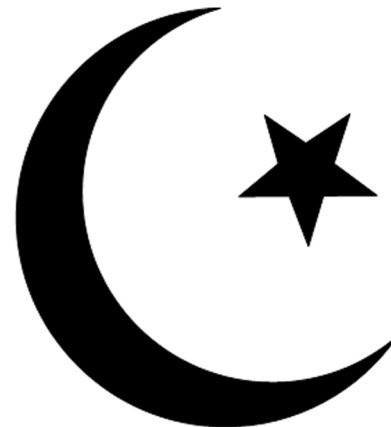


Name	
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Year 8 Home

Faith & Scholar's



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

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work Booklet

Ethics Pathway



ONDAY
UESDAY
EDNESDAY
HURSDAY
RIDAY

1. Where was St Thomas Aquinas born?
 2. What and where 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 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 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 decided 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 *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. 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?
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The Belief in God

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 10% (Italy) and 85% (Sweden).

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 two arguments work together? Why?
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The Cosmological Argument ^{Week 3}

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 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 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

The Big Bang was not necessarily caused by God – it could have happened 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 theist that there are multiple Universes and presents the idea that black holes can give birth to a new universe. This would explain a first cause without ne

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Strengths and Weaknesses of the Cosmological Argument

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 finite. This means that it must have had some sort of "cause" around 13.7 billion years ago. Also, this argument is strong because it affirms 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 say that God needs no explanation is not enough to prove God's existence. This leads to a further problem of "infinite regress". This means we could keep asking what created God? And what created that? And so on..... This is exactly the problem we were trying to avoid in the first place!

... happened by chance. Aquinas argues that the cause must be something that could be anything! The argument is presented for believers and agnostics. Multiverse theory is also a challenge to the theory as it states that black holes take in matter and time and produce a new big bang, leading to have God as the cause.

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.
-

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 a 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 a scientist. A scientist, or anyone who wants to be logical, can never assume that one event causes another unless they have absolute proof. For example: I’ve just drunk 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 to prevent crime we need to keep smoking legal”. This clearly is not logical and the reason is that the arguer is assuming too 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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