

Philosophy

Anselm's Ontological Argument	Theme 1: Deductive Arguments for the existence of God PLC	R	A	G
	Deductive arguments			
	Differences between deductive and inductive arguments			
	God as the 'greatest possible being'			
	God as the 'necessary being'			
	Criticisms of Anselm			
Descartes' Ontological Argument	God as 'supremely perfect being'			
	The triangle analogy			
	The 'mountains and valleys' analogy			
	The 2nd formulation of the categorical imperative (humanity)			
	Criticisms of Descartes			
Malcolm's Argument	Malcolm's criticisms of Anselm & Descartes			
	Malcolm's argument			
	Criticisms of Malcolm			
Challenges to Deductive Arguments	Gaunilo's argument against Anselm			
	Kant's argument against Descartes			
	Evaluating deductive arguments			
Skills	20 mark exam question (AO1)			
	30 mark exam question (AO2)			
What am I going to do to improve my red and amber areas?	Activites Completed	Date		
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Aquinas' Three Ways	Theme 1 - Inductive Arguments for the existence of God PLC			R	A	G
	Inductive arguments					
	a posteriori knowledge					
	Aquinas: The First Way					
	Aquinas: The Second Way					
	Aquinas: The Third Way					
	Criticisms of Aquinas' Cosmological Argument					
The 'Kalam' argument	The Kalam Argument: summarise					
	The difference between Kalam and Aquinas					
	Criticisms of the Kalam argument					
Teleological arguments	The meaning of 'teleological'					
	Aquinas' fifth way					
	Paley's watch analogy					
	The argument from design					
	Criticisms of teleological arguments					
Tennant's argument	Tennant's Anthropic Principle					
	Tennant's Aesthetic Principle					
	Criticism of anthropic and aesthetic arguments					
Challenges to inductive arguments	Challenges to the cosmological argument: Hume					
	The big bang theory and teleological arguments					
	Evolution & natural selection					
	Evaluating cosmological arguments					
	Evaluating teleological arguments					
Skills	20 mark exam question (AO1)					
	30 mark exam question (AO2)					
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The Problem Of Evil	Theme 2: Challenges to religious belief - the problem of evil and suffering			R	A	G
	Types Of Evil and suffering					
	Epicurus: the logical problem of evil					
	Mackie: the inconsistent triad					
	William Rowe: Human and Animal suffering					
	Gregory Paul: premature deaths					
Augustine's theodicies	Evil and Sin					
	Evil as a 'privation'					
	The Fall of humans and the world					
	Salvation through Jesus and the cross					
Irenaean theodicies	Why does God allow evil?					
	God as craftsman					
	John Hick and the 'vale of soul-making'					
	John Hick and 'epistemic distance'					
Challenges to Evil and Suffering	Does the problem of evil prove that God does not exist?					
	Challenges to Augustine's theodicy					
	Do Augustinian theodicies succeed?					
	Challenges to Irenaean theodicies					
	Do Irenaean theodicies succeed?					
Skills	20 mark exam question (AO1)					
	30 mark exam question (AO2)					
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Types of Religious Experience	Theme 3: Religious Experience 1			R	A	G
	Religious Experience: Visions					
	Religious Experience: Conversion					
	Religious Experience: Mysticism					
	Religious Experience: Prayer					
William James	Characteristic 1: Ineffability					
	Characteristic 2: Noetic quality					
	Characteristic 3: Transiency					
	Characteristic 4: Passivity					
Rudolph Otto	The Idea of The Holy					
	The Numinous					
	The Mysterium Tremendum					
Challenges to Religious and Mystical Experience	The impact of religious experience					
	The validity of different types of religious experience					
	Evaluating William James					
	Evaluating Rudolph Otto					
	Caroline Franks Davis - objectivity and authenticity					
	Other challenges to religious experience					
	The validity of challenges to religious experience					
Skills	20 mark exam question (AO1)					
	30 mark exam question (AO2)					
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Influence of Religious Experience	Theme 3: Religious Experience 2			R	A	G
	Community: Belief Affirmation					
	Community: Promotion of Faith Value System					
	Community: Strengthening Community Cohesion					
	Individual: Restoring Faith					
	Individual: Strengthening Faith					
	Individual: Renewal of Commitment to Religion					
Miracles	Aquinas: definition					
	Hume: definition					
	RF Holland: definition					
	Swinburne: definition					
	Religious belief, personal experience and miracles					
	Miracles and sacred writings					
Hume and Swinburne	Hume's scepticism about miracles					
	Hume: Problems with testimony / credibility of witnesses					
	Hume: Susceptibility of belief and contradictory claims					
	Swinburne's defence of miracles					
	Swinburne: definitions of natural laws					
	Swinburne: responses to Hume					
Analysis	Impact of religious experience on belief and practice					
	Dependence of religions on religious experiences					
	Adequacy of different definitions of miracles					
	Are definitions of miracles contradictory?					
	Effectiveness of challenges to religious belief					
	Are Swinburne's responses to Hume valid?					
Skills	3 mark questions					
	5 mark questions					
	12 mark questions					
	25 mark questions					
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Freud and Religion	Theme 2: Challenges to Religious belief- Psychological Challenges to Religious Belief	R	A	G
	Religion as illusion and/or neurosis			
	The Primal Horde			
	The Oedipus Complex			
	Wish-Fulfilment and Helplessness			
	Supporting Arguments including Darwin			
	Challenges to Freud's Evidence			
Jung and Religion	Religion as necessary for personal growth			
	The Collective Unconscious			
	Individuation			
	Archetypes			
	The God Within			
	Challenges to Jung's Evidence			
Atheism	What Is Atheism?			
	The New Atheism (antitheism) - criticism of religion			
	Religious responses to New Atheism			
	Religion and Science not incompatible			
	Increase in Religious Fundamentalism			
Analysis	Is religious belief a neurosis?			
	Is Freud's explanation of religion adequate?			
	Was Jung more positive than Freud about religion?			
	Is there empirical evidence for Jung's views?			
	Do atheists argue successfully against religious belief?			
	Has religion responded successfully to New Atheism?			
Skills	3 mark questions			
	5 mark questions			
	12 mark questions			
	25 mark questions			
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Problems of Religious Language	Theme 4: Religious Language 1	R	A	G
	Limitations of language for describing God			
	Are sacred texts and religious beliefs intelligible?			
	Religious language not a shared base and experience			
	Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Language			
Religious Language: Cognitive but Meaningless	Logical positivism			
	The verification principle			
	The falsification principle			
	Criticisms of Verification (inc. eschatological verification)			
	Criticisms of Falsification (Hare, Mitchell and Swinburne)			
	Challenges to Jung's Evidence			
Religious Language: Non-Cognitive and analogical	Aquinas: proportion and attribution			
	Ramsey: qualifier and disclosure			
	Challenges to analogy			
	Using analogy to understand religious teaching			
Analysis	Solutions for problems with religious language			
	Does Religious Language need Religious Belief			
	Is religious language meaningful?			
	Is Logical positivism a valid approach to language?			
	How effective are challenges to Logical Positivism?			
	In Non-cognitivism a valid approach?			
Skills	3 mark questions			
	5 mark questions			
	12 mark questions			
	25 mark questions			
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Symbolic Language	Theme 4: Religious Language 2	R	A	G
	Functions of symbols: John Randall			
	Paul Tillich: God as an ultimate concern			
	Are symbols adequate?			
	Symbols help to understand religious teachings			
Religious Language: Mythical	Mythical language and the purpose of existence			
	Different myths: creation, good vs evil			
	Myths help to overcome fear of the unknown			
	Myths transmitting religious, social and ethical values			
	Challenges to the value of myths			
Religious Language as a Language Game	Wittgenstein's explanation of Language Games			
	Strengths of Language Game theory			
	Challenges to Language Games			
Analysis	Usefulness of non-cognitive, analogical and mythical terms			
	Relevance of religious language issues in 21st century			
	The value of language games explanation			
	Is symbolic language an adequate form of language?			
	Do Randall and Tillich challenge logical positivism?			
	Strengths and weaknesses of language games			
Skills	3 mark questions			
	5 mark questions			
	12 mark questions			
	25 mark questions			
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