

## Knowledge Organiser



W Paley

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I Newton

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Tennant

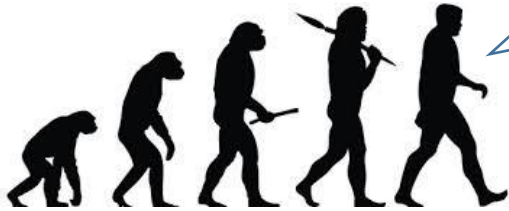
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### Against



Natural disasters

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Evolution

### Conclusion

Overall I think that the Design argument, also called the \_\_\_\_\_ does / doesn't prove God's existence because.....

### Success Criteria of your conclusion

- ✓ Have you made reference to specific scholars (people) whose ideas you like or don't like?
- ✓ Have you justified your response, using connectives like **because / due to / this makes me....**

### Cosmological Argument

Why is the cosmological argument referred to as the FIRST CAUSE argument? *Use the terms ordered / perfect / nothingness/ Cause / universe / eternal/ omnipotent / Aquinas* in your answer.

How does the Big Bang agree with the Cosmological argument?

Why Islam agrees	Why Christianity agrees



ICES - What are the 4 criticisms of the cosmological argument?

Infinite

Contradicts

Eternal

Spontaneous

## Analysing a sample student answer

Read the exam question below, and the student sample answer, and then complete the activities.

'The First Cause argument proves that God exists.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

### Student sample answer:

The First Cause argument says that everything that exists has a cause. It is obvious to everyone that the universe exists because we live in it! Therefore the universe too must have a cause- something must have started it. But that something had to be eternal and not caused by something else, otherwise that other thing would be the cause, and so on. Christians believe that God is the eternal, almighty cause that began the process of creation of everything we know. The Bible says that God merely said, 'Let there be light' and it was created. So God was the eternal being that set off the Big Bang which led to evolution and the world as we know it today.

Atheists are people who do not believe there is a God. They would argue that the First Cause argument does not prove there is a God because there are flaws in the logic- the argument contradicts itself. For example, if everything has a cause, what caused God?

In conclusion, I think that the First Cause argument is quite a good one, but I also see the point of the atheist arguments, so I am really not sure.

### Activities:

1. Does the answer refer to religious arguments and if so what are they? Underline these in blue pen.
2. Is there an argument to support the statement and how well developed is it? Underline this with a red pen.
3. Is a different point of view offered and how well developed is that? Underline this with a green pen.
4. Has the student written a clear conclusion after weighing up both sides of the argument? Mark these with a yellow highlighter.

## Marking the answer

Below is the AQA levels of response and simplified mark scheme for AO2. Use both of these to complete the activities underneath and determine a mark for the student sample answer.

### Levels of response:

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<b>A well-argued response</b> , reasoned consideration of <b>different points of view</b> <b>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s)</b> supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information Reference to religion applies to the issue	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of <b>different points of view</b> <b>Logical chains of reasoning</b> that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information Clear reference to religion.	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view <b>A logical chain of reasoning</b> drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information <b>OR</b> <b>Recognition of different points of view</b> , each supported by relevant reasons/evidence Maximum Level 2 if no reference to religion.	4–6
1	<b>Point of view with reason(s)</b> stated in support <b>OR</b> Two points of view simply expressed.	1–3
0	<b>Nothing</b> worthy of credit	0

### Mark scheme notes

- A Level 4 answer will include all four things described in the bullet points – religious arguments, a developed argument in support of the answer, a developed argument from a different point of view and a justified conclusion.
- Without reference to religious teaching, no more than half the total mark will be obtained.
- Higher level answers will show a “logical chain of reasoning”. This means that your argument should flow from one point to another in a logical manner, showing connections to the previous point. Examiners are looking for coherent reasoning that is easy to follow, rather than a response that jumps randomly from one point to the next.
- Well-informed judgements can appear throughout the answer and not only as a final conclusion.
- The mark scheme content below is meant to give guidance to the markers. Answers are not expected to include everything which is in the mark scheme. The development of the reasons chosen is the key to getting the higher marks.

