

KEY TERMS



Theist – A person who believes in God.

Agnostic – someone who thinks there's not enough evidence for belief in God

Atheist – A person who believes that there is no God

Miracles – A seemingly impossible event that cannot be explained by natural/scientific laws.

Design argument – The idea that the world is designed so God exists as the designer.

First cause argument – The idea that the world was the result of something causing it.

Design argument - Paley

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.

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 does Paley's story about the watch link to the universe?**



Yr. 9 Learn Sheet – Assessment point 1 Philosophy

Miracles

16 people survived the collapse of the North Tower of the World Trade Centre during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. The fact that these people survived makes many people regard this as a miracle. Others argue that they survived because they were protected at the stairwell and ended up near the top of the debris.

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

Christian responses to evil & suffering

Evil – the opposite of good

Evil entered this world because of Adam/Eve.

TASK: Explain how this happened.

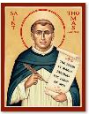
What has God given humans that allows them to make choices freely?

How does this relate to evil and suffering?

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?

Types of religious experience



**Miracles
Conversions
Numinous
Prayer**