

## KEY TERMS



**Philosophy** – Love of wisdom

**Theist** – A person who believes in God.

**Agnostic** – someone who thinks there is not enough evidence for belief in God

**Atheist** – A person who believes that there is no God

**Miracles** – A seemingly impossible event, usually good, that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws, and is thought to be the action of God.

**Design argument** – The argument that God designed the universe, because everything is so intricately made in its detail that it could not have happened by chance.

**First cause argument** – The argument that there has to be an uncaused cause that made everything else happen, otherwise there would be nothing now.



## Yr. 9 Learn Sheet Assessment point 1 Philosophy

Reasons why some  
people believe in  
God

Reasons why some  
people do not  
believe in God

### Design argument – William Paley

#### **The analogy runs as follows...**

Suppose one was to find a watch on the ground you would assume that the parts had not come together by chance. The parts could not possibly have come together by chance as they would not work if randomly put together. It is different to stones or anything else you might find naturally on a beach or hill as it seems to have been designed for a purpose.

**TASK:** Read the text above and answer the following questions;

1. **If you came across a watch on the floor what would you assume?**
2. **Why could the parts not have come together by chance?**
3. **How is the watch different to any other item you may find on the beach?**
4. **How does Paley's analogy about the watch link to the universe?**

**TASK:** What are your thoughts towards this story?  
Is this a miracle. Explain your reasoning.

### Types of religious experience

#### **Miracles**

**Give a modern day example of a miracle.**

#### **Conversion**

**Gram Seed – explain his story.**

**Prayer** – An attempt to contact God.  
**Give THREE way people can do this.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Miracles

Marie Bailly aged 22 was diagnosed with tubercloar peritonitis, a condition which made her abdomen swell, and she was unable to eat anything. She pleaded to be sent to Lourdes. Upon arrival she was taken to the hospital in a critical condition. After no improvement the doctors told her she was dying. She asked to be taken to the baths where holy water were poured on her abdomen. She prayed to Mary. Her colour returned, her abdomen reduced in size and although very thin, she returned to good health.

## First cause argument - Aquinas

This argument claimed that the universe was the most vital piece of evidence for the existence of God.

He explained that something could not come from nothing. Every effect has a cause. The whole of life is a chain of cause and effect. Therefore the universe must have been caused by something that existed before it.

There has to be a cause that began everything - a first cause. As you go back you eventually have to reach something which was un-caused and unchanging.

That 'thing' must be God.

Imagine a line of dominoes falling.

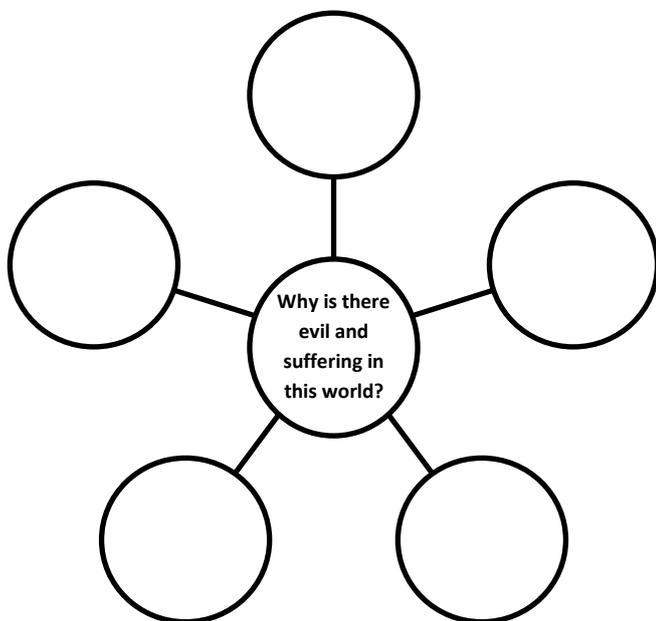
**Why did the dominoes fall?**



**What were the dominoes contingent on in order to fall?**

**If you came across a line of fallen dominoes, what could you then conclude?**

**How could this link to the universe?**



**Objections to the Design argument =**

**Objections to the First cause argument =**

## Responses to miracles

**FOR**

**AGAINST**

### The Fall - Genesis

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup>"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**TASK: Read the account above. In your own words summarise how this story explains the existence of evil and suffering.**