### Simplified mark scheme for AO2:

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

### Arguments in support:

The First Cause argument proves that God exists because everything that exists or begins to exist has a cause.

The universe exists so it too must have a cause.

There had to be something eternal (without beginning or end) that was not caused by anything.

The eternal first cause is God.

Something cannot come from nothing.

Something must have always existed, i.e. God.

### **Arguments supporting other views:**

The First Cause argument contradicts itself.

If everything has a cause, God too must have a cause.

What caused God?

If God is eternal, why cannot the universe be eternal?

Just because things within the world have a cause does not mean the universe itself has a cause.

The Big Bang was the cause of the universe.

The Big Bang was a random event, not caused.

The universe may have a cause but this does not mean the cause is a personal, loving God.

### **Religious teaching**

**Christianity** – Christians who accept the First Cause argument believe that Genesis 1:1-3 supports it because God created the heavens and the earth from nothing / God commanded the universe into being, (e.g. 'Let there be light') / Thomas Aquinas, a Christian monk, argued that nothing can come from nothing by itself, and since an infinite series of causes and effects is impossible since it would have taken an infinite amount of time to reach humankind, therefore the first cause had to be an 'uncaused cause', namely God.

**Islam** – Muslim philosophers in the eleventh century argued that the difference between the universe and God is that the universe had a beginning in time whereas God is eternal / everything that has a beginning in time has a cause / therefore the universe has a cause: God / God does not need a cause because God has always existed / **Muslims** – who accept the First Cause argument say the Qur'an supports it: ('We built the skies with Our power and made them vast...' Qur'an 51:47) and ('Travel throughout the earth and see how He brings life into being; God has power over all things.' Qur'an 29:20)

### **Activities: Determining a mark for the student sample response**

*Read the sample answer carefully*, comparing it to the criteria in the levels of response and mark scheme. You should find the activity that you did using different coloured pens very helpful to show whether the student remembered to refer to Christian teachings; if there is one viewpoint or two; how well developed the reasoning is and whether it lead to a conclusion.

*Determine the level:* Decide, overall, what level of response this is.

*Determine the mark:* If you felt the response was near the top of the level (i.e. you were tempted by the level above), award a mark near the top of the level. If you were tempted by the level below, give a mark near the bottom of the level. If neither is the case, give a mark in the middle.

**Mark:**

**/12 marks**

## Miracles

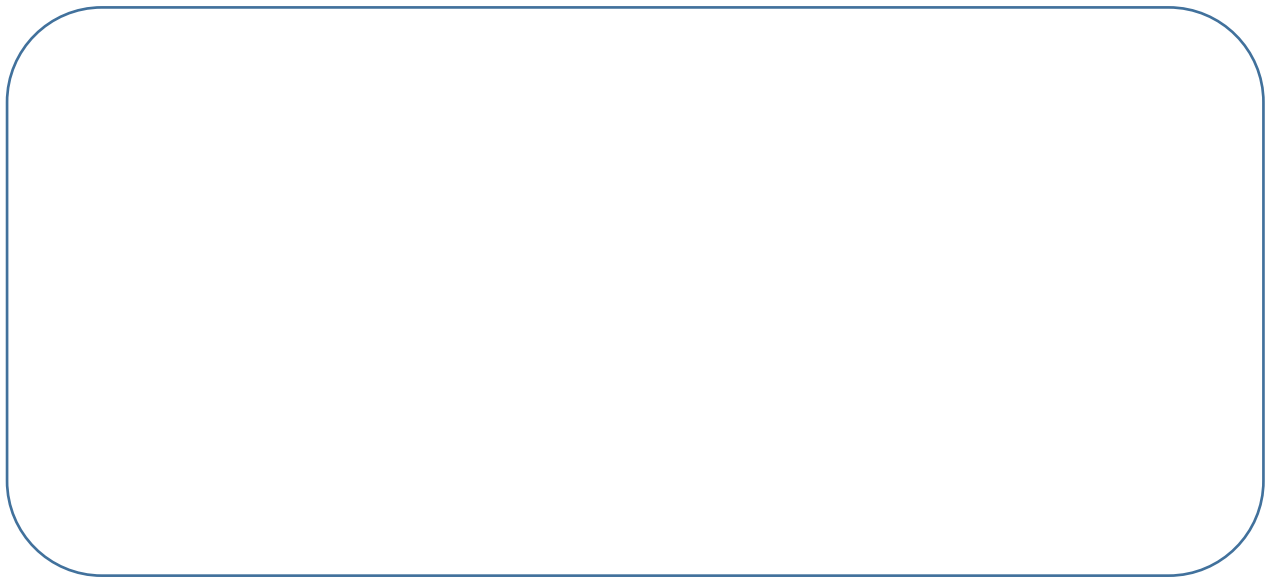
Definition:

