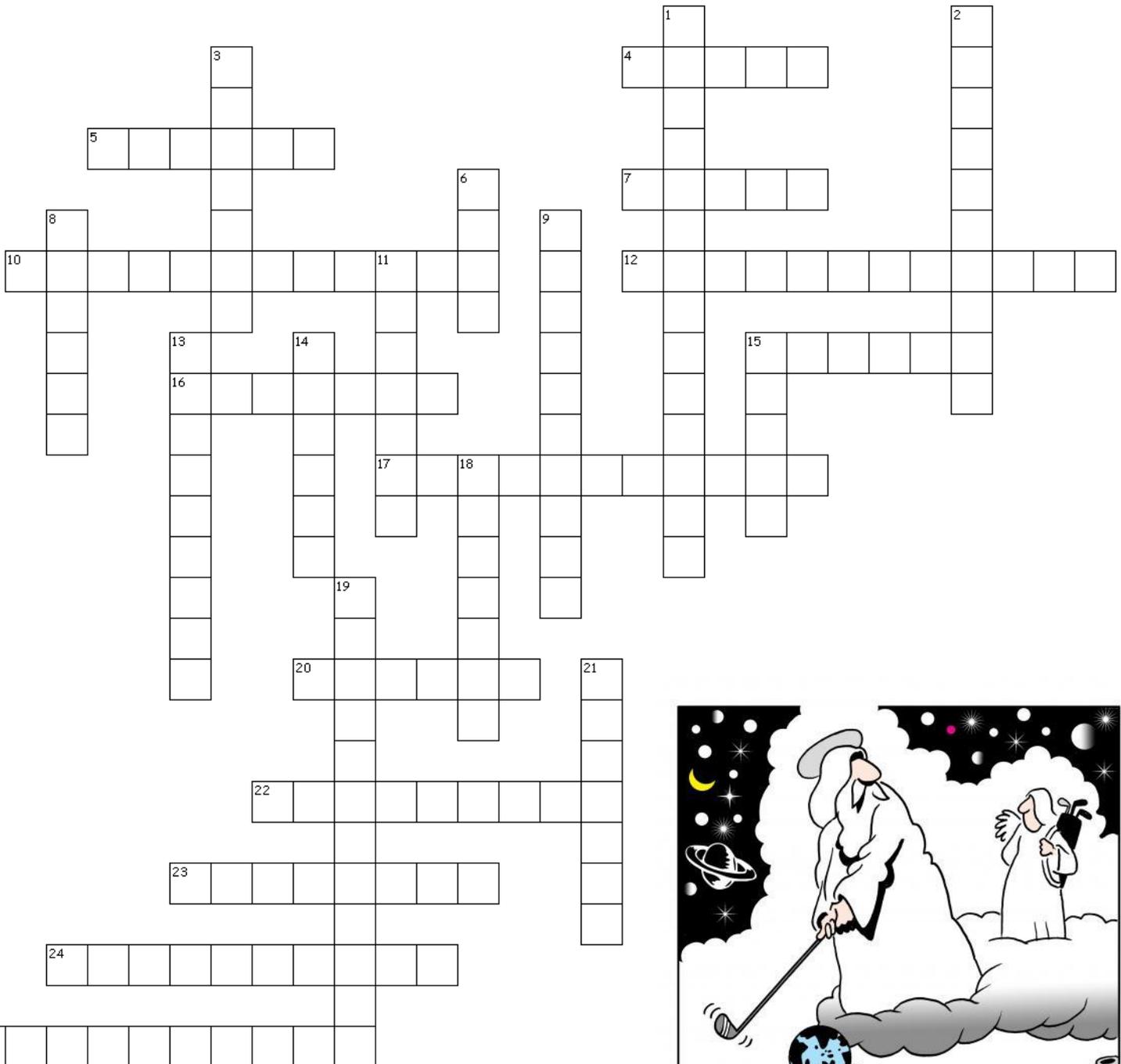


Key Words

<u>Belief about deity</u>	<u>The end of life</u>
<p>Deity: God or a form of God</p> <p>Omnipotence: God is all powerful</p> <p>Omniscience: God is all knowing</p> <p>Omni benevolent: God is all loving</p> <p>Omnipresence: God is everywhere at the same time</p> <p>Transcendence: God is supreme and above all. Can also mean God is infinite and outside of time.</p> <p>Immanence: God is within all</p> <p>Analogy: the use of words symbolically to suggest something else</p> <p>Anthropomorphism: God cannot be compared to anything on this earth</p> <p>Monotheistic: Only believing in one god</p> <p>Trinity: The three parts to the Christian God; the father, son, and holy spirit</p> <p>First Cause: God was the creator of the world, and caused its existence</p> <p>Telos: Purpose/end</p> <p>Necessary being: God must exist</p> <p>Numinous: The feeling of awe and wonder that we feel during religious emotional moments</p> <p>Theists: Believe in a God</p> <p>Agnostic: Believe in a metaphysical entity to the world, but do not conform to a religion</p> <p>Athiest: Do not believe in any metaphysical entity to the world.</p> <p>Incarnation: When God became human- Jesus</p> <p>Messiah: 'Anointed one'</p> <p>Atonement: Paying for sins</p> <p>'Imago dei': In the image of God</p>	<p>Soul: The non physical part of a person</p> <p>Immortal: Live forever</p> <p>Immortal Soul: The part of a person that lives on when the physical part dies</p> <p>Original Sin: Humans are born with a lack of holiness due to the sins of Adam and Eve</p> <p>Heaven: The place of perfection (without suffering), where people are with God</p> <p>Purgatory: Roman Catholic belief, of where people go if they have been good, but not good enough to get into heaven</p> <p>Hell: The place that is separate from God, and therefore is torturous</p> <p>Salvation: being rescued by Jesus, so that we can get into heaven</p> <p>Redemption: Liberation by Jesus, so we can get into heaven</p> <p>Reconciliation: The reunion with God</p> <p>Last Judgement: When God will pass his final sentence on the whole of humanity</p> <p>Anointing of the sick: When a minister will visit the dying so they can repent for their sins</p> <p>Cremated: When a body is turned into ash, and their ashes are usually spread in their favourite place</p> <p>Requiem Mass: When a Eucharist service is held at a funeral mass, and prayers are said for the soul of the dead person</p> <p>Mediums: people who are believed to create a gateway between earth and the afterlife</p> <p>Spiritualism: communicating with dead people</p>

Nature of God and Nature of Belief

Year 11 Revision CROSSWORD!



Across

4. Win or lose, this is how God will decide (5)
5. 'Peter you are the rock on which I will build my'(6)
7. He said God is like the clockmaker (5)
10. The argument that the existence of the universe is proof of God (12)
