

GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Component 2

Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation

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
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Answers to Extension Questions 6 pages

Teacher's Introduction

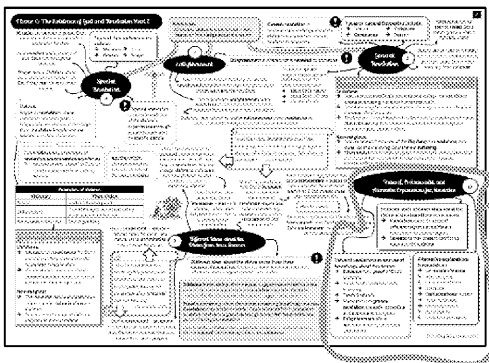
This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA A specification for Component 2: Thematic Studies; Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies – Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation.

The sections are as follows:

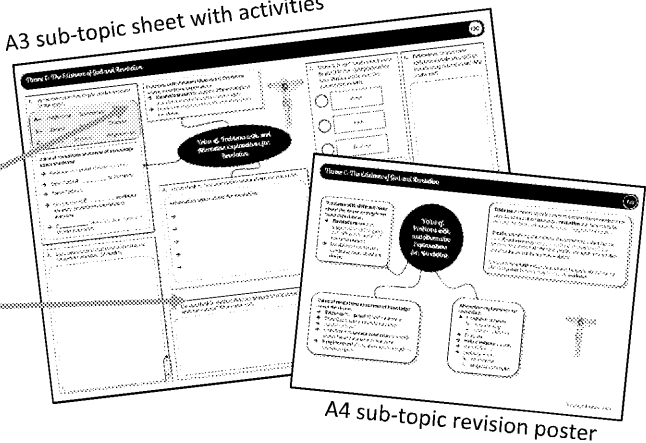
1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Two A3 revision posters**, between them covering the 10 subtopics. These are labelled: **1** and **2**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Theme C material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Ten A3 subtopic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one subtopic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A4 subtopic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: **C1**. Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon: 
4. **Ten A4 subtopic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 subtopic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: **C1**.
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A4 subtopic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.

A3 revision poster



A3 sub-topic sheet with activities



As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting, and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

H Dixon, November 2016

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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation Part 1

e.g. the world appears to be like designed objects; designed objects have designers; so there must be a world designer: God.

The **design argument** is a religious argument which tries to suggest the existence of God by saying the world appears to have been designed.

William Paley said there must have been a designer because the world appears to have

- ↳ organised parts
- ↳ a purpose/function

He said this was more like a designed object such as a watch, than like a natural object such as a rock.

Isaac Newton said that the thumb print provided evidence for the existence of God because it is

- ↳ unique

There would seem to be no reason for such uniqueness to occur naturally.

Strengths:

- Everything seems to have, and need, a **cause**.
- A first **cause** (God) is more likely than causes and effects going back forever.

Weaknesses:

- The world does not seem well-designed; there is suffering.
- The analogy between designed objects and the world is not strong because the world and designed objects are not very similar.
- The theory of evolution explains the appearance of design better than God.

Strengths

Design Argument

1

[God to Job] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding."

(Job 38:4 NRSV)

Religious Responses:

- Maybe God is not able to stop all **suffering**. It might be impossible to create a world where no suffering exists.
- It might be more loving to allow humans **free will** than to control them – this means **evil** is possible.
- The biblical book of Job shows that if there is a God, humans do not fully understand him – God may have his reasons for allowing evil and suffering.
- Evil may be a test of faith, or a test of character – suffering provides people with an opportunity to be charitable and help others.
- It may be fair for a just God to punish humans with suffering.

Natural Suffering

Natural suffering is pain which is not caused by a person, but by natural events, e.g. pain caused by a volcano or earthquake, or by disease.

It can be argued that a God would design a world without **suffering**.

Argument from Evil and Suffering

4

This is morally bad intention or action, often resulting in

- ↳ **moral suffering** – pain which is caused by a deliberate action, e.g. murder, theft, exploitation...

It can be argued that a God would make sure that people did not act in an **evil** way.

Arguments for the Existence of God

Some scientists and philosophers have suggested the world must have been designed because it is

- ↳ fine-tuned/just-so

If the world's composition was slightly different, it would not support life on Earth.

