

HPRS5905 / 6905 Essay Questions

Please select two essay questions for your assessment submission

1. What problem was Schleiermacher trying to solve, and how successful was his solution?
2. What does Ritschl mean by a “value judgement” and is his rejection of metaphysics in theology convincing?
3. What was Troeltsch’s central theological problem, and why did he find it so difficult to resolve?
4. How does Jesus Christ function in the theologies of Schleiermacher and Ritschl? Which account do you find more convincing, and why?
5. How useful is Troeltsch’s church-sect-mysticism typology for understanding the different forms Christianity has taken in history?
6. Explain Tillich’s method of correlation. Does it give too much away to secular philosophy, or is it a strength of his theology?
7. What is Bultmann’s demythologisation programme, and is it a helpful way of reading the New Testament today?
8. What does Tillich mean by calling God the “ground of being”, and does this concept do justice to the Christian understanding of God?
9. What do Schleiermacher, Ritschl, Troeltsch, Tillich, and Bultmann have in common, and what most significantly divides them?
10. Why did Troeltsch think that historical consciousness posed such a serious challenge to Christian theology? How did one other thinker on the course attempt to respond to this challenge?
11. Is liberal theology — as represented by Schleiermacher, Ritschl, and Harnack — guilty of reducing Christianity to the values of its surrounding culture?
12. What is “ultimate concern” and is Tillich right that it is the best definition of religion?