



INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

TEST ANSWER KEY

INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS TEST ANSWER KEY

Dr. Mark Bird



Lesson 1

Introduction to Apologetics

(1) What is a definition of Christian apologetics?

Christian apologetics is presenting the evidence for the truth of the Christian faith.

(2) Why do we say that apologetics is important in pre-evangelism?

Many people come to Christ after studying the evidence for the truth of Christianity.

(3) Why do we say that apologetics is important in post-evangelism?

Knowing why you believe will make you strong in the Christian faith.

(4) What New Testament verse demonstrates the need for apologetics? Write this verse from memory.

1 Peter 3:15 (Check memorized verse against Bible)

(5) What three questions about apologetics are answered in the verse referenced above?

Question 1: Should Christians use apologetics?

Answer 1: Yes, Christians should always be ready to give a defense, a reasoned explanation for our belief.

Question 2: Whom should we reach with apologetics?

Answer 2: Everyone who asks a reason for our hope.

Question 3: How should we present apologetics?

Answer 3: With gentleness and respect.

(6) When sharing your faith, which should be first: the gospel or apologetics? Why?

The gospel should be first in most cases because it is the most important message.

(7) What are three reasons people reject Christ?

- Ignorance
- Pride
- Moral problems

(8) Why should we respond to intellectual objections, even for people who have a deeper reason for unbelief?

They may need answers to their intellectual excuses before they will recognize the real reason they reject Christ.

(9) Who is the Person who opens the eyes of those who are spiritually blind?

God

(10) How does the Holy Spirit use apologetics to help bring some people to faith in Christ?

God uses the information from apologetics to help open the eyes of the spiritually blind.

(11) What does it mean for the Scriptures to be self-authenticating?

Because the Bible is God's Word, it speaks to our hearts of its own truthfulness.

(12) List four ways in which God reveals His glory to the spiritual eyes of the heart.

- Through creation
- In the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ
- In the gospel
- Through the life and testimony of believers

Lesson 2

Misconceptions about Apologetics

(1) What are the key elements to the scientific method?

- Controlled environment
- Repeatable experiments

(2) Instead of the scientific method, historical events should be proven by what method?

Legal-historical method

(3) What are three types of evidence used for legal-historical proof?

- Written testimony
- Oral testimony
- Physical evidence

(4) Why do we say, "You cannot prove any historical event with 100% certainty"?

Because it happened in the past and we were not there

(5) If you cannot *prove* something with absolute certainty, but you have enough proof to have an inner conviction that it is true (and you are willing to live according to that conviction), you have **moral certainty**.

(6) The idea that all truth is relative is **self-contradictory**. It cannot be true.

(7) What is truth?

Truth is an idea or statement that corresponds to reality.

(8) It is not enough to believe. We must put our faith in the right **object**.

(9) List the four misconceptions about apologetics studied in this lesson. Give a brief response to each one.

Misconception 1: Christianity must be proven scientifically.

Response 1: Historical events are proven by the legal-historical method.

Misconception 2: Christianity must be proven with 100% certainty.

Response 2: No historical events can be proven with 100% certainty. They are proven with moral certainty.

Misconception 3: All truth is relative.

Response 3: This statement is self-contradictory.

Misconception 4: Sincerity is more important than truth.

Response 4: It is the object of faith, not faith alone, that saves.

(10) Write 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 3

Is There a God?

(1) What question does the Cosmological Argument ask?

Why does the world exist?

(2) How does the Cosmological Argument answer this question?

The world exists because it was created by God— a personal, eternal, self-existent being.

(3) What are three unreasonable explanations for the universe?

- The universe came from nothing.
- The universe has always existed as it is.
- The universe came from impersonal matter or energy.

(4) Present the Cosmological Argument in a deductive form with two premises and a conclusion.

Premise A: Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

Premise B: The universe began to exist.

Conclusion: The universe has a cause.

(5) What question does the Teleological Argument ask?

How did the universe gain its careful design?

(6) How does the Teleological Argument answer this question?

The intricate design in the universe requires a Designer.

(7) What question does the Moral Argument ask?

Why does humanity have an inborn sense of right and wrong?

(8) How does the Moral Argument answer this question?

Humanity's sense of right and wrong comes from God, the Supreme Lawgiver who gives us this morality.

(9) Present the Moral Argument in a deductive form with two premises and a conclusion.

Premise A: If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

Premise B: Objective moral values and duties do exist.

Conclusion: Therefore, God exists.

(10) What is the most common objection to the existence of God?

The presence of evil and suffering in the world

(11) Give three answers to the question, "How could a good and all-powerful God exist if there is evil in the world?"

- Evil is the result of man's free choice to disobey God.
- The problem of evil implies that there is a God.
- God has provided an answer to the problem of evil and suffering.

