



EP Homework Tasks



Year 9 Term 5: Existence of God

Homework 1	Learn keywords	Due date:	Completed?
Homework 2	Written activity	Due date:	Completed?
Homework 3	Prepare for knowledge test	Due date:	Completed?

Homework 1 - Learn the keywords below for a mini test at the start of next lesson. You could read through the words, write them out, create a match up activity or get someone to test you.

Atheist Someone who does not believe a God exists

Theist Someone who believes in a God or Gods

Benevolent God's nature as all-loving and all-good

Omnipotent God's nature as all-powerful

Omniscient God's nature as all-knowing and aware of all that has happened past, present, future

Impersonal God's nature as non-human, unknowable and mysterious

Personal God's nature as merciful, compassionate and something humans can relate to

Faith A commitment to God and religion that goes beyond proof

Proof Evidence that shows something is true or existent

General Revelation God making themselves known through ordinary experiences open to all

Special Revelation God making themselves known through extraordinary experiences







Miracle A remarkable event that cannot be explained by science alone

Homework 2 – Creative task. You are going to write an answer which shows an understanding of the spiritual, emotional and cultural experiences of different believers.

- Find two stories of evil or suffering from the news. One could be a natural disaster and one caused by human choices.
- Describe them briefly. You may include a headline or photo if appropriate.
- How might an atheist explain these events? [atheist= person who doesn't believe in God]
- How might a religious person explain these events?
- In your opinion do these events disprove the existence of God? What is the evidence or reasoning behind your point of view?

Homework 3 - Learn the facts in the knowledge organiser at the end of this booklet, for a knowledge test next lesson. You could highlight the key information, create revision cue cards or get somebody to test you.

CHALLENGE TASK: Find out about the philosophers Epicurus and David Hume. What was their view on the problem of evil?

Key terms			
<p>Atheist Someone who does not believe a God exists</p> <p>Theist Someone who believes in a God or Gods</p> <p>Benevolent God's nature as all-loving and all-good</p>	<p>Design argument</p> 	<p>The Design Argument argues that God must exist because the world around us is so intricate and well-designed that there must be an intelligent creator behind it. William Paley puts this forward in his Watchmaker's Argument. This analogy says that if you found a watch in the grass you would see it has a purpose, is designed and has many parts. You would not assume it had come about by accident, you would assume someone had created it. The same applies for the world around us.</p>	<p>☒ Atheists argue that nature and science are responsible for the world around us and that much of the so-called design is the result of chance and natural selection.</p>
<p>Omnipotent God's nature as all-powerful</p> <p>Omniscient God's nature as all-knowing and aware of all that has happened past, present, future</p>	<p>First Cause argument</p> 	<p>The First Cause Argument was put forward by Thomas Aquinas and it argues that there has to be an uncaused cause that made everything else happen and that must be God. It argues that nothing moves without first being pushed and that God is the only possible being that can exist with no cause as God is eternal (never beginning, never ending). The alternative would be infinite regress which they argue is logically impossible.</p>	<p>☒ Atheists argue that by this logic God must have a cause or that if God is eternal then the universe itself could be eternal as well.</p>
<p>Impersonal God's nature as non-human, unknowable and mysterious</p> <p>Personal God's nature as merciful, compassionate and something humans can relate to</p>	<p>Miracles</p> 	<p>The Argument from Miracles argues that miracles (a remarkable event seemingly only explained by God's actions) prove that God exists. They argue that these events (like Jesus walking on water or people coming back from the dead) cannot be explained by science and that they must be the result of God's intervention. Lourdes in France is an example of somewhere Christians claim modern day miracles occur.</p>	<p>☒ Atheists argue that miracles are not more than happy coincidences and that they can be explained either by science or people being delusional or lying.</p>
<p>Faith A commitment to God and religion that goes beyond proof</p> <p>Proof Evidence that shows something is true or existent</p> <p>General Revelation God making themselves known through ordinary experiences open to all</p>	<p>Revelation</p>  	<p>God is either revealed through remarkable experiences usually only open to one or a small group of people or through ordinary experiences which are open to all people to experience.</p> <p>Special revelation: These could be visions (seeing Mary, God or Jesus), dreams, miracles or hearing God's call directly. Eg: In the Bible Saul experiences a vision of Jesus on the Road to Damascus and this causes him to believe in God, change his name, and preach the Gospel.</p> <p>General revelation: This could be through nature where God's creation is revealed in the intricacy of the human eye or the beauty of the Grand Canyon. It could be through scripture, God reveals much information about themselves in the Bible.</p>	<p>☒ Atheists argue that special revelation can be explained in several ways: It could be a psychological occurrence caused by stress or fasting for example. Perhaps people are being delusional or even lying.</p> <p>An atheist can appreciate the beauty of the world but doesn't think it is evidence of a creator God. Atheists don't see the Bible as divine.</p>
<p>Special Revelation God making themselves known through extraordinary experiences</p> <p>Miracle A remarkable event that cannot be explained by science alone</p>	<p>Nature of God</p> 	<p><u>Omnipotent, Omniscient, Benevolent</u></p> <p>According to the Bible and Christian teachings, God is omnipotent (all-powerful – eg: God made the world), omniscient (all-knowing – God knows everything that has ever happened and everything that ever will happen) and benevolent (all-loving – Eg: the story of the Prodigal son where God has limitless love and forgiveness for the son who has turned his back on his father and sinned. This teaches that 'my Father's house has many rooms' = space in heaven for everyone).</p>	<p><u>Problem of Suffering</u></p> <p>This however leads to the Problem of Suffering. If God is all-powerful and all-loving why does so much suffering exist in the world? Some people see this as an argument against God's existence. See also, inconsistent triad.</p>