12. You can't keep a good man down (12)
15. Christians believe this is where we can be with God (6)
16. A divine pop group but goes on a bit (7)
17. He started it 'cause he is God ! (11)
20. How Jesus taught us to start our prayers 'Our' (6)
22. Jesus in a lift did this ? (9)
23. Like a miracle it shows God working in the world (8)
24. God can do anything (10)
25. You are always with me (11)

Down

1. They believe the Bible is the exact word of God (14)
2. Why Mike Tyson was made in God's image ! (10)
3. When year 10s and 11s do their homework on time (7)
6. Not an RE lesson but close ! (4)
8. Tells the 'Good News' about Jesus (6)
9. Bless you ! you are kind to everyone (10)
11. Well you made it ! (7)
13. The Bible is split into two (9)
14. The eternal hotline to God (6)
15. Jesus was this but yet divine (5)
18. 'Get thee behind me Satan, I will not be(6)
19. Goes beyond this world and shows God is out of it ! (12)
21. God on a three wheeled bicycle ?(7)

NATURE OF GOD AND BELIEF CROSSWORD

ANSWERS

OMNISCIENT God can do anything (10)

TRINITY God on a three wheeled bicycle ?(7)

ASCENSION Jesus in a lift did this ? (9)

OMNIPOTENT Why Mike Tyson was made in God's image ! (10)

HUMAN Jesus was this but yet divine (5)

TEMPTED 'Get thee behind me Satan, I will not be(6)

GOSPEL Tells the 'Good News' about Jesus (6)

MIRACLE When year 10s and 11s do their homework on time (7)

JUDGE Win or lose, this is how God will decide (5)

BENEVOLENT Bless you ! you are kind to everyone (10)

OMNIPRESENT You are always with me (11)

CREATOR Well you made it ! (7)

CHURCH 'Peter you are the rock on which I will build my'(6)

RESURRECTION You can't keep a good man down (12)

FATHER How Jesus taught us to start our prayers 'Our' (6)

HEAVEN Christians believe this is where we can be with God (6)

HELL Not an RE lesson but close ! (4)

ETERNAL A divine pop group but goes on a bit (7)

TRANSCENDENT Goes beyond this world and shows God is out of it ! (12)

IMMANENT Like a miracle it shows God working in the world (8)

TESTAMENT The Bible is split into two (9)

FUNDAMENTALIST They believe the Bible is the exact word of God (14)

PRAYER The eternal hotline to God (6)

COSMOLOGICAL The argument that the existence of the universe is proof of God (12)

ONTOLOGICAL He started it 'cause he is God ! (11)

PALEY He said God is like the clockmaker (5)

Belief in Deity

God or a form of God

The psychological state in which an individual holds a proposition or premise to be true.

Any belief held by a person will only be accepted based on criteria that allow it to be logical. People do not hold illogical beliefs – only an outsider can deem the criteria they have used to accept their belief to be illogical.

Nowadays many people accept empirical evidence as proof – Empirical evidence is information gained by means of observation or experiments, physical evidence.

