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Year 8 Homework Booklet



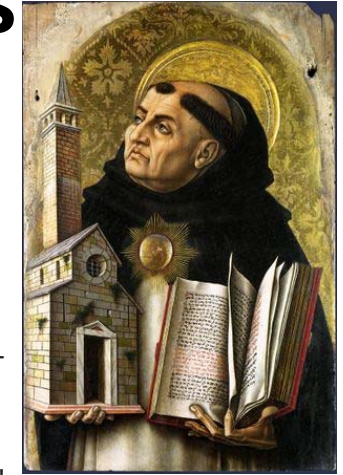
Faith & Ethics Scholar's Pathway



My teacher is going to test me on all of my homework on this day every week.	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY
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St Thomas Aquinas



St. Thomas Aquinas, (1225 – 7 March 1274) was a Catholic Dominican priest from Italy, and is considered one of the most important Catholic saints. He was born in Roccasecca, as the son of Count Andulf of Aquino and Countess Theodora of Teano.

He studied philosophy and theology. His early education was received at the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, and attended the University of Naples, where he earned the nickname "dumb ox" for his slow demeanor, even though he was a very talented student of rhetoric, logic, and natural science. By 1240, he became captivated to religious life and decided to become a friar with the new Dominican order. When he tried to become a friar and propose his oath, his family captured him and brought him back, because to become a Dominican, one must eliminate material wealth, and his parents were expecting for him to follow in his uncle's footsteps and become a Benedictine abbot. They kept him in a castle in an effort to change his mind. However, when they released him two years later, he immediately joined the Dominicans.

He was the theologian who came up with the famous Cosmological Argument. Catholics think Aquinas is the best teacher for one who wants to become a priest. His most famous books are *Summa Theologica* and the *Summa Contra Gentiles*. Aquinas is one of the 33 Doctors of the Church. Many schools are named after him including the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). Aquinas is also known for his work with Natural law, the belief that there are 'natural laws' that can be derived from nature by the reason of human beings. Aquinas took an optimistic view of human nature, believing that it is human nature to do good and not evil.

1. Where was St Thomas Aquinas born?
2. What and were did he study early in his life?
3. What his nickname as a University student?
4. What did his parents do when he tried to be become a friar?
5. What did his parents expect him to be?
6. What is his most famous argument?
7. What do Catholics think of Aquinas?
8. What are his two most famous books on philosophy and religion?
9. What is Aquinas also known for?
10. What does natural law mean?

The Belief in God

1. What is an Theist?
2. What is an Atheist?
3. What does Agnostic mean?
4. What are the 3 most common reasons given for atheism?
5. What do some atheists believe there is not enough of to believe in a God?
6. What is methodological naturalism? (nothing supernatural)
7. Which law protects atheists right to express their view?
8. What percentage of the world describes itself as atheist?
9. Which two countries have very high rates of non-belief in God?
10. What percentage difference is there between atheists in Sweden and Atheists in Italy?

Theist - someone who believes that God exists. **Theists** do not necessarily believe they can prove God's existence.

Agnostic - someone who holds the view that it is impossible to know the truth about some things, such as God's existence or the **afterlife**.

Atheist - someone who holds the view that there is no God. Atheists do not necessarily believe they can prove atheism to be true

Atheists often give reasons why they do not believe in a God or Gods. Three of the reasons that they often give are the problem of evil, the argument from inconsistent revelations, and the argument from nonbelief. Not all atheists think these reasons provide complete proof that Gods cannot exist, but these are the reasons given to support rejecting belief that Gods exist. Some atheists do not believe in any God because there is no evidence for any God nor Gods and Goddesses, so believing any type of theism means believing unproved assumptions. These atheists think a simpler explanation for everything is methodological naturalism which means that only natural things exist. Occam's razor shows simple explanations without many unproved guesses are more likely to be true.

In many countries, mainly in the Western world, there are laws that protect atheists' right to express their atheistic belief (freedom of speech). This means that atheists have the same rights under the law as everyone else. *Freedom of religion* in international law and treaties includes the freedom to not have a religion.

