Name	
Form	
Teacher	

Year 8 Home...

Faith &
Scholar's

| My teacher is going to test me on all of my homework on this day every week. | M...
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work Booklet

Ethics

Pathway

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

S

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?
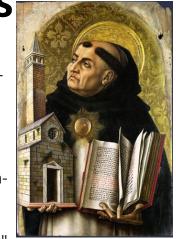9. What is Aquinas also known for?
10. What does natural law mean?

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St Thomas Aquinas

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

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

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

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T

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 is Sweden and Atheists in Italy?

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he Belief in God

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 it-self?
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 to arguments work together? Why?

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The Cosmological Argument

All things are caused.

Nothing can cause itself.

Therefore, everything that is caused is caused by something other than itself.

The Universe is not infinite and had a beginning around 13.7 Billion years ago (according to the Big Bang Theory)

Something must have caused the Universe to exist (but nothing can cause itself)

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 case argument. The basic argument is that nothing can cause itself to existence. Like a row of dominoes, they won't fall unless something causes them to. 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.

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

Strengths

Weaknesses

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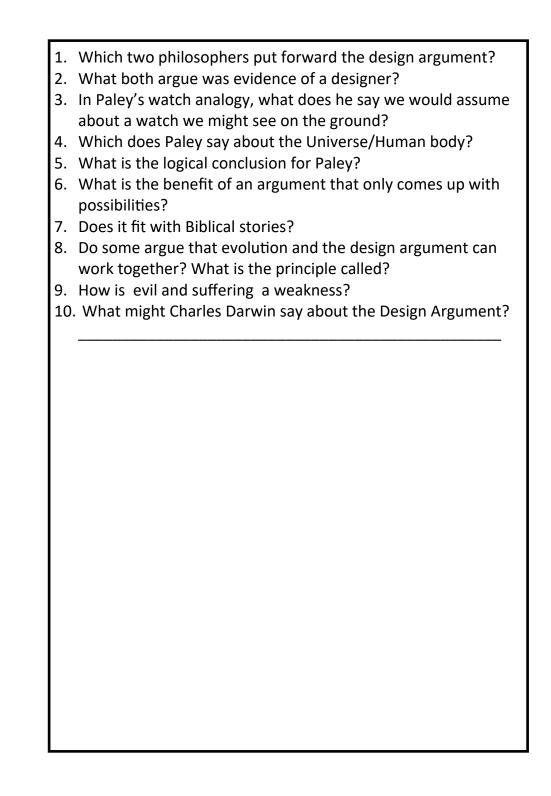not
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The Big Bang was not necessarily caused by God – it could have hap
outside of space and time; but why does that have to be a God? It
makes sense to them, but it is not convincing for the atheist or the
that there are multiple Universes and presents the idea that black h
bang in a new universe. This would explain a first cause without ne

trengths and Weaknesses of the osmological Argument

ngths - Scientific discoveries, eg the **Big Bang theory**, can be seen to
oort the **first cause** argument. If God caused the 'Big Bang', then God
e 'first cause' that brought the cosmos (universe) into existence. The
Bang Theory also confirms that the Universe had a beginning and is
infinite. This means that it must have had some sort of "cause"
und 13.7 billion years ago. Also, this argument is strong because it
irms to the theist that there is purpose to the cosmos and a place for
 as its 'creator'. The Cosmological Argument is also supported by
vton's Laws of motion. Newton's first law of motion states that ob-
s will remain motionless until acted on by an external force. This sup-
s the main premise of the argument; that nothing can cause itself. So
cause of the Universe must be something outside the laws of phys-
...maybe a God?

aknesses—If the argument is based on the idea that everything has a
se, then this leaves open the question 'Who or what caused God?' To
y that God needs no explanation is not enough to prove God's exist-
e. This leads to a further problem of "infinite regress". This means
 we could keep asking what created God? And what created that?
 so on….. This is exact problem we were trying to avoid in the first
e!

ppened by chance. Aquinas argues that the cause must be something
could be anything! The argument is presented for believers and
agnostic. Multiverse theory is also a challenges to theory as it states
noles take in matter and time and produce a new big
eding to have God as the cause.

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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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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.

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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.

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Logical Fallacies 1

A logical fallacy is an argument that may sounds 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.

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