However believers in God attribute a large proportion of their belief to faith, faith comes from the Latin *fides* which means trust. For the believer in God this faith can be the sum of reasoning, empirical evidence, private experience and well ... trust.

Philosophical Arguments FOR God

1) The Teleological Argument

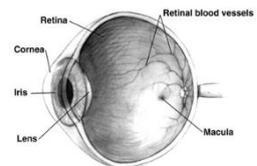
Teleological derives from the Greek word *telos* meaning purpose. The teleological argument is also known as the design argument – things are too complex not to have been designed.

William Paley put forward the design, he said if somebody happened to find a watch and had never seen one before in their life, they would be astounded and immediately know that this watch had not appeared from nowhere. It must have had a creator.

Paley would argue that something so complicated could not happen by accident. He applies the same principle to the universe. It is so complex that it must have been designed by someone.



This has been likened to the human eye. Why do we assume something so complex does not have a design.



Miss Vose's example:



The beehive is a delicate structure in which each bee has a distinct role and is essential to the survival of the colony - The Queen lays 1500 eggs a day, Nursery bees raise her larva, Worker bees collect the pollen, old Worker bees harvest the honey.

Bee's are NOT sentient beings and yet each be has purpose. Who gives them this?

2) The Cosmological Argument

Cosmological derives from the study of the cosmos (universe). The cosmological argument argues quite simply that the evidence God exists is all around us - the universe.

Aquinas presented **FIVE WAYS** which he believed showed that God existed.

1- The Unmoved Mover

#Everything that moves is moved by something else.
#That mover must also be moved by something else.
#BUT you cannot have an infinite chain of movers, or there would be no reason for movement to get started at all

Think **DOMINOES**
One falls because the previous domino fell, and the domino before that

2 - The uncaused causer

#Everything has a cause.
 #Every cause has its own cause.
 #You cannot have infinite number of causes.
 #Therefore there must be an uncaused cause, which causes everything to happen without itself being caused by anything else.
 #Such an uncaused cause is what people understand by 'God'.

Think **GCSE RE**
 Nothing you do is random all behaviour is learnt or nurtured.
 What made you take GCSE RE?
 It will not have been a random choice. A good teacher? A module you enjoyed? You thought it might be easy?

3 Sufficient Reason

#Nothing takes place without a sufficient reason.
 #In theory we can trace back a sufficient reason for everything.
 #If there is going to be a complete or sufficient reason for something we have to be able to trace back to something that does not depend on anything else- and this will be 'God'.

Think **Getting married**
 Everyone needs sufficient reason to make the ultimate commitment. There may be many, the combination will persuade you.

4 The Possible and the Necessary

#Ordinary things start to exist and later stop existing (in other words, they are finite, or contingent)
 #Therefore at some time none of them was in existence.
 #But something only comes into existence by being caused by something else that already exists.
 #Therefore there must be a being whose existence is necessary and therefore not limited by time. That being is what people understand by 'God'.

Think **Babies**
 A baby comes into existence through its parents, and them from their parents. A first parent is necessary but one that did not need parents itself

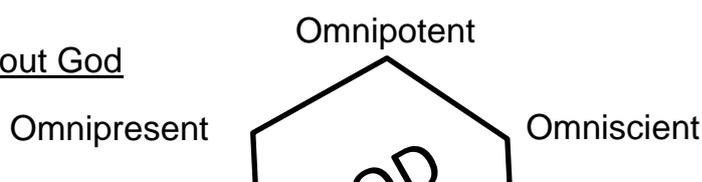
5 – The teleological argument (which you should know)

Pascals Wager – Pascal was an Agnostic. He did not have a faith to rely on when thinking about the existence in God. Instead he saw belief in God as a gamble.

If you believe God exists and he does.... YOU WIN – eternal life with God in Heaven	If you don't believe God exists and he does... YOU LOSE – eternal life...IN HELL HEATHEN!
If you do believe God exists and he doesn't...You lose small because you're dead,, and it won't matter to you.	If you don't believe God exists and he doesn't... You win? – you were right all along but you're dead and wormfood

Nature of God

Christian beliefs about God



(See key words)

Our Judge

Omnibenevolent

Transcendent/Eternal

Christian reasons FOR their belief in God

Relatives influence (upbringing)

Evidence from our world (teleological argument)

Answered prayers

Seen miracles

Own and others experience of God (visions etc)

Need for a creator (cosmological argument)

The Doctrine of the Trinity

Monotheism is the belief in one God.
Christians believe that there is only one God.

The central belief of Christianity is that there is only one God. But they also believe that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God.

Historically Christianity was often accused of having three Gods. Christians would argue that it is not three Gods but one God in three persons.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God...of one being with the Father. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, Giver of life

God the father - Is transcendent and impersonal Above everything, the creator who is outside of the world.

Jesus - Is immanent and personal, God with us. He came to earth and lived as a person.