Today, about 2.3% of the world's population describes itself as atheist. About 11.9% is described as nontheist. Between 64% and 65% of Japanese describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, or non-believers, and up to 48% in Russia. The percentage of such people in European Union member states ranges between 6% (Italy) and 85% (Sweden).

The Cosmological Argument

1. What are the first 2 points of the argument?
 2. What is the conclusion to the argument?
 3. How long ago do Scientists believe the Universe began?
 4. What does transcendent mean?
 5. What is the Cosmological argument also called?
 6. What does Aquinas say is the only thing that could cause itself?
 7. Why does he argue that the first cause is God?
 8. Why is this the modern version of the argument?
 9. What do people often think about arguments for the existence of God and the Big Bang?
 10. Can these two arguments work together? Why?
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1. All things are caused.
2. Nothing can cause itself.
3. Therefore, everything that is caused is caused by something other than itself.
4. The Universe is not infinite and had a beginning around 13.7 Billion years ago (according to the Big Bang Theory)
5. Something must have caused the Universe to exist (but nothing can cause itself)
6. Therefore, something transcendent (outside of space and time) must have caused space and time to exist. (Aquinas argues this is God)

The Cosmological argument (above) is also known as the first cause argument. The basic argument is that nothing can cause itself to exist. Like a row of dominoes, they won't fall unless something causes them too. The only thing that could cause itself to exist, Thomas Aquinas argues, is a God as that is the only thing that we would describe as both transcendent and a creator. The argument you see above is a more modern version of the Cosmological argument as Thomas Aquinas would not have been aware of the Big Bang Theory. People often see The Big Bang Theory and arguments for the existence of God as opposite but this is far from the case! The Big Bang Theory proves that there was a beginning to the Universe (people used to think it was infinite); the cosmological argument also argues that the Universe has a beginning.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Cosmological Argument

Bullet point 5 strengths and 5 weakness of the cosmological argument from the text.

Strengths

Weaknesses

Strengths - Scientific discoveries, eg the **Big Bang theory**, can be seen to support the **first cause** argument. If God caused the 'Big Bang', then God is the 'first cause' that brought the cosmos (universe) into existence. The Big Bang Theory also confirms that the Universe had a beginning and is not infinite. This means that it must have had some sort of “cause” around 13.7 billion years ago. Also, this argument is strong because it confirms to the theist that there is purpose to the cosmos and a place for God as its 'creator'. The Cosmological Argument is also supported by Newton’s Laws of motion. Newton’s first law of motion states that objects will remain motionless until acted on by an external force. This supports the main premise of the argument; that nothing can cause itself. So the cause of the Universe must be something outside the laws of physics.....maybe a God?

Weaknesses—If the argument is based on the idea that everything has a cause, then this leaves open the question 'Who or what caused God?' To reply that God needs no explanation is not enough to prove God's existence. This leads to a further problem of “infinite regress”. This means that we could keep asking what created God? And what created that? And so on..... This is exact problem we were trying to avoid in the first place!

The Big Bang was not necessarily caused by God – it could have happened by chance. Aquinas argues that the cause must be something outside of space and time; but why does that have to be a God? It could be anything! The argument is presented for believers and makes sense to them, but it is not convincing for the atheist or the agnostic. Multiverse theory is also a challenges to theory as it states that there are multiple Universes and presents the idea that black holes take in matter and time and produce a new big bang in a new universe. This would explain a first cause without needing to have God as the cause.

The Design Argument

St Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) argued that the apparent order and **complexity** in the world is proof of a designer and that this designer is God.

William Paley (1743 – 1805) argued that the **complexity** of the world suggests there is a **purpose** to it. This suggests there must be a **designer**, which he said is God.

Paley used a watch to illustrate his point. If he came across a mechanical **watch** on the ground, he would assume that its many complex parts fitted together for a purpose and that it had not come into **existence by chance**. There must be a **watchmaker**. The Universe/human body is even more complex than a watch. So if the watch needs a watchmaker then don't we have to say that Universe needs a Universe maker? Paley argues the only logical conclusion is that this is God.