Type 1	Type 2

"I believe in Miracles....." because:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

A specific example is:



Arguments against God's existence – match up the correct definitions

<u>Word</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
Atheist	Cannot be sure whether God exists or not
Theist	A person who doesn't believe in God
Agnostic	A person who does believe in God

Why are people atheists?

In the past people found answers to questions from....

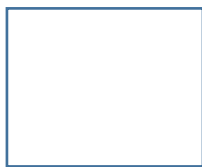
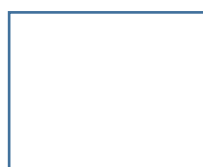
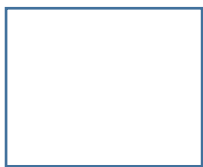


For example.....

The process scientist's use:

**Observation ----- Hypothesis -----testing-----repeated testing**

Draw 4 diagrams to represent each aspect



### **Evil and suffering**

There are two types of suffering:

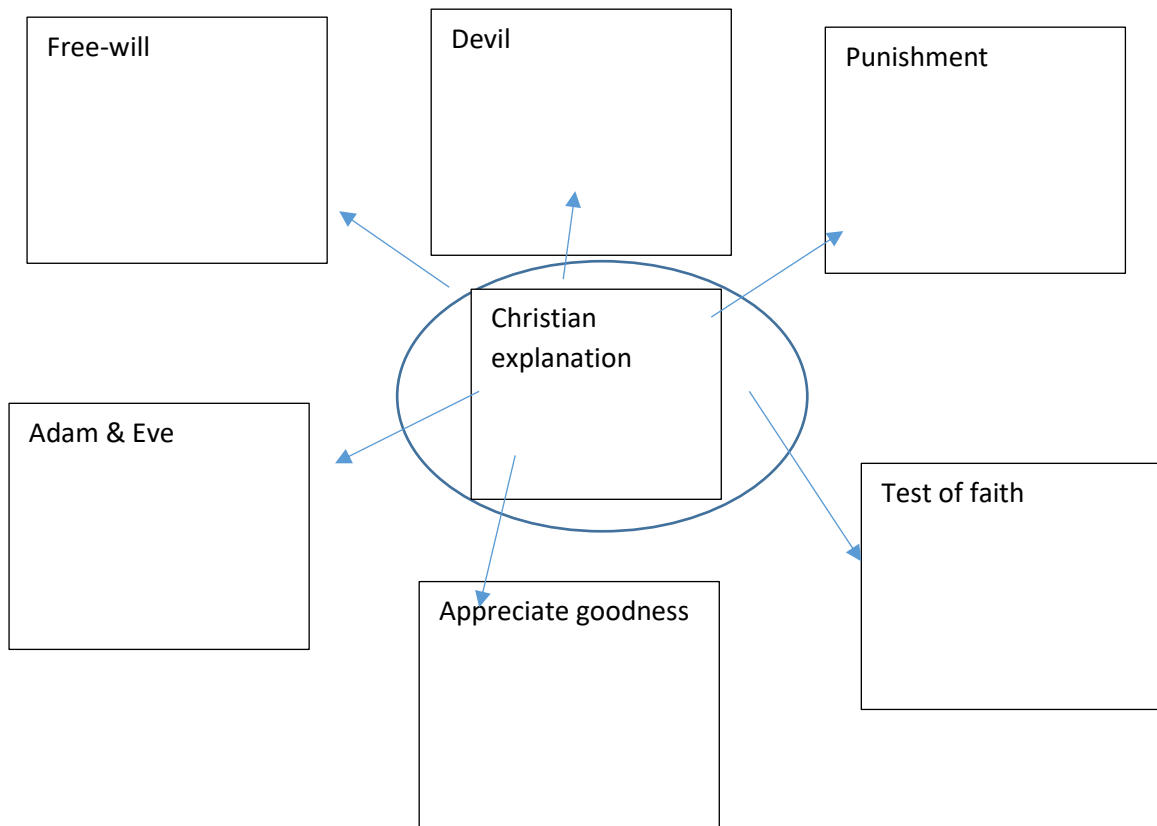
1)