(12) Write Romans 1:19-20 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 4

Creation Apologetics

(1) What does it mean to say that both evolution and creation are “faith propositions”?

Neither evolution nor creation can be proven scientifically because they attempt to explain something that happened in the past.

(2) What does the law of biogenesis teach?

Life comes only from life.

(3) According to the laws of **thermodynamics**, there is a fixed amount of usable matter and energy in the universe. This energy is becoming more and more unusable.

(4) According to the theory of evolution, what kind of fossils should we find?

Many transitional forms from simpler to more complicated kinds of animals.

(5) What does the biblical account of creation predict about genetic change?

There will be limited changes within a kind of organism. There will not be evidence of change from one major kind of organism to another.

(6) Give three examples of scientific evidence for a relatively young earth.

Any three:

- DNA in “ancient” bacteria
- Soft tissue in dinosaur bones
- The amount of salt in the sea
- The global catastrophic flood

(7) Write Genesis 2:1-3 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 5

The General Argument for the Christian Faith

(1) What are the three parts of the case for Christianity in this lesson?

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- Jesus is the only way to heaven.
- Christianity is true.

(2) What are the six blocks that support the case for the Christian faith?

1. Historical Reliability
2. Prophecy
3. Resurrection
4. Jesus is God.
5. Jesus is infallible.
6. Christianity is true.

(3) List the six premises and conclusion that provide the case for the Christian faith.

Premise A: The New Testament is historically reliable.

Premise B: Jesus fulfilled messianic prophecies.

Premise C: Jesus rose from the dead.

Premise D: Resurrection and fulfillment of prophecy show that he was who he said he was: Messiah, the Son of God.

Premise E: Because Jesus is God, he is infallible.

Premise F: Jesus Christ taught that the Bible is the Word of God and that he is the only way to God.

Conclusion: If Jesus was God, we must believe what he said: The Bible is the Word of God, and Jesus is the only way to God. Therefore, Christianity is true.

(4) Write 1 Thessalonians 2:13 from memory.

(Check memorized verse against Bible.)

Lesson 6

The Reliability of the New Testament

(1) Respond to the following objection: "The New Testament was written 100–200 years after the life of Christ. Many of the stories in the New Testament are myths." Give at least three pieces of evidence to support your response.

The New Testament was complete within sixty years of Jesus' life.

Evidence (any three):

- Manuscripts have been found from the early second century.
- Early church fathers such as Clement and Ignatius were quoting New Testament books by A.D. 100.
- Most of the New Testament must have been written before Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army in A.D. 70.
- Luke, Acts, and Paul's Letters were written prior to Paul's death in the mid-60's.

(2) What does the Bibliographical Test attempt to show about an ancient document?

- It attempts to show whether or not we have today what was originally written.
- It will show how accurately the document has been copied over the centuries.

(3) List three aspects of the Bibliographical Test for the reliability of the New Testament.

- Timespan
- Number
- Quality

(4) Some people say, "We cannot trust our copies of the New Testament because there is too much time between the original manuscripts and the earliest surviving copies." How does the *timespan* aspect of the Bibliographical Test answer this objection?

The timespan for the New Testament is much shorter than for any other piece of literature from the ancient world. Scholars accept the textual reliability for other literature. Why not the New Testament?

(5) Respond to the following objection: "Even if there is a short time between the originals and the first copies, there are too many differences among the surviving New Testament manuscripts for us to know what was in the original. We have too many conflicting manuscripts."

The vast number of surviving New Testament manuscripts and the small number of conflicts show that we can trust the New Testament.

(6) Respond to the following objection: "We cannot trust the authors of the New Testament to record accurately the events that happened. They are not reliable witnesses."

The internal evidence test and external evidence test shows that the New Testament is a reliable historical record.

(7) List three reasons the New Testament passes the Internal Evidence Test.

- Eyewitness testimony
- The presence of living witnesses
- The authors died for their faith

(8) What is the Law of Non-contradiction?

Something cannot be both true and not true at the same time and in the same sense. If one statement absolutely contradicts another statement, at least one of those statements cannot be true.

(9) Can anyone demonstrate a genuine violation of the Law of Non-contradiction in Scripture?

The Scriptures do not violate the Law of Non-contradiction.

(10) List three lines of evidence that help the New Testament pass the External Evidence Test.

- Supporting evidence from other early Christian writers
- Supporting evidence from non-Christian sources
- Supporting evidence from archaeology

(11) Name two archaeological discoveries that support the historical accuracy of the New Testament.

- The discovery of the Pavement
- The discovery of the Pool of Bethesda

(12) Write 2 Timothy 3:16-17 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 7 (Debate)

Messianic Prophecy and the Resurrection

(1) List three specific messianic prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

Any three of the prophecies listed on the chart on page 79 of the course text.