Strengths of the argument

The argument only comes up with probabilities, therefore it can continue to develop as new discoveries in science come along.

The argument fits well with the biblical stories of creation, whether these are understood literally or symbolically.

Some developments of the argument, eg the anthropic principle provide ways for ideas about evolution and belief in the existence of God to work together.

Weaknesses of the argument

Complexity does not necessarily mean **design**.

Even if we accept that the world was designed, it cannot be assumed that its designer is God. And if it were designed by God, then the existence of evil and suffering in the world would suggest that the belief that God is all-good is false.

The theory of **natural selection**, put forward by **Charles Darwin**, shows a way of understanding how species develop without reference to a designer God.

1. Which two philosophers put forward the design argument?
 2. What both argue was evidence of a designer?
 3. In Paley's watch analogy, what does he say we would assume about a watch we might see on the ground?
 4. Which does Paley say about the Universe/Human body?
 5. What is the logical conclusion for Paley?
 6. What is the benefit of an argument that only comes up with possibilities?
 7. Does it fit with Biblical stories?
 8. Do some argue that evolution and the design argument can work together? What is the principle called?
 9. How is evil and suffering a weakness?
 10. What might Charles Darwin say about the Design Argument?
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Logical Fallacies 1

A logical fallacy is an argument that may sound correct but actually is not logically sound at all! Here are some common logical fallacies:

Ad Hominem

This is Latin for “at the person”. This is when an argument is directed at person instead of the subject itself. For example, person A may argue that smoking is bad. Person B may say “Well I saw you smoking the other day!”. The argument is about whether smoking is bad or not. Whether person A smokes or not has no impact on whether it is bad or good for you. You see this kind of argument a lot in politics. It is not logical and not a constructive way of arguing. Always attack the argument; never the person.

Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc

This is Latin for “after this therefore because of this”. It is a causal fallacy meaning that the logical mistake here is saying that one event caused another just because one happened just after the other. It is important to remember this fallacy if you are scientist. A scientist, or anyone who wants to be logical, can never assume that one event cause another unless they have absolute proof. For example: I’ve just drank some milk and now I feel ill. We cannot assume straight away that the milk has caused the illness, it could be any number of possible causes.

The Slippery Slope Fallacy

Here is an example of a slippery slope fallacy. “if we ban smoking then people will use soft drugs instead. This will then lead to higher uses of hard drugs which will lead to crime. So the prevent crime we need to keep smoking legal”. This clearly is not logical and the reason is that the arguer is assuming to many causes and effects in the future. We see this a lot in politics. The example was actually taken from a political debate about smoking in America. We cannot predict the future.

1. What is a logical fallacy?
2. What does Ad Hominem mean in Latin?
3. If a person makes an Ad Hominem fallacy what do they attack instead of the argument itself?
4. Where do we often see this type of argument?
5. What does “post hoc ergo propter hoc” mean?
6. What kind of person would want to avoid this type of fallacy?
7. Explain the slippery slope fallacy.
8. Come up with own example for an Ad hominem fallacy.
9. Come up with own example for a “post hoc ergo propter hoc” fallacy.
10. Come up with own example for a slippery slope fallacy.

Homework 7: Rationalism

Rationalism regards **reason** as the chief source and test of our knowledge or what is true. Our perspective is altered by our feelings and our senses so we must use **reason** instead.

Truth is not sensory but **intellectual**.

Rationalism is **a priori** this means we gain our knowledge without experience and instead use reason. An alternative to **a priori** is **a posteriori** which is when knowledge is gained from experience or observation .

There are three ways we can gain knowledge:

1. **Deduction**—applying principles to draw conclusions
2. **Innate ideas**—ideas you are born with
3. **Reason**—use logic to draw conclusion

SPINOZA

Is an example of a Rationalist. **Spinoza** was from Amsterdam and was born in 1632. He was born Jewish but was very critical of Jewish ideas about God. He died in 1677.