Atheists argue that there cannot be a loving and powerful God, because there is **evil and suffering** in the world. A loving God should not want evil and suffering, and a powerful God would be able to stop them.

Argument from Miracles

3

Examples of Miracles:

- Jesus' resurrection from the dead
- The parting of the Red Sea
- Many people in the modern world claim to have experienced miracles

These arguments can be used by Christians to argue for God's existence

- There are events which the laws of nature cannot explain. If there is a supernatural cause, this points to the existence of God.
- Miraculous events sometimes seem to be a response to prayer – they seem to show God's interaction with the world.

Arguments against the Existence of God



Events such as natural disasters, e.g. earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, can be explained by natural causes.

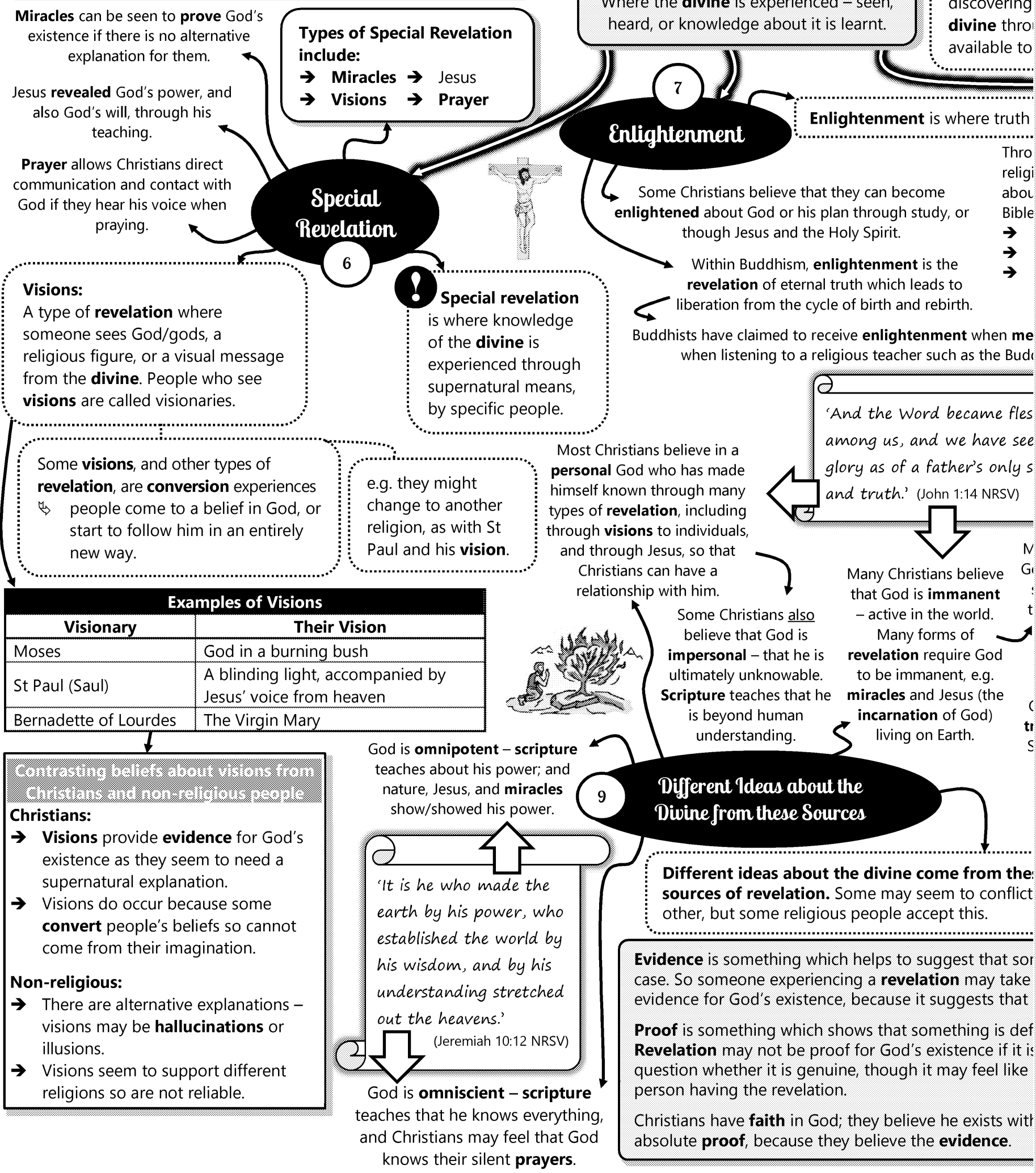
Scientists have modified the laws of nature at some point, they may believe that the world can be created without God.

