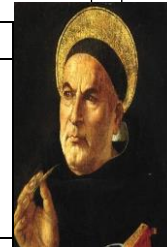


Knowledge Organiser. Theme C- The Existence of God and Revelation

The Knowledge Required

Argument	Arguments for this proving God's existence	Arguments against this proving God's existence
The Design argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paley explained that a watch has a clear purpose so must have a designer. As the universe is more complex than a watch, it must have an omnipotent designer. E.g. the human eye. Christians believe this fits with Genesis where God designed the world with a purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evil and suffering challenge the idea that God designed the world with a clear purpose. Evolution and natural selection suggest that species design themselves over time. This goes against the idea of an intelligent designer.
The First Cause/ Cosmological argument	<p>Thomas Aquinas claimed that we can prove God's existence through three premises:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Everything that exists has a cause The universe exists and has a cause The only possible First cause is God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Christians believe God caused the Big Bang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheists say the argument is flawed. If everything that exists has a cause then why doesn't God? If everything has a cause then who caused God? Atheists would argue that the big bang is the first cause and not God.
The Argument from miracles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that miracles like the resurrection and incarnation show God's immanence. God works in the world through miracles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheists say miracle healings might be a result of mind over matter or a misdiagnosis. Atheists argue that miracles are just lucky coincidences or made up for fame
General revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians argue the beauty of nature creates awe and wonder and shows God's immanence. Scripture tells us what God is like. For example Genesis shows God's omnipotence and the incarnation reveals his Omni-benevolence, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheists would argue that scripture is just authors' interpretations and opinions. They may have been translated and lost meaning. Atheists would argue that nature just tells us more about evolution and science.
Special revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that visions show God's immanence, omnipotence and Omni-benevolence. A vision leads to enlightenment, conversion (St Paul) and can start a religion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheists think all special revelations are illusions with no scientific evidence to prove their truth. The person could be mistaken or ill, deprived of sleep be on drugs or looking for fame and money.



Key Vocabulary

- Agnostic**- a person who is unsure whether God exists
- All-compassionate**- Belief that God is all-loving
- All-merciful**- Belief that God always forgives
- Atheism**- Belief that there is no God.
- Omni-Benevolent**- Characteristic of God; all-loving.
- Conscience**- Inner sense of right and wrong; seen as the voice of God within our mind by many religious believers.
- Design argument/teleological argument**. An argument to prove God's existence by focusing on evidence of design in the world, which therefore proves the existence of a designer – God. Put forward by William Paley in the 18th century.
- First cause argument**- An argument to prove God's existence by logical argument that everything is caused by something else. This requires an uncaused cause, which is God. Put forward by Thomas Aquinas in 13th century.
- General revelation**- Indirect revelation; the idea of being able to see something of God through nature, or scripture.
- Humanism**- Belief system which excludes God, but focuses on the morally good behaviour of human beings.
- Illusion**- That something is not real, but a trick of the mind.
- Immanent**- Characteristic of God; at work in the world, involved in the creation, e.g. miracles.
- Impersonal**- The ideas God is beyond human understanding.
- Infinite regression**- The universe goes back to infinity
- Miracle**- An event that breaks the laws of nature, and has God as the cause, e.g. recovering from a terminal illness
- Omniscient**- Characteristic of God; all-knowing.
- Omnipotent**- Characteristic of God; all-powerful.
- Personal**- Characteristic of God; relatable, humans can build close relationships with this God.
- Polytheist**- Belief that there are many gods/deities.
- Reality**- What is real, actual or provable by science.
- Revelation**- When God reveals Himself; (special or general)
- Special Revelation**- God communicating directly with you as an individual or a group. E.g. a vision or miracle like St Paul's conversion.
- Transcendent**- Belief that God is not controlled by space/time.
- Vision**- Seeing something which is not physically real.

Essential examples and scripture

- Genesis 1**- how this can support the Design and First Cause arguments. For example "let there be light" could reference the first cause being God. Also, God designed the world with purpose and order which is suggested through the Design argument.
- St Paul's special revelation** a miracle that led to his conversion to Christianity.
- The 69 miracles of Lourdes** as evidence of the argument from miracles
- Jesus' miracles** as evidence that God is immanent and performs miracles today. For examples **feeding the 5000** or **Jesus turning water to wine**.
- The Big Bang, evolution/natural selection and evil and suffering** as arguments against the existence of God.
- The incarnation/resurrection of Jesus**-the most important miracles of Christianity
- The Trinity**- to highlight God showing Himself to be immanent and transcendent