Spinoza was accused of being an atheist (Not believing in God) but in fact he just rejected the Jewish ideas of God. He was excommunicated for his beliefs. This means he was forced out of the Jewish faith.

Tasks

1. What do Rationalists use as their source of knowledge? (1)
2. What two things are our perspective altered by? (2)
3. What does a priori mean? (1)
4. What is the opposite of a priori? (1)
5. Why is it this the opposite of a priori? (1)
6. What are the three ways we can gain knowledge? (1)
7. Give an example of when you would use each type of method (from Q6) (3)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Marks out of 10

Homework 8: Spinoza

“But having failed to make him mend his wicked ways, and, on the contrary, daily receiving more and more serious information about the abominable **heresies** which he practiced and taught and about his monstrous deeds, and having for this numerous trustworthy witnesses who have deposed and born witness to this effect in the presence of the said Espinoza, they became convinced of the truth of this matter; and after all of this has been investigated in the presence of the honorable hakhamim, they have decided, with their consent, that the said Espinoza should be **excommunicated** and expelled from the people of Israel...”

from the Ark in the synagogue of Talmud Torah, the united congregation of the Portuguese Jews in Amsterdam

Hereseey **means:** belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious doctrine

Excommunication: It is the total exclusion of a person from the **Jewish** community.

Spinoza was from Amsterdam and was born in 1632. He was born Jewish but was very critical of Jewish ideas about God. He died in 1677.

Spinoza was accused of being an **atheist** (Not believing in God) but in fact he just rejected the Jewish ideas of God. He was excommunicated for his beliefs.

Spinoza believed that God wasn't outside of nature , he didn't punish people, there was no after life, he didn't hear or respond to prayers, humans' were not God's special creatures, the holy books were written by men and God was not a craftsman.

Instead in believed in **Pantheism** , this is when God and nature are the same thing.

- Where was Spinoza from? (1)
- Which religion was Spinoza born into? (1)
- What does excommunication mean? (1)
- What does Hereseey mean ? (1)
- What does atheism mean? (1)

- Why did the Jewish authorities excommunicate Spinoza? List 4 things they disagreed on (4)

- What does Pantheism mean? (1)

Marks out
of 10

Homework 9:

Spinoza was moving away from superstition to reason. He wrote his ideas in a book called The Ethics in 1677.

He was a defender of belief in God, but believed in a very different God to that described in Judaism. He believed in an impersonal God, who was the same as nature, the universe, reason, truth, existence, and is sometimes described as the “world soul.” He describes God as “Everything that is and can be.”

“Whatever is, is in God and nothing can exist or be conceived without God”

Spinoza undermined the idea of prayer. He believed the task humans should do is to understand the world and how the world works and accept it. They shouldn't be trying to ask a God to change things.

He was greatly influenced the Stoics of Greek and Roman. They believed the role of humans was to understand the ways of the world and accept it.

Tasks:

1. What was Spinoza's book called? (1)
2. In what year was this book written? (1)
2. Was Spinoza an atheist? (1)
3. How does Spinoza describe God? (1)
4. What other words are used to describe by Spinoza? (add 3 words please)
5. Why does Spinoza not accept prayer? (2)
6. What was the Stoic's view of the world? (1)

1

2

3

4

5

6

Marks out of 10

Homework 10:

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz was born in Germany.

He began a life of professional service to nobleman, primarily the dukes of Hanover.

His professional duties included being an official historian and legal advisor. He was required to travel widely, meeting many of the foremost intellectuals in Europe—of particularly importance were the astronomer, mathematician, and physicist Huygens, and the philosopher *SPINOZA*.

Leibniz “Why is there something rather than nothing?”

Leibniz answer is :God

⇒ *Everything that exists has an explanation for its existence*

⇒ *If the universe has an explanation the explanation is God*

⇒ *The universe exists*

⇒ *The explanation of the universe is God.*

Criticisms:

1. Bertrand Russell– why can't the universe just exist, why does it require an explanation?
2. If everything requires a cause why doesn't God require a cause?