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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation Part 2



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1. What is the design argument?

The *design argument* is...



e.g. the world appears to be like designed objects; designed objects have designers; so there must be a world designer: God.

2. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Naturally Different Rock
Earth Thumb Watch

William Paley said there must have been a designer because the world appears to have
↳ organised parts
↳ a purpose/function

He said this was more like a designed object such as a _____, than like a natural object such as a _____.

Some scientists and philosophers suggested the world must have been designed because it is
↳ fine-tuned/just-so

If the world's composition was slightly _____, it would not support life on _____.

Isaac Newton said that the _____ print provided evidence for the existence of God because it is
↳ unique

There would seem to be no reason why such uniqueness to occur _____.

3. What is another name for the design argument?

5. Do you find this argument convincing? Why / why not?

Design Argument

Strengths

4. Write the correct answers in the gaps.

Weaknesses:

- The world does not look like a machine; there is **A** _____.
- The **B** _____ objects and the universe because the v _____ are not very C _____.
- The theory of appearance of _____.

- A** – Rain Sufi
B – Analogy
C – Different Beautiful
D – The Big Bang

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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation

1. What does the first cause argument argue?

The first cause argument argues...



2. Number the premises and conclusion of Aquinas' argument 1–4 to give the order of his argument for a first-cause God.

e.g. St Thomas Aquinas argued:

There are causes and effects at the moment

Therefore, there is a first cause which people call God

Everything has a **cause**

Without a first cause there would be no other causes and no effects



4. The first cause what kind of a of God)?

3. Write 'strengths' and 'weaknesses' in the correct boxes.

Extension: Can you respond to any of the weaknesses? Use the box provided.

Strengths

Weaknesses

?

→ Everything seems to have, and need, a **cause**.

→ A first **cause** (God) is more likely than causes and effects going back forever.

?

→ The **Big Bang** could

→ We cannot prove th

→ God being the **cause** explain what caused

First Cause Argument

5. Do you find this argument convincing? Why / why not?

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1. What does the argument from miracles argue?

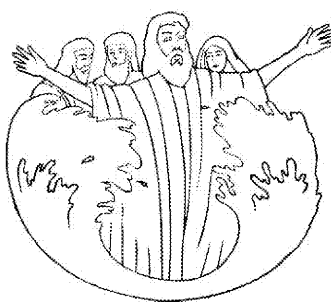
The argument from miracles argues...

!

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answer in the gaps.

These arguments can be used by Christians to argue for God's existence	These arguments can be used by atheists and humanists to argue against God's existence
<p>→ There <i>are</i> events which the laws of A _____ cannot explain. If there is a supernatural cause, this points to there being a God.</p> <p>→ Miraculous events sometimes seem to be a response to B _____ – they can seem to show God's interaction with the world.</p>	<p>→ Events might be explainable by nature; humans just do not know how yet.</p> <p>→ There may be coincidences, which are not really miraculous.</p> <p>→ 'Miracles' do not necessarily prove a C _____ God – there are plenty of people who would benefit from miracles and do not receive them (miracles are selective) and there are apparent miracles which make no sense (are silly, e.g. a statue weeping blood).</p> <p>→ The philosopher D _____ argued that there is never enough evidence to prove a miracle – an alternative explanation or an unreliable witness are more likely (witnesses could be mistaken or lying).</p>

- A** – Religion Jesus Nature
- B** – Science Nature Prayer
- C** – Compassionate Powerful Angry
- D** – David Hume Thomas Aquinas William Paley



4. Find a Bible quote that gives an example of a miracle and write it here: (Hint: Try the Gospels.)

Reference:

2. Fill in the gaps. Use the words in the box.

Examples of miracles:

→ Jesus' _____

dead – _____

raised him _____

→ The _____

Sea in the _____

Testament _____

Jewish people _____

→ Many people _____

claim to have _____

being _____

from death _____

Miracles _____

Part _____

5. Do you think miracles exist? Why/why not?

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1. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Job 38:4 NRSV)

Atheists argue that there cannot be a loving and powerful God, because there is **evil and suffering** in the world. A loving God should not want evil and suffering, and a powerful God would be able to stop them.

