proofs it could ever obtain are obsolete in the context of religion."

✓ | i. I felt as if you were using Christian's stubbornness to your advantage to prove your point. is that what you were aiming for? If so, it seems to contradict your stance on the issue.

4. First paragraph, Page 4

a. "...if they find proof of the supernatural."

i. Then would it be "supernatural?" ✓✓✓

5. Second paragraph, Page 4

a. "Science has no power to convince Christians that it has sole power while abiding by religious guidelines, and religion has no power to convince scientists that it has sole power while abiding by scientific guidelines. In my opinion, the reconciliation of the science and Christianity is only possible by individuals who are unsure of what they believe."

i. "Sole Power" does not fit properly in this context. ✓

I enjoyed your use of examples and metaphors. Please try to be more specific with your "desert" example. The idea is good, but the message is conveyed with a lot of skepticism on the reader's end. Taken less metaphorically, the difference between the blind man and the seeing man is unclear. Maybe add some more detail about the "seeing man" will help clarify exactly why a seeing man cannot choose to be "blind" or believe in the unobservable.

Your thesis should not be so emotively charged. "there is no sense" implies that an indirect attack on believers in a synthesis. Refrain from giving the impression of condemnation. Support your view with the examples you provide, only.

Overall, there is great transitioning and use of textual evidence. You stayed neutral when necessary and provided your opinion as a conclusive statement. Maybe use less of Gosse and quote more from some place else.