(2) What does the fulfillment of many specific messianic prophecies demonstrate about the origin of the prophecies?

The prophecies must have been given by God, since no one else knows the future and could have predicted so many specific details of the future so far in advance.

(3) List three explanations that skeptics give for the empty tomb. For each explanation, give one reason that the explanation is insufficient.

Explanation 1: The disciples stole the body.

Reason this is insufficient

Either reason:

- The disciples could not overpower a Roman guard.
- The disciples would have been unwilling to die for a story that they knew was a lie.

Explanation 2: The Roman or Jewish authorities removed the body.

Reason this is insufficient:

Roman or Jewish authorities would have later produced the body to disprove the Resurrection.

Explanation 3: Jesus did not die; he was unconscious when he was buried.

Reason this is insufficient

Either reason:

- Roman soldiers were trained to confirm death on the cross.
- Jesus would have been too weak to remove the stone and overpower the Roman guards.

(4) Why is it significant that the Gospels include women among the first witnesses to the Resurrection?

Women were not respected as witnesses in the ancient world. If the Resurrection story was invented by the gospel writers, they would use male witnesses.

(5) Why is it significant that the early Christians worshiped on the first day of the week and celebrated Easter each year?

This shows that the first generation of Christians believed in the truth of a physical Resurrection. Eyewitness testimony is valued by historians.

(6) Write 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 8

Jesus' Claim to be God

(1) List four statements during Jesus' ministry showing that he believed he was God.

- He claimed to be the "I Am" of the Old Testament.
- He claimed to be One with the Father.
- He claimed to possess divine attributes.
- He claimed power to perform divine acts.

(2) List three statements at Jesus' trial showing that he believed he was God.

- He claimed to be Messiah.
- He claimed to be the Son of God.
- He claimed to be the Son of Man.

(3) What are the five options to consider for Jesus' claim to be God?

- He is a legend.
- He was a guru.
- He was a liar.
- He was a lunatic.
- He is Lord.

(4) Briefly state the problem for each of the first four options.

Legend: The New Testament is historically reliable.

Guru: Jesus was a monotheistic Jew. No Jew would believe that we are all gods.

Liar: Jesus was not a liar because of his character, because he had no motivation to lie, and because of the Resurrection.

Lunatic: Jesus was perfectly balanced in his personality.

(5) Write the six premises and conclusion for the General Argument for Christianity.

Premise A: The New Testament is historically reliable.

Premise B: Jesus fulfilled messianic prophecies.

Premise C: Jesus rose from the dead.

Premise D: Resurrection and fulfillment of prophecy show that he was who he said he was: Messiah, the Son of God.

Premise E: Because Jesus is God, he is infallible.

Premise F: Jesus Christ taught that the Bible is the Word of God and that he is the only way to God.

Conclusion: If Jesus was God, we must believe what he said: The Bible is the Word of God, and Jesus is the only way to God. Therefore, Christianity is true.

(6) Write John 20:30-31 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 9

The Uniqueness of Christianity in a World of Religions

(1) What are five major beliefs regarding the existence and nature of God? Define each.

Atheism teaches that there is no God.

Pantheism teaches that there is a divine being, but that this being is not distinct from the world.

Panentheism teaches that God is distinct from the world, but he is dependent on the world for his existence.

Polytheism teaches that there are many gods.

Monotheism teaches that there is one transcendent, eternal, personal, divine being.

(2) What is the difference between Christianity and the other major beliefs?

Only Christianity provides a way for man's sin to be forgiven, for man to be reconciled to God, and for man to be restored to the image of God.

(3) What are the three premises and conclusion that show the biblical evidence for the doctrine of the Trinity?

Premise A: There is only one God.

Premise B: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all identified in Scripture as God.

Premise C: These three each relate to one another and to the world as distinct Persons.

Conclusion: The one true God of the Bible has revealed himself to exist in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is one in nature, but three in person.

(4) What three aspects of the universe illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity?

- Space
- Time
- Matter

(5) Define *animism*. What is the greatest difference between animism and Christianity?

Animism pictures natural forces and human ancestors as living beings with distinct identities.

The greatest difference with Christianity is the Christian message that a loving God desires relationship with humanity.

(6) Define *syncretism*. Why is syncretism not acceptable for Christians?

Syncretism blends Christianity and other religions.

This is not acceptable because the Bible teaches that there is only one way to God.

(7) What is the doctrine of prevenient grace?

Prevenient grace is the grace that goes before salvation. This grace is universal, but is resistible.

(8) Write Acts 4:11-12 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Christ-centered. Training. Everywhere.



SHEPHERDSGLOBAL.ORG