2)

Why does suffering raise a problem for religious believers? (Include the words suffering / unjust / God / innocent / all-powerful (Omni-potent) / Omniscient / God)



Complete the mind map



How do Christians think God helps?





What is meant by calling Jesus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam? Why was he required?

Christian response....As a Christian if you see suffering you should.....

You should do this because.....

Examples of this are.....

The nature of the divine and revelation

Fill in the gaps:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Revelation*– God making himself known through \_\_\_\_\_ personal experience or an unusual \_\_\_\_\_ event.

\_\_\_\_\_ –the gaining of true \_\_\_\_\_ about God or self, usually through meditation and self-discipline: in Buddhist and \_\_\_\_\_ traditions, gaining freedom from the cycle of re-birth.

Buddha – example of an \_\_\_\_\_ being- lived a life of privilege / saw the four \_\_\_\_\_ / went in search of \_\_\_\_\_ / lived a life of deprivation / reached the middle way/ gained \_\_\_\_\_ under the Bodhi tree after resisting \_\_\_\_\_.

Hinduism – goal of life is to achieve Moksha- oneness with \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths of Special Revelation - Use your knowledge organiser to bullet point these

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

Examples of general revelation include:

Strengths of general revelation include:

Draw a quick comic strip of St Paul's vision:

Personal - (when applied to God) is the belief in a conscious individual or person with whom people are able to have a relationship or feel close to. Christians believe that they can pray to God in a personal way e.g. Father

Impersonal -(when applied to God) means that the believer does not think that God has any 'human' characteristics. God is

unknowable and mysterious. God is regarded more like an idea or a force rather than a person.

Immanent - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - is to believe that God is outside time and space. God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe.

\_\_\_\_\_ - refers to God's complete powerfulness, beyond anything we can know.

\_\_\_\_\_ - refers to God's total intelligence, beyond anything we can know or copy.

Benevolence-\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ -one of the qualities of God; showing concern for the sufferings of others; literally 'suffering with'.

\_\_\_\_\_ a quality of God that stresses God's willingness to forgive the wrongdoer.

Christian beliefs –One God who can be seen through three different aspects, the Trinity—Father, Son and Spirit. Father –\_\_\_\_\_, the eternal mighty God, Son-came to earth in the form of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_-God as he works in the world.

Reasons to support revelations	Problems with revelations
Power	Illusion
Impact	Why some and not others?
Evidence	Hume: Evidence
	Hume: unreliable witnesses
	Hume: all can't be right
	Transcendent / Immanent same time

	Have we the language to describe it?
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Alternative explanations?