Leibniz explains that God isn't like everything else, he is necessary. All other things are contingent, they rely on other things for their existence.

Tasks:

Name two people who influenced Leibniz (2)

Was Leibniz an atheist? (1)

Explain your answer to number two. (1)

What does Leibniz believe everything that exists require?? (1)

What does Leibniz believe is the explanation for the universe? (1)

Name two criticisms of this argument (2)

How does Leibniz argue against these criticisms? (1)

What does he mean by Contingent? (1)

Marks out of 10

Homework 11 :

Empiricism Advantages

An **empiricist** would say that the laws of electrical conductivity are dependent on human **observation**. It's because we've seen electricity going through a piece of metal and not wood thousands of times that we consolidated the fact that metal is a conductor and wood is not. Our **senses** don't lie -- under normal circumstances -- and **experience** can show whether a phenomenon repeats itself and therefore it abides by certain laws or it happened randomly. Scientists for example use experiments to test through observation whether an assumption is true or not.

Empiricism Disadvantages

Perception is not universal: What a person **perceives** as true can be false for another person. For example, a book can be red for one man, but for a color-blind person it may be green. Does this mean that because one or many color-blinds perceive the book as such it is indeed green? Furthermore, perception is also affected by external factors: the same experiment under different conditions (temperature for example) can give different results, unbeknownst to the careless researcher.

Rationalism Advantages

Rationalists believe that there is a **reason** each object or phenomenon exists. An object comes back to the ground when thrown upwards not because a million people have observed so but because there is a reason for it to happen: the law of gravity. In addition, metal is a conductor because it facilitates movable electric charges, unlike wood. **Rationalism** tries to find the already existing general principles (man didn't create them) behind each phenomenon, which are independent of each individual's perception of knowledge. The result is undisputed theories explaining the laws of the world surrounding us.

Rationalism Disadvantages

Rationalism suggests that people are born with **innate** ideas, truths in a particular subject area (such as math concepts) that are part of our **rational** nature and we only have to bring them to the surface. However, as philosopher John Locke suggests, there are "idiots" who are not aware of -- and cannot understand -- simple notions, contradicting the universality of innate ideas. Furthermore, **laws or logic** describing the world are not **infallible**, as they may be based on human **misconceptions**, otherwise scientists would not conduct experiments and just rely on logical arguments

TASK

Choose either to be a Rationalist or an Empiricist and justify why your view is the correct one. You must have 5 points in your answer, -you will get one mark for the point and a second for explaining it fully. This will give you a total of 10 marks. You need to identify your 5 points, so either use 5 different colours to show each point, or underline in 5 different colour or if you have no colour then use different shaped lines to show each point. Use the advantages and disadvantages above to help you.

Marks out
of 10

Homework 11

Homework 12 - Recap of the Cosmological Argument

First Cause (COSMOLOGICAL) argument -This argument says that there is a perfect and well- ordered **universe** rather than nothingness because God brought the cosmos into existence. **St Thomas Aquinas** said that things could not cause themselves to come into **existence** so something has to cause them. The universe exists and therefore must have been caused by something outside the **universe**. There had to be something **eternal** (without beginning or end) that was not caused by anything. The eternal first **cause** was God. Aquinas argued that this first cause of the universe was God. If God had not caused the universe to begin then there would be no universe and therefore we would not exist.

Arguments for First Cause-Some **theists** (Christian's) argue that the measurement of time is evidence that the universe had a beginning. This beginning was caused by God. If we apply this theory to the **Big Bang**, could argue that God is the First Cause, the cause of the Big Bang and the universe could have evolved from this. They would argue that as scientists do not know what caused the Big Bang, then why could it not be God? The Big Bang describes how God caused the Universe. Islam accepts that scientific findings support Allah's existence and the creation of the Universe. Many Christians believe that the **Cosmological argument** is supported by the creation story found in Genesis 1:1-3. It says that before the Universe was created only God existed and at the command of God the process of creation began.