2. Give some more examples of evil and moral suffering not caused by God.

4. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Religious Responses:

- ➔ Maybe God is not able to stop all _____. It might be impossible to create a world where no suffering exists.
- ➔ It might be more loving to allow humans _____ than to control them – this means _____ is possible.
- ➔ The biblical book of Job shows that if there is a God, humans do not fully _____ him – God may have his reasons for allowing evil and suffering.
- ➔ Evil may be a test of _____ or a test of character – suffering provides people with an _____ to be charitable and help others.
- ➔ It may be fair for a just God to punish humans with suffering.

Faith Evil Understand
Opportunity Free will Suffering

Argument from Evil and Suffering

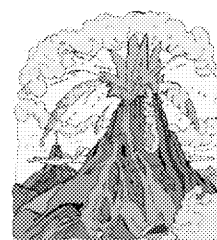
A

This is pain which is not caused by a person, but by

C _____ events, e.g. pain caused by a volcano or earthquake, or by disease.

It can be argued that a God would design a world without

E _____.



B

This is morally bad intention or action, often resulting in

D _____ - **E** _____ - pain which is caused by a deliberate action, e.g. murder, theft, exploitation...

It can be argued that a God would make sure that people did not act in an

B _____ way.

5. If you had a choice between
- having free will but there being evil and suffering, or
 - not being completely free but never experiencing evil or suffering? Why?

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Arguments Based on Science

The **Big Bang** and

A _____ explain the origins of the universe, and how life on Earth developed.

Events such as natural disasters and illness, or years of good harvest, can be explained

B _____ – they are less likely to be seen as punishment or reward from God.

Scientists have modified and cloned life forms, and, at some point, they may be able to create artificial **C** _____. This has led some to believe that if humans can create life, life can be created without needing a spiritual being – God.

A – Creation

Evolution

Richard Dawkins

B –

Scientifically

Sometimes

Politically

C – Humans

Souls

Life

2. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps above.

1. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Science can _____ things which co
explained by _____. Some non-reli
science to argue against the _____
science gives no _____ or proof fo
for God.

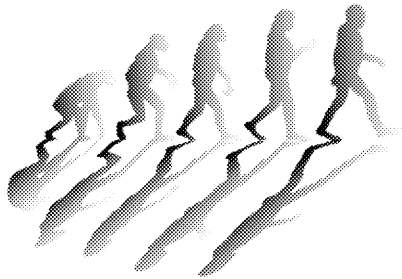
Religion
Evidence
Explain
Existence

3. Complete the relig

Religious Responses:

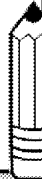
→ Just because scie
origins of the un
events in the wo

→ Scientists may n
artificial life...



4. Which of these is something that science has created so might provide evidence against the existence of God? (1 mark)

- a) Big Bang
- b) Evolution
- c) Artificial Cloning
- d) Weather



5. Discuss with a partner – if some things which humans hav
(e.g. the origins of the universe) can now be explained by
things as yet unexplained will also be explained by science

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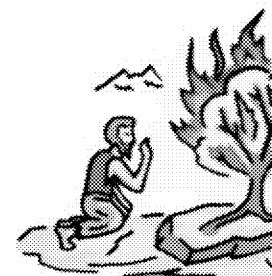
1. Give a definition of 'special revelation'.

Special revelation is...



Types of Special Revelation include:

- Miracles
- Visions
- Jesus
- Prayer



Revelation

Where the divine is seen, heard, or known is learnt.

Special Revelation

Miracles can be seen to **prove**

God's existence if there is no alternative explanation for them.

