

Subject	Religious Studies: Philosophy Component
Context	<p>The following tasks will help you to gain an overview of Theme 1 of the Philosophy of Religion component of your RS A Level. You will gain some insight into the key scholars and ideas that are essential to this theme as well as beginning to understand what people believe about God and where there are similarities and differences in beliefs about the nature of God.</p>
Securing	<p>You will need to learn the names and key ideas of the following scholars in order to be successful with Theme 1 – Arguments for God’s Existence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle (384-322 BCE) - empiricism • St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – Inductive arguments – 5 Ways – Cosmological & Teleological Arguments • William Lane Craig (1949-present) – Cosmological Argument • David Hume (1711-1776) – challenged inductive arguments for God • William Paley (1743-1804) – Teleological Argument – watchmaker analogy • F.R. Tennant (1866-1957) – Teleological Argument – anthropic & aesthetic principles • St Anselm (1033-1109) – Deductive Arguments – Ontological Argument • Descartes (1596-1650) - Deductive Arguments – Ontological Argument • Gaunilo (994-1083) – challenged Anselm’s argument • Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) – challenged Descartes’ argument • Norman Malcolm (1911-1990) – developed a newer version of the Ontological Argument <p>There will be a quick knowledge test in your first Philosophy lesson in September</p>
Processing	<p>You are now going to find out a bit more about each of the people involved in Theme 1.</p> <p>You need to produce a ‘potted history’ of each scholar...think Top Trumps!</p> <p>You need to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates, place of origin, basic background. • Key philosophies and ideas e.g. empiricism, rationalism • Which argument they support or challenge • Basic explanations, examples that they use. <p>Now look at your ‘Top Trumps’ of the key scholars – who would support each other? Who would challenge each other?</p> <p>You need to present your findings as a diagram – this could be a mind map that shows connections and areas of conflict.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/browse/Philosophers http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm https://www.reasonablefaith.org/william-lane-craig https://www.britannica.com/biography/Frederick-Robert-Tennant https://iep.utm.edu/malcolm/ https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gaunilo</p>

Exploring	<p>To understand these key arguments for God's existence, you need to understand what people believe about God.</p> <p>Watch the following episode entitled 'Who is God?' from Morgan Freeman's series 'The Story of God' – Season 1 Episode 3</p> <p>https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cieh6</p> <p>As you watch, make a note of the different ideas about God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India & Hinduism • Stonehenge & sun worship • Egypt • Israel & Judaism – foundations of monotheism • Egypt & Islam • Mexico & Navajos • Is God in all of us? • Christianity <p>Where are the similarities and differences? Is there one thing that unities all ideas about God?</p>
Reviewing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on the work you have completed, write down 5 questions that you would like to ask your teacher about Theme 1 in your first lesson. 2. Please learn the key words and definitions on the next page for a quick vocab test during your first Philosophy lesson in September

Key words and definitions to learn:

Key word	Definition
A posteriori	An argument which is based on experience or empirical evidence
A priori	An argument which is based on acquired knowledge independent of or prior to experience.
Omnipotence	the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
Omnibenevolence	God is all loving
Omniscience	The characteristic of being all-knowing of all things actual and possible
Efficient cause	The thing that brings something about.
Inductive argument	Argument constructed on possibly true premises reaching a logically possible and persuasive conclusion.
Argument	A set of statements which is such that one of them (the conclusion) is supported or implied by the others (the premises)
Teleological Argument	Argument for the existence of God based on observation of design and purpose in the world.
Ontological Argument	Argument for the existence of God based on the concept of the nature of being.
Kalam Argument	A form of the cosmological argument that rests on the idea that the universe had a beginning in time.
Deductive argument	An argument in which, if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true.
Cosmological Argument	Argument for the existence of God based on the existence of the universe; commonly associated with Aquinas' concepts of motion, causality and contingency.
Anthropic Argument	A teleological argument that claims that nature has been planned in advance for the needs of human beings.
Classical Theism	The belief in a personal deity, creator of everything that exists, who is distinct from that creation and is sustainer and preserver of the universe.

Extension

If you want to find out more about arguments for God's existence there are plenty of episodes of the following podcast

<https://thepanpsycast.com/home>

There are also other episodes of 'The Idea of God' that cover some of the things later in the course, but also other areas that might be interesting!

What are miracles?

https://youtu.be/j_3P8Ljn8zg?si=8UOUWEezMq6Lo7TE

Why does evil exist?

https://youtu.be/-ZVARIX8pas?si=4-TU_isYrEldO9BL

Apocalypse

https://youtu.be/VJ_hgaQe8tI?si=zif509MFs6kk65KY