

1. (b) **'The Euthyphro dilemma shows that the Divine Command Theory does not work.'**

Evaluate this view.

[AO2 25]

Candidates could include some or all of the following, but other relevant points will be credited.

- Candidates may start with a brief explanation of the Euthyphro dilemma: the Euthyphro dilemma originates in the Euthyphro dialogue by Plato and states that a Divine Command theorist must concede one of two possibilities must be true: morally good acts are only good because they are willed by God or morally good acts are only willed by God because they are morally good.
- The Euthyphro dilemma can be used to illustrate that the Divine Command Theory does not work because whichever way the Divine Command theorist answers the above the Divine Command Theory can be refuted.
- The idea that moral acts are only good because God wills them has several issues associated with it:
 - Morality becomes just arbitrary, there is no moral reason guiding what God wills and morality has no rational structure. However, there appears to be a rational structure to morality, therefore, there must be a standard of morality independent of God.
 - How do we deal with situations in which God does not expressly give a command, how do we establish divine will in these situations?
 - If God's commands become moral law, then some of God's commands appear utterly trivial.
 - If moral acts are willed by God only because they are good this suggests that there is a higher morality that is independent of God. This casts doubt on divine omnipotence.
- However, Robert Adams suggests the Divine Command Theory works because it can be true that moral acts are only good because God wills them. Adam's theory accepts that it is logically possible for God to command cruelty, but it would be unthinkable for God to do so because of his omnibenevolent nature. This theory allows us to accept an omnipotent God because morality is divine will.
- Divine will can be extracted from information we already have. The Bible may not say anything specific about certain moral issues, however it does provide sufficient information on general principles to help guide morality on these issues.

Overall, candidates should engage with the debate and come to a substantiated evaluation regarding the issue raised.