

Saint Augustine Catholic High School  
Theology Department  
Apologetics  
Summer Reading Requirements

**Yes or No**  
By Peter Kreeft

**Summer Review Questions:**

**You are expected to read the entire book, from the Introduction all the way through Dialogue Nineteen.**

Introduction: (from [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com))

The popular Christian apologist Kreeft tackles many of the tough questions of our day concerning Christianity. In a series of imaginative "dialogues", Sal the Seeker and Chris the Christian deal with the profound mysteries of the Gospel. The result is a book that is both engaging and profound, a book that leads readers to initial faith—or to deeper faith. "The stakes in these dialogues are high. Christianity is God's marriage proposal to the soul, says Kreeft, and the answer must be "yes" or "no". We can evade the claims of Jesus Christ for a while, but death brings evasion to an end. It is wiser to look at Christianity honestly now. Yes or No? shows the truth of Jesus' promise that those who sincerely seek the truth shall find it. It is a road map for those who are honestly seeking the truth and a source of greater faith for those who have already found God. It presents the full challenge of the gospel in a way modern men and women can understand.

Assessment:

1. Completion of questions on the book (completion + quality of answers) for one test grade.
2. All questions will be viewed on the first day and checked for completion.
3. Class discussion on the first day of school and throughout the semester will reference the book.

Academic Honesty Policies:

The following policies are in effect regarding summer reading:

- **Copying another's work:** Honesty and integrity are expected of all students at all times. Students are expected to submit their own work on all assignments unless given explicit instructions to the contrary by a teacher. Copying is defined as giving or gaining an unfair advantage for yourself or others and is a serious offense. Both parties are equally guilty and will receive the same penalty.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's work and failing to give appropriate credit. This is a serious violation of academic integrity and can result in both an academic and behavioral penalty.

Consequences for copying or plagiarism will be addressed as in the 2009-2010 handbook.

You may work with another person to understand the book and questions, **but you must write your own distinct answers!**

The following are questions that should focus your reading. Answer them in **complete sentences and in your own words**. Use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Elaborate sufficiently in your responses to indicate to the instructors that you comprehend the material. Do not copy the answers verbatim from the book. You will be checked for a grade on your **typed answers** the first day of school.

**Just in case you missed this: you must bring a typed copy of your answers to the first class meeting.**

**Introduction:**

1. What choice do you face concerning the question of God?
2. What is the opposite of faith?
3. According to Pascal, who are the three kinds of people in the world?
4. How is this book, *Yes or No*, to be used?
5. How is this book different?
6. What is this book trying to accomplish and how will it attempt to do so?

**Dialogue One: Why Believe?**

7. What is the only reason to believe something?
8. What is the proper role of authority in our lives?
  - a. What can it do?
  - b. What can it not do?
9. Must you test every aspect of Christian faith to make a conclusion about Christianity?
10. Do you fear questioning your faith? Why or why not?

**Dialogue Two: Faith and Reason**

11. What do you think is the proper role of reason in relation to faith?
12. Do you believe there is objective truth? Explain your answer.
13. How can Christianity claim to be objectively true and yet not provable by the scientific method?

**Dialogue Three: Can You Prove That God Exists?**

14. If you accepted all five of these arguments, how much about God do they prove? What more does Christianity add about God?
15. Which argument do you think is the best one? Why?
16. Can you think of any other argument for the existence of God?

**Dialogue Four: Science and Religion**

17. Give two or three examples of questions religion can answer and science cannot. Give two or three examples of questions science can answer that religion cannot.
18. Why does Chris think science needs religion to explain why science works at all?
19. Do you think science can prove there is or is not a God? Why or why not?

**Dialogue Five: The Problem of Evil**

20. Put in your own words the “problem of evil” and how it seems to prove the Christian God does not exist.
21. Put in your own words Chris’ answer to this problem
  - a. in terms of the *origin* of evil,
  - b. in terms of the *purpose* in God allowing evil.

**Dialogue Six: Who is Jesus?**

22. What does Chris suggest are the options for the identity of Jesus, i.e., what can He be and what can He not be?
23. What difference does it make who Jesus is?

**Dialogue Seven: The Resurrection**

24. What difference does it make whether Jesus really rose from the dead or not?
25. Why couldn't the story of Jesus' resurrection be a myth or fairy tale that His disciples made up?
26. Why couldn't Jesus' disciples be mistaken about Jesus' resurrection? Why couldn't it have been a hallucination?

**Dialogue Eight: Miracles**

27. If you subtract all the miraculous elements from Christianity, how much is left?
28. What do you think is the strongest argument for *not* believing in miracles?
29. Can a scientist believe in miracles and still be a good scientist? Why or why not?

**Dialogue Nine: The Bible: Myth or History?**

30. Do you think the Bible is God's Word to us or our words about God? Why?
31. How do you tell whether to interpret a passage in the Bible literally or symbolically? Give examples.
32. Put in your own words Chris' point about not confusing the question of *interpretation* with the question of *belief*.

**Dialogue Ten: Death**

33. Why does God let us die, according to Chris?
34. Why would Chris say eternal life in Heaven is good for us but not eternal life on earth?

**Dialogue Eleven: Immortality**

35. Is the question whether there is life after death or not important to you? Why or why not?
36. Which of these six arguments seems strongest to you? Why?

**Dialogue Twelve: Longing**

37. Do you understand the feeling ("longing") Chris talks about? Explain your answer.
38. How does the longing Christ talks about seem to prove the existence of Heaven? Put Chris' argument in your own words.

**Dialogue Thirteen: Heaven**

39. Does Heaven truly exist, or is it just a human creation to escape the reality of death? Explain your answer.

**Dialogue Fourteen: Hell**

40. What do you think is the strongest argument for not believing in Hell?
41. What do you think is the strongest argument for believing there is a Hell?

**Dialogue Fifteen: Roads to Heaven and Hell**

42. Why do Christians believe the road to Heaven must be Jesus?
43. Why do others believe the road to Heaven is just being good?
44. How could a Christian believe *both* that Jesus is the only way to Heaven *and* that some atheists, pagans, Hindus, Jews, or others could go to Heaven?

**Dialogue Sixteen: Other Religions**

45. Why does Christianity's claim to be the one completely true religion seem unbelievable? (Sal's objection)
46. Why do Christians believe this, then? (Chris' answer)
47. What does Christianity have that no other religion has?

**Dialogue Seventeen: Relevance**

48. What “relevant” difference does Christ make to you and your life?

**Dialogue Eighteen: Yes or No?**

49. What, exactly, is the either/or, yes-or-no, “black-and-white” question?
50. Why can’t it be grey instead of “black or white”?

**Dialogue Nineteen: Concluding Dialogue**

51. Do you think the reasons why most people choose not to be Christians are personal reasons like Sal’s rather than logical reasons? Do you think the decision to believe or not to believe is primarily a decision of the intellect or of the will?
52. What other reasons for hesitating do you think people have?