



RELIGION AS AN AREA OF KNOWLEDGE 3

∞ GOD MATTERS

[XS IB CLE 2011-2012](#)

REASON AS A WAY OF KNOWING IN RELIGION AND MORALITY

REASON is a valuable way of knowing in the areas of RELIGIOUS BELIEFS and MORALITY, but it is used differently from SCIENCE (especially Physical Science). Read on Pascal's Wager (Section III, #184-185, #233 par 67-69) by clicking this [link](#).



What **rational argument** does Pascal use to try to convince us that it makes more sense to believe in God than not to believe in God? Complete the diagram below by specifying the consequences in each box.

	IF GOD DOES NOT EXIST	IF GOD EXISTS
IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOD	You lose nothing	You gain everything
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD	You gain nothing	You lose everything

In no more than two sentences, summarize Pascal's main argument as illustrated in the diagram above? Do you personally find it persuasive or powerful? Why or why not? Do you find it limited? If so, in what way?

Pascal's argument is basically to believe in God because you have nothing to lose by believing in God. Also, believing in God entails having a moral life.

Answer this question then discuss with your group: How does the REASONING used by Pascal differ from REASONING in other domains of knowledge?

His reasoning is absolutist because it's based on his own thoughts without prior evidence.