Jesus **revealed** God's power, and also God's will, through his teaching.

Prayer allows Christians direct communication and contact with God if they hear his voice when praying.

Some **visions**, and other types of **revelation**, are **conversion** experiences where people come to a belief in God, or start to follow him in an entirely new way.

e.g. they might change to another religion, as with St Paul and his **vision**.

Visions:

A type of **revelation** where someone sees God/gods, a religious figure, or a visual message from the **divine**. People who see **visions** are called visionaries.

3. Put A, B, or C next to each correct visionary to match them to their vision and write their name into the table as well.

St Paul (Saul)

Bernadette of Lourdes

Moses

Examples of Visions

Visionary	Their Vision
A	God in a burning bush
B	A blinding light, accompanied by Jesus' voice from heaven
C	The Virgin Mary

4. Give the names of another two people reported to have had visions in the Bible.

1.

2.

2. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box

Contrasting beliefs about visions from Christians

Christians:

- **Visions** provide _____ for God.
- Visions do occur because some _____ need a _____ explanation.
- Visions cannot come from their _____.

Non-religious:

- There are alternative explanations – visions _____.
- Visions seem to support different religions _____.

5. Why do some people think revelation are not genuine?

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1. Find a quote from a religious figure about enlightenment and write it here: (Hint: try the Dalai Lama.)

Reference:

Revelation:
Where the divine is experienced – seen, heard, or knowledge about it is learnt.

Some Christians become **enlightened** through study.

Enlightenment

3. Fill in the blanks to show what is associated with enlightenment.

Within **?** _____, enlightenment is a **revelation** of eternal truth which leads to liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

? _____ have claimed to receive **enlightenment** when they have experienced a revelation or when listening to a religious teacher such as the **?** _____.

4. Which one of these is a state believed to be reached when someone becomes enlightened? (1 mark)

- a) Heaven
- b) Purgatory
- c) Nirvana
- d) Samsara

2. Give a definition of enlightenment.

Enlightenment is...

5. How may enlightenment differ from other types of special revelation? Make some notes.

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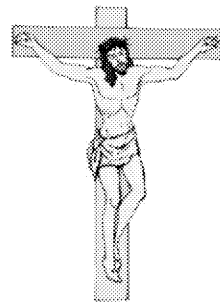
1. Give a definition of 'general revelation'.

General revelation is...



Types of General Revelation include:

- Nature
- Scripture
- Conscience
- Reason



Revelation:

Where the divine is experienced – seen, heard, or knowledge about it is learnt.

4. Which types of general revelation are available to people wherever they are?

Through **A**, religious people can learn about God. From the Bible Christians learn:

- about God's nature;
- about God's will; and
- about God's plan.

B _____ can be seen to **reveal** God's teaching about what is right and wrong.

C _____ can be used to rationally work out what is right and wrong and learn about God in other ways, e.g. from **A** _____.

General Revelation

Contrasting beliefs about nature as general revelation from Christians and non-religious people

Christians:

- Nature shows that God is **A** _____ and loving – he was able to create an amazing world for humans to live in.
- Christians may feel awe and wonder looking at nature – they feel it

B _____ God's majesty.

- The Catholic Church teaches that God's will can be known through

C _____; e.g. that people should not use contraception because it goes against nature.

Non-religious:

- Nature reveals the power of the **D** _____ and **evolution**, and does not show a loving God; there is **suffering**.
- **Humanists** think human progress is important, so may think that it is ok to act in ways which are not natural, e.g. by using contraception or

E _____.

3

A – Fa

B – Re

C – Th

D – G

E – Br

5. Which do you think is the most reliable form of general revelation (place yourself in the shoes of someone who believes in general revelation if you do not)? Why?

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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation

1. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Impersonal Revelation Omnipotent
Knows Understanding Relationship

Most Christians believe in a **personal** God who has made himself known through many types of _____, including through **visions** to individuals, and through Jesus, so that Christians can have a _____ with him.

Some Christians also believe that God is _____ – that he is ultimately unknowable. **Scripture** teaches that he is beyond human _____.

God is _____ – **scripture** teaches about his power; and nature, Jesus, and **miracles** show/showed his power.

'