Case Study; (Ellen White)

<u>Source of revelation</u>	<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Non-religious</u>
<u>Miracles</u>	<p><i>Christianity has recorded many miracles, where God has intervened in his creation to make something good happen, often healing the incurable. Mother Teresa was a Christian Nun who had devoted her life to helping the poor and needy, In Calcutta. On the first anniversary of her death a non- Christian Indian women was cured fg a huge abdominal tumour- it simply disappeared overnight as she slept. Members of the Missionaries of Charity had prayed to Mother Teresa for this cure. The belief is that the prayers showed the necessary faith to allow Mother Teresa's soul to bring God's power to the problem. Doctors have been unable to find an alternative explanation.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Humanists:</u></b> would look for non- supernatural explanation They can show that events previously classed as miracles are now explainable through medical science, and that those calling them miracles already has a religious bias to affect them</p> <p><b><u>Atheist:</u></b> An atheist would dispute that God performs miracles, as (to them) God does not exist. They may see events like these s something which can occur naturally (spontaneous regression) though is not yet understood by medical science.</p>
<u>Visions</u>	<p>Visions are a form of revelation from God, allowing humans to have a relationship with him. Many Christians</p>	<p><b><u>Humanists:</u></b> take a non-theistic stance, and do not look for supernatural explanations for events. A vision may be caused</p>

	<p>have written about their revelation and given an insight because if it, for example St Teresa of Avila, Bernadette Soubirous and Fred Ferrari. Christians believe that God speaks directly to humans through these revelations, telling them religious truths and helping them to understand his wishes The vision can have a profound effect on their live and causing great change.</p>	<p>by hallucination, illness, drugs, or many other reasons- but not a divine source</p> <p><b><u>Atheist:</u></b> Might see these experiences as hallucinatory, they believe there is no God, and so there can be source for this revelation other than our own brain.</p>
<b><u>Nature</u></b>	<p>Revelation is when God reveals Himself. Nature is seen as a source of revelation by Christians because it is God's creation. Just as an artist leaves clues about themselves in their work, so God has left clues in His creation. For example the beauty of nature, the fact that it seems to have been designed (see Design argument Many Christians see a beautiful sunset etc and see God at work – this is God revealing himself via nature / his creation)</p>	<p><b><u>Humanists:</u></b> A Humanist would say there is no such thing as God and therefore a non-existent being cannot be revealed in anyway. We should appreciate the patterns and the beauty but not see it as a source of revelation</p> <p><b><u>Atheist:</u></b> An Atheist would say that as much as nature might reveal to a believer that there is a God, it reveals nothing to others especially those who believe there is no divine being.</p>

Re-create this table in bullet points

Then

Re-create this table in pictures

## Exam Questions

1. What is meant by personal (in relation to the divine)?
  - A. Beyond
  - B. Able to have a close relationship to God
  - C. Absolute
  - D. All-knowing
2. What is meant by Immanent?
  - A. Absolute
  - B. All-powerful
  - C. Beyond time and space
  - D. Active in the world
3. Give two alternative explanations to the claim that someone has met God (2)
4. Give two reasons why scripture claims to have helped people (2)
5. Give two reasons why people think that the design argument is weak (2)
6. Give two reasons why people think the first Cause argument is weak (2)
7. Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about visions in contemporary British society (4)
8. Explain two similar religious beliefs about the divine. In your answer you should refer to at least one religious tradition (4)
9. Explain two contrasting beliefs about proving the existence of God. In your answer you should refer to at least one religious tradition (4)
10. Explain two religious beliefs about Enlightenment as a source of knowledge about the divine. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer (5)
11. Explain two religious beliefs about God being Immanent. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer (5)
12. Explain two religious beliefs about general revelations. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer (5)
13. It is impossible to know what God is like. Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
  - Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
  - Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
  - Refer to religious arguments
  - Refer to no- religious argument
  - Justified conclusion
14. "The existence of evil proves that God does not exist"

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- Refer to religious arguments
- Refer to no- religious argument
- Justified conclusion

15. "Miracles prove God's existence"

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- Refer to religious arguments
- Refer to no- religious argument
- Justified conclusion