Arguments against First Cause- Just because events/things have causes doesn't mean that the **universe** itself has a cause. It is possible that the universe does not have a beginning, it is infinite. (Steady State Theory – universe is eternal it has always existed. **Atheists** and **agnostics** would challenge the argument saying it contradicts itself. It still does not answer 'who or what caused God'? If God is eternal than why can the universe not be eternal? Big –Bang Theory – Atheists could use this to argue that the universe resulted from a random spontaneous event, not an action by God. The religious accounts of creation are simply **myths**.

Big Bang– Scientific theory that argues that the world and universe resulted when a singularity exploded. From this explosion all the matter that makes up to **universe** came into being. Tiny ripples of radiation detected by scientists have been used as evidence to back up this theory. It is suggested that at one point all the matter in the universe was at a single point, there was an explosion and matter is now moving away from this point. This says that the world is not made in the same way as the seven day account in Genesis in the Bible. Big-Bang Theory is a challenge to First Cause argument only if it is thought to be a spontaneous random event without reason or cause

Task 1:

1. How does Aquinas describe the universe ? (1)
2. Why does Aquinas argue that the universe must have been created by God? 3 points please
3. Why do many Christians support this idea? (1)
4. How do many Christians support this idea and the idea of the Big Bang? (3– explain your answer fully)
5. Give two arguments against Aquinas (2)

Marks out of 10

Homework 13

1. What is a rationalist?
2. What does a rationalist use to help make their decisions?
3. Give an advantage of rationalism
4. Give an advantage of empiricism
5. Give a disadvantage of rationalism
6. Give a disadvantage of empiricism
7. Why was Spinoza excommunicated?
8. Why did Leibniz call God necessary?
9. Why did Bertrand Russell disagree with Leibniz?
10. Why did Leibniz call humans contingent ?

Answers:

Marks out of 10

Spinoza

- Spinoza was from Amsterdam (1632-1677)
- He was Jewish BUT was very critical of Jewish ideas about God. So much so he was excommunicated by the Jewish authorities.
- Rationalist- Humans acquire knowledge via our minds alone (opposite to Empiricists) He believed in deductive logic – a self-contained system.
- He was excommunicated age 24
- Write “Ethics”
- He reinvented religion , away from superstition / way from a God who judged / who was outside of nature / who performed miracles / who punished / who controlled an after-life / who heard prayers / who had a chosen people / who created / who crafted / away from an all-seeing God.

- He believed that God and nature were the same substance
- PANTHEISM: God and Nature are two words for what is essentially the same thing
- To understand God we shouldn’t be reading the Holy Books etc but instead studying the Universe e.g via Psychology/ Natural Science / Philosophy - Study everything that IS.
- We need to embrace a global / eternal view of the universe NOT a partial view, which is limited by our sensual / time limited experience
- Spinoza was not an ATHEIST – he just rejected the OLD Testament idea of God. He believed our task wasn’t to try and get the world to change to our want (e.g via prayer) but to understand how and why the work works as it does, and accept it.

Key terms:	
Pantheism	Rationalist
Empiricist	Superstition
Atheist	Necessary
Contingent	Evidence
Explanation	Excommunication
Heresy	Premise
Reason	Logic
Universe	Old Testament

Leibniz

- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
- He was the son of a professor of moral philosophy
- He began a life of professional service to noblemen, primarily the dukes of Hanover
- His professional duties included being an official historian and legal advisor. He was required to travel widely, meeting many of the foremost intellectuals in Europe—of particularly importance were the astronomer, mathematician, and physicist Huygens, and the philosopher SPINOZA
- Argued using his 4 premises (statements which lead to a logical conclusion – believe the premise you have to accept the conclusion)
 1. Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence
 2. If the universe has an explanation if its existence that explanation is God
 3. The universe exists
 4. The explanation of the universe’s existence is God
- Leibniz argue that the universe (and everything in it) is CONTINGENT – we rely on something else for our existence but that God is NECESSARY
- Bertrand Russell disagreed with him and stated

“The universe is just there, and that’s all”