

YEAR 7 TERM 1: The Existence of God and Revelation

Key beliefs

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion – they believe in **ONE** God.

Christians believe God is:

- Omnipotent** (all powerful)
- Omniscient** (all knowing)
- Omnipresent** (everywhere)
- Benevolent** (loving)
- Transcendent** (beyond understanding)
- Immanent** (personal)
- Eternal** (no beginning and no end)
- Forgiving** (he will forgive sins)
- Revelation** (the Divine reveals truths to the people)
- Special Revelation** (direct personal experience)



The Design Argument

Our world is too **complicated** and full of intricate working systems, to have just happened by chance. If we came across a watch, we would assume it has been 'designed' due to its **complexity**. Like the watch, some assume our world had a designer.

Reasons for believing in God

Criticisms

God cannot be the designer. A designer has to be able to correct the faults. There are too many faults on the Earth, and yet God has not tried to correct them. Therefore he cannot exist.

Evolution has given the illusion of Design. The change and adaption of species to suit the environment is not design but survival.



The Cosmological Argument

We live in a world of **'cause and effect'**. Something must have 'caused' our world to have come into existence. The only being powerful enough to do this is God – the 'uncaused cause'.

Criticisms

The Big Bang has more logic for a spontaneous cause. If everything has to be caused then God must have been caused to exist. Who made God?

The problem of evil

Evil exists

God is benevolent God is omnipotent

- Moral evil** = suffering caused by humans
- Natural evil** = suffering caused by nature

Responses:

1. Suffering is a **necessary** part of life
2. Suffering is **temporary**
3. Suffering is a punishment for **sin**
4. Suffering is caused by humanity's **free will**
5. Suffering is a part of God's **plan**
6. Suffering is a **test of faith**

Christians believe they will be **judged** on their actions in this life on judgement day – **Parousia**.



Miracles

Miracles are events that break the laws of nature, they have no logical explanation. So clearly a reasonable explanation for miracles is God. Miracles are linked to God and were performed through Gods power. Jesus performed Miracles as a way to prove he was the son of God.

David Hume 18th Century Philosopher refused to use miracles as evidence for God, as he believed that the lack of evidence and witnesses made them unreliable. Coincidence and Luck can be used to explain miracles away. Some logic can be found. Can we really trust the eyewitness, or is it lies and attention seeking.?

Revelation

General Revelation

God has revealed himself to the people on a mass scale. This is learning about God through- Worship, Reading Scriptures, Public Prayer, study of Scripture.

Special Revelation

God reveals himself on a personal level to the people. This can be through Visions, Miracles, Prayers being answered or specific key passages through scripture.

Most common is through Vision.

Examples of SPECIAL REVELATION:

- Jesus as the Incarnation of God**
- Muhammad receiving the Qur'an**
- Moses and the Burning Bush**
- Sauls Conversion to Paul**
- St Bernadette.**

"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"