Holy Spirit - Immanent and impersonal - God around us. Described as the comforter, inspiring and helping people Christians live as God wants them to.

Still Confused?

Some Christians compare it to roles, one person can be a mother, sister, daughter at the same time.

Others compare it to water, which can be ice, water and steam - all made of the same stuff but different properties.

Bible reference for the Trinity - John 14

- When Jesus is baptised, by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit appears and the voice of God is heard.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

- Jesus' disciples are aware Jesus will soon be leaving them and are confused as to how they will know what to do once he is gone and how they will know what to do to re-join him in Heaven. In these quotes Jesus refers to himself as temporal on Earth, God as transcendent in Heaven and The Holy Spirit as omnipresent.

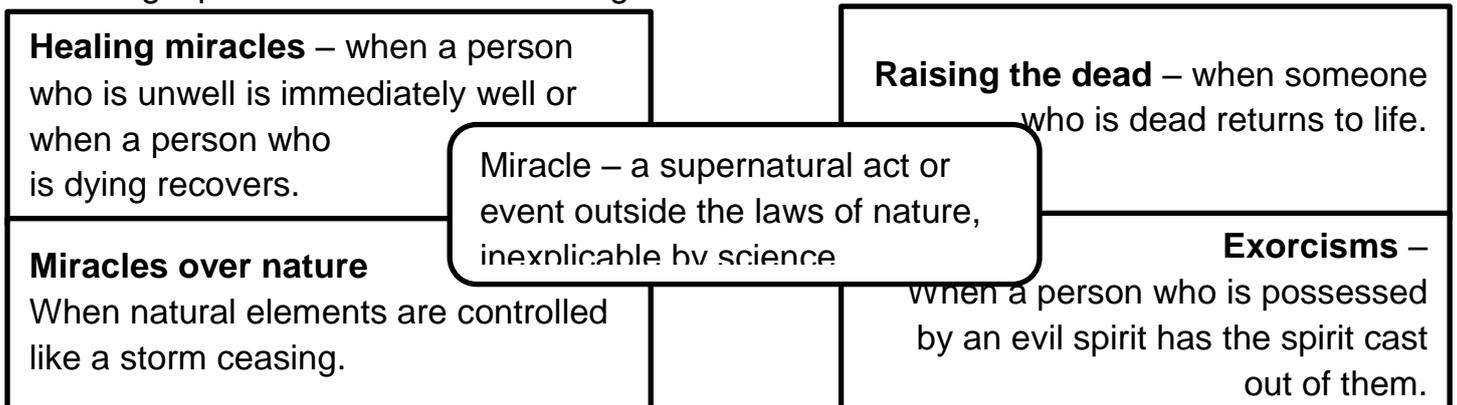
"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14: 15-17

"the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

Belief I Gods intervention in our world

Through MIRACLES

John's gospel refers to miracles as 'signs'



The Catholic church has officially recognised 67 miracles that have happened at Lourdes but over 6500 people have claimed to have been healed there. Specific miracles may not have been recognised but on the whole the Catholic Church and many Christians agree that miracles happen today as they did in biblical accounts.

IN THE NEWS - A French nun has spoken publicly of her "miraculous" cure from Parkinson's disease which the Vatican last week officially declared to have been an "intercession" from beyond the grave by Pope John Paul II. Sister Marie Simon-Pierre had an abrupt recovery in 2005 from the crippling symptoms of the incurable disease. In May 2005, her order, the Little Sisters of Maternity, started to pray to the recently deceased pope for her recovery. At her first full press conference, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, 49, said that she had woken on 3 June 2005 – three months after John Paul's death – "completely transformed. I felt an interior peace and strength, like a second birth." The "intense pain" and shaking that had forced her to retire from her job as a maternity nurse had "completely disappeared", she said. The nun said that she had always felt "spiritually close" to the Polish pope, who had also suffered from Parkinson's disease. Just before facing the press, she said: "I asked him to stand close by me."

Through Jesus

Arguably the most significant way God intervened in our world – through Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

This was God's way of showing other humans what he was like. He, as a human, felt pressure, emotions and realities all people feel. And yet, as He was also God, he was perfect in every way. Jesus was ultimately to be crucified to absolve the sins of man (redemption) and be resurrected to affirm the faith of His followers. This shows divine love.

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

During His time on the Earth Jesus revealed the intentions and person of God so we might know Him better. Jesus used parables to teach the masses – in this way God has been literally seen in history and continues to be seen in the Bible.

²³And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, ²⁴Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Exodus 21:23-25

Through Jesus

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'^[h] ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Matthew 5:38-42

Also Jesus is seen to do all 4 types of miracles. Jesus heals the leper (healing), The calming of the storm (over nature), The healing of Jairus' daughter (raising the dead) and exorcising the boy possessed by demons (exorcism)

Through the Holy Spirit

As stated above, the Holy Spirit lives in all of us and is a gift after the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. The Holy Spirit is now permanently within each and every Christian.

Pentecost – In Acts, it records the time after the disciples were told to wait to receive the Holy Spirit after Jesus had ascended. The arrival of the Holy Spirit is recorded at Pentecost.

²And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:2-4

After receiving the Holy Spirit the disciples became fearless individuals declaring the deity of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is often attributed to the conversion of large groups of people at one time.

Evidence of the Holy Spirit –

- Heavenly attitudes – faithfulness, patience, kindness, joy, peace, self control
- Baptism of HS – overpowered by goodness of HS, speaking in tongues. Apparent mostly in Evangelical Church

Criticisms of belief in deity

Teleological Argument:

The world is not as complex and beautiful as this argument suggests. The world is not perfect, there are many faults with our world – as we have seen with the recent earthquake in Japan.

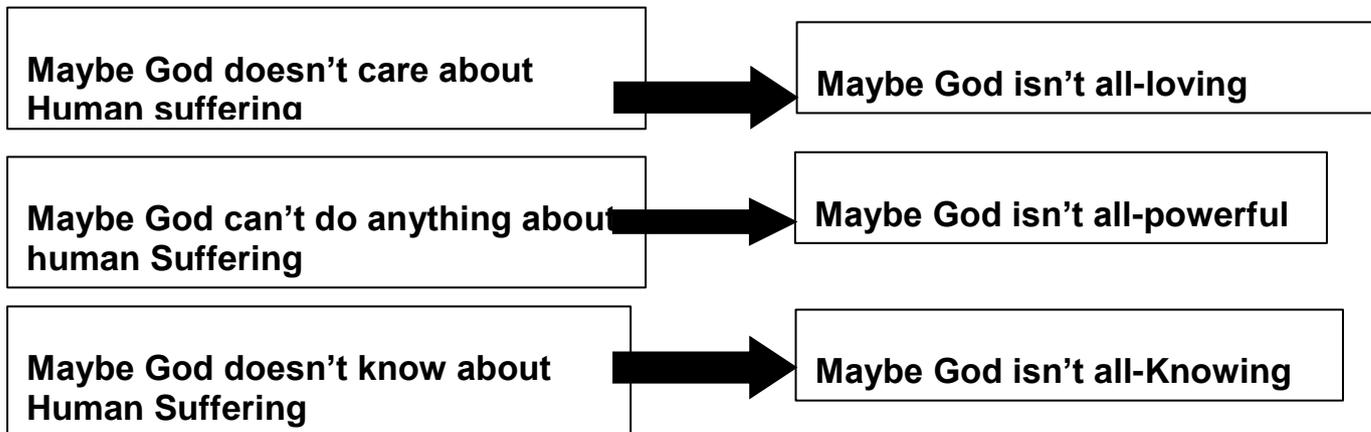
Example given by Paley et al do not transfer successfully. Yes a watch needs a designer but the human eye is the product of hundreds of years of biological adaptation and mutation. Beautiful scenery is the chance product of weathering.

Cosmological Argument:

Scientists would argue there is no need for the hypothesis of God in the creation of the universe. The Big Bang theory explains how the universe was created –by a singular density of infinite potential and density. Its reaction had no need for a mover/causer/necessity/sufficient reason.

The Nature of God:

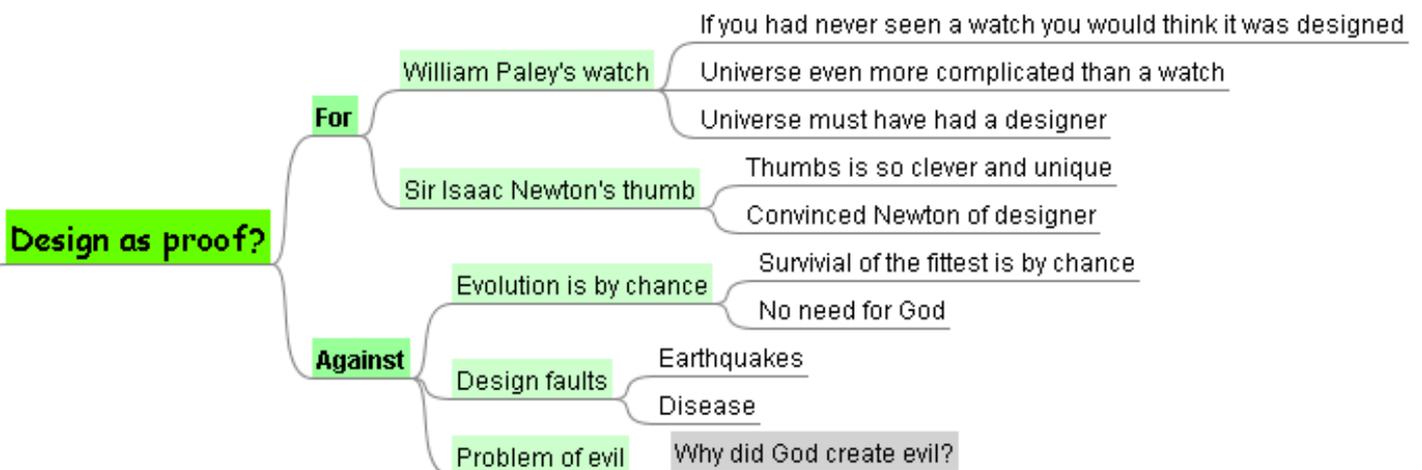
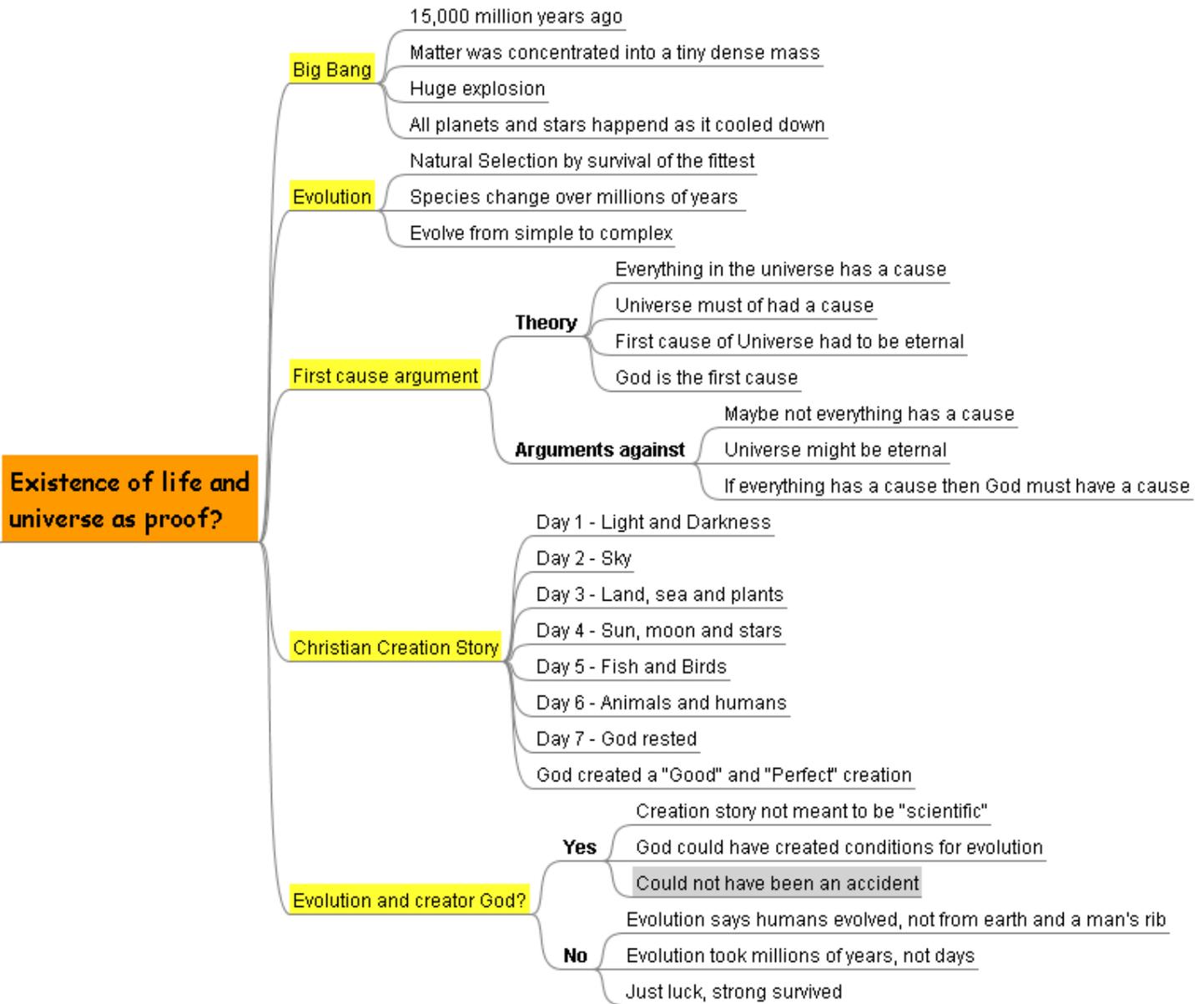
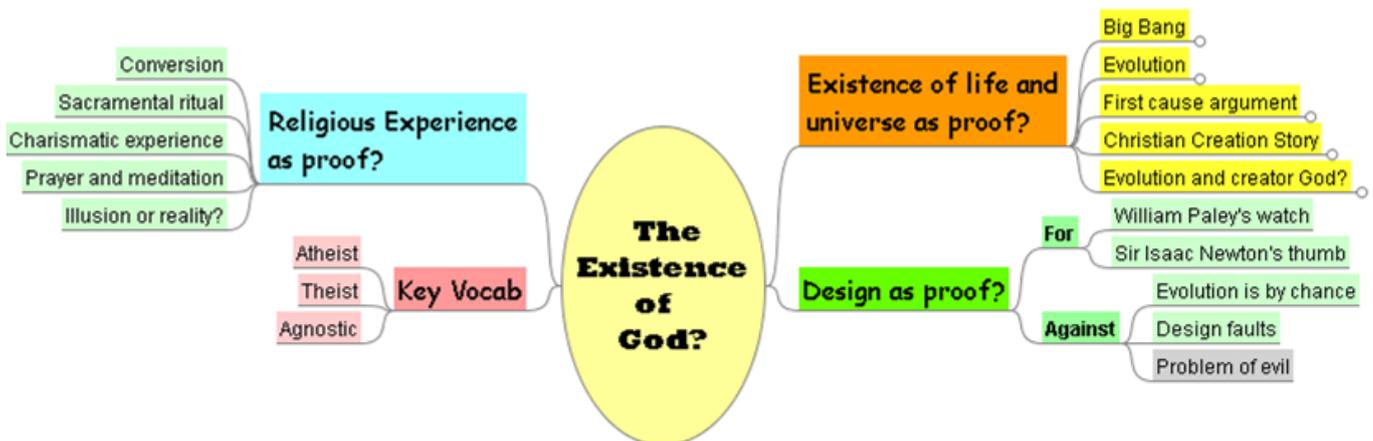
The problem of evil – if God is as Christians say, how can suffering happen

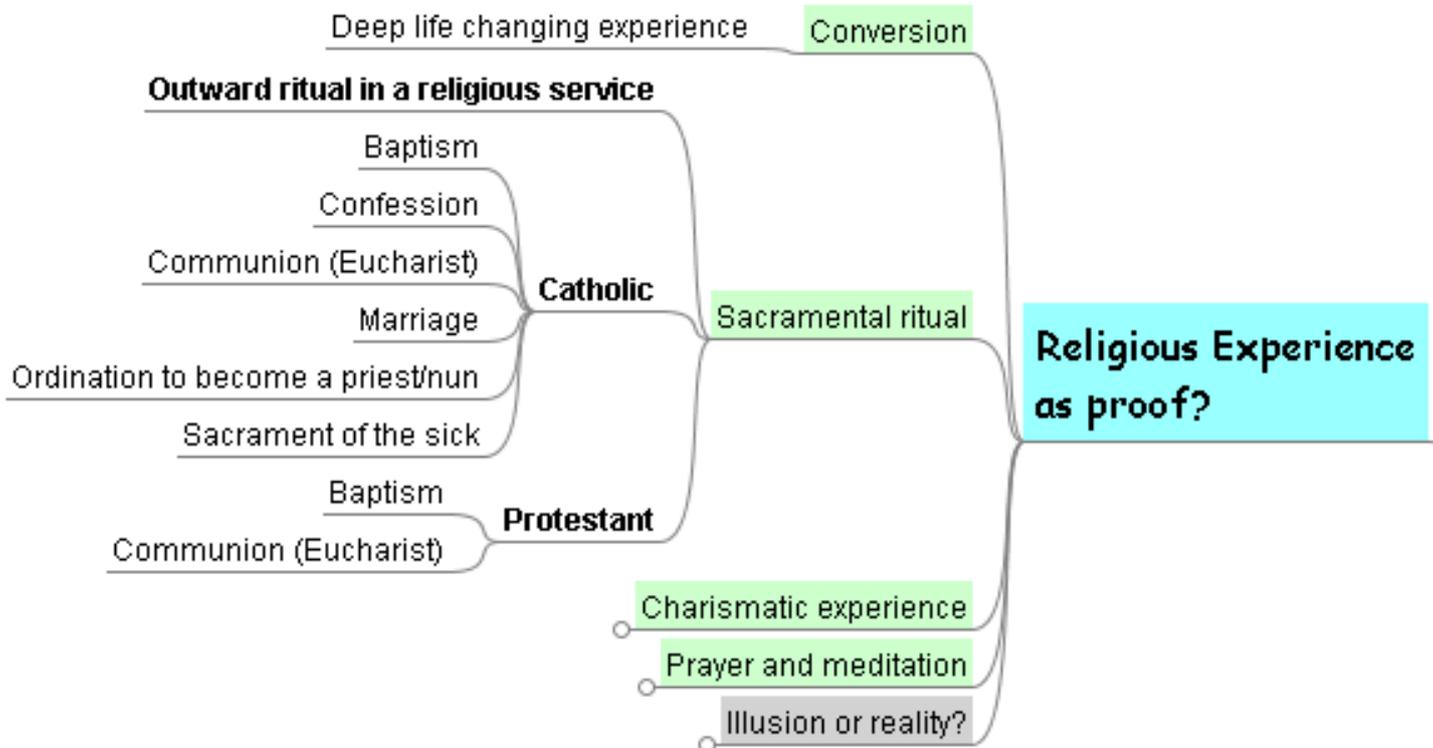


Inconsistency of Intervention

Many argue that the inconsistency of so called intervention proves either God does not exist or the Christian God does not exist. For each miracle or answered prayer thousands of devoted Christians do not receive such intervention. This would suggest that either miracles and answered prayers are given on the basis of favouritism (the nun was cured of Parkinson's but millions of Parkinson's sufferers are not saved), OR simply miracles and answered prayer do not happen and God does not exist.

- Briefly summarise your thoughts on these criticisms. Are they strong or weak?





Sample Exam Questions

Read through all of these sample exam questions. Highlight any you would struggle to answer.

Part A's (1mark) –

What is a miracle?

What is God?

Part B's (2marks) –

What is the Holy Spirit?

State 2 beliefs about the nature of God

State 2 things which Christians might believe about miracles

Part C's (3marks) –

Describe what Christians believe about Jesus

What do Christians believe about Jesus

Describe Christian beliefs about God

Part D's (6marks)-

Explain Christian beliefs about the nature of God.

Explain Christian Beliefs about miracles

Explain why Christians believe in Jesus

Explain why Christians believe in God

Part E's (12marks) –

'God cannot be seen and there is no evidence that he exists' Discuss

'If miracles were true they would happen all the time' Discuss

'If God existed we would know it' Discuss

'There is a lot of evidence to prove there is a God' Discuss

Spend some time answering or plotting answers for any you have highlighted. You can use the sample exam answers on the next page.

2e) 'If God existed we would know it.' Discuss this statement.

Christians believe that God does exist and that they do know it. There are many different arguments they would give to support their belief. Some Christians say that God exists because of the existence of the universe. They say that God must exist because the universe must have come from somewhere and that somewhere is from God. The Bible supports this belief in the accounts of creation in Genesis. Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and supports their faith that God exists. Thomas Aquinas outlined the cosmological argument for the existence of God with his 'First Cause' argument. He said that the universe must have something that started it off, a cause. God was that cause.

Another Christian view would be to believe that it couldn't have happened by accident; it must have been planned and created. William Paley used an example of a watch to explain this point.

Some Christians have experienced God in their lives. They say he has spoken to them or answered their prayers. Some have experienced a miracle which for them is proof of God's existence. Many Christians visit Lourdes because they believe that miracles from God happen there.

Most Christians believe that God exists because of Jesus. God showed he exists by coming to Earth as Jesus. God took on human form and died for their sins.

Muslims believe that God exists and they use many of the same arguments that Christians would use to support their beliefs. They believe the prophets are evidence of God's existence, particularly Muhammad.

I personally do not believe that God exists. I think that people are just superstitious and they want to believe in a spirit world because they cannot face the idea that this life is all that there is. Science has given us many answers to how the universe came into existence with the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution which disproves the creation stories.

This is a high level response.

This is a very good response. The candidate has focussed on the question and discussed fully various different viewpoints. There are a number of different arguments offered in support of the existence of God and these are fully and clearly explained with evidence of clear understanding.

There are many references to and explanations of Christian's beliefs about the evidence for the existence of God as well as a response from a different religion. Whilst this candidate has included a viewpoint from a second religion this is not a requirement. Candidates can still access all marks if they use differing viewpoints from one religion.

Their own viewpoint is clearly explained and supported, and includes some alternative interpretation of the Christian arguments, in other words the candidate has shown why these arguments might not necessarily prove the existence of God, although there is scope for further development in this area.

(The candidate's own opinion is quite short and does not address the possibility that God may have reasons for not wanting his existence to be unambiguous...in other words the candidate does not directly answer the question.)

I don't think we would know for sure if God exists. Sometimes I think God can't possibly exist because there is so much pain and suffering in the world like wars and famines where innocent people get hurt or die. Then other times I think God must exist because otherwise what would be the point to life. There must be a God. Also why would so many people believe there is a God?

Christians believe that we do know that God exists because the Bible tells us he does. Some Christians also believe he exists because they have been brought up in a Christian family and they have been taught that he does. They know because their families have told them.

This is a medium level response

The candidate has given different viewpoints and has given some supporting detail but it needs further development. The reasoning is much more basic and simplistic than in the previous question and the candidate has not developed any real critical thinking.

Examples of the evidence for God's existence from the Bible for example would improve it. The candidate could also address the possible circular nature of using the Bible to prove the existence of God.

Their own point of view is well developed and gives supporting reasons. There is no benefit to the inclusion of the Hindu perspective. The same point could be made just as accurately with reference to Christianity and this would, in fact, have provided a

Hindus would say that God exists because they experience God in their lives when they meditate.

better answer to the question. Also, from a Hindu perspective the statement is not necessarily accurate.

NOTES