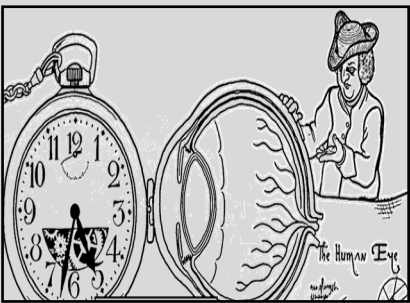


Keywords:

Agnostic	Someone who is unsure whether God exists or not.
Atheist	Someone who believes there is no God.
Theist	Someone who believes in the existence of God.
Causation Argument	Everything has a cause, and God is the first cause of the universe.
Design Argument	The universe's order and complexity mean it must have been designed by God.
Ethics	The rules that help us decide right from wrong.
Hedonic Calculus	A method of working out which action brings the most happiness.
Inconsistent Triad	A problem that questions how God can be all-loving and all-powerful if evil exists.
Natural Law Theory	God gave us moral rules that we can understand using reason.
Primary Precepts	5 rules in Natural Law: preserve life, reproduce, educate children, live in society, worship God.
Religious Experience	A personal experience where someone believes they have met or felt God.
Trolley Problem	A thought experiment used to explore moral decisions.
Utilitarianism	The belief that the best action is the one that brings the most happiness to the most people.
Moral Evil	Caused by humans e.g. murder
Natural evil	Caused by natural events e.g. volcanic eruption
Soul-Making Theodicy	Suffering helps people grow morally and spiritually, shaping their character for a closer relationship with God.

Beliefs: The Design & Causation Arguments & Religious Experiences



Design Argument – William Paley said the complexity of the world (like the eye) shows it must have a designer, just like a watch has a maker. This points to God as the **designer**.
Christian Viewpoint: Many Christians see the argument as evidence of God's existence and purpose in creation.
Atheist/Agnostic Viewpoint: Some say natural processes (like **evolution**) give enough explanation without needing a God.

Causation Argument – Everything has a cause. Thomas Aquinas argued there must be a first cause that started everything, this uncaused cause is God.
Christians: Agree with Aquinas that God caused the universe.
Atheists/Agnostics: Might accept cause and effect but don't think God is the only explanation.



Religious Experience – Some people believe they have felt or seen God.
Types of Religious experiences are: Visions, voices, mystical experiences, near-death experiences, or a sense of awe in nature.
Christians believe God can reveal Himself this way.
Atheists and agnostics may find them powerful but not proof of God

Morals: Ethics, Utilitarianism and the Hedonic Calculus

Utilitarianism uses the role of looking at which decision will make the most amount of happiness (pleasure) for the most amount of people.

Founder: Jeremy Bentham (18th century philosopher)

The **Hedonic Calculus** is Bentham's method for measuring how much pleasure or pain an action might produce. It uses **7 factors** to help guide ethical choices:

1. **Intensity** – How strong is the pleasure?
2. **Duration** – How long will it last?
3. **Certainty** – How likely is it to happen?
4. **Propinquity** – How soon will it happen?
5. **Fecundity** – Will it lead to more pleasures?
6. **Purity** – Is it free from pain?
7. **Extent** – How many people will be affected?



The Qur'an

Holy book of Islam, revealed to Prophet Muhammad by Angel Jibril. They believe it is the direct word of Allah, in Arabic. Muslims believe it is an unchanged and final message

Importance to Muslims:

- Word of God
- Guidance for life and worship
- Recited in prayer (Salah)
- Spiritual comfort
- Unites Muslims globally

Key Quote: "This is the Book... a guidance for those mindful of Allah." – Surah 2:2

Beliefs: The Problem of Evil

The Inconsistent Triad is a problem about the existence of evil and God. It says these three ideas cannot all be true at the same time:

- **God is all-powerful (omnipotent)**
- **God is all-loving (omnibenevolent)**
- **Evil and suffering exist**



If God has the power and love to stop evil, why does it still exist?

Free Will Defence (Augustine): Evil exists because God gave humans free will. Moral evil is the price of freedom.

Punishment or Test (Islamic view): Suffering can be a test of faith or a consequence of sin.

Soul-Making Theodicy: Suffering helps humans grow spiritually, like a test or lesson.

John Hick's soul-making theodicy is an idea that tries to explain why there is evil and suffering in the world while still believing in an all-loving, all-powerful God. Hick argued that suffering has a purpose, it helps people grow spiritually and morally, shaping their souls to become better, stronger, and more virtuous.

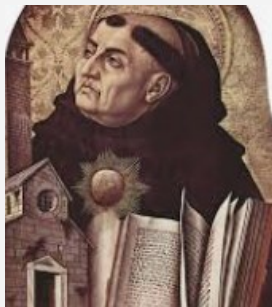
Morals: The Natural Law Theory

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) was a Christian philosopher and theologian from Italy. He was one of the most important thinkers in the history of Christianity and the Catholic Church. He was also a monk, a teacher, and a Doctor of the Church.

Natural Law Theory is the belief that there are universal moral rules written into nature by God, which all humans can discover through reason. These rules tell us what is right and wrong, and they never change, no matter the situation.

The 5 Primary Precepts are:

1. **Preserve life,**
2. **Reproduce,**
3. **Educate children,**
4. **Live in an ordered society,**
5. **Worship God**



Trinity TV

For more help, visit Trinity TV and watch the following videos:
RS > Year 9 > Term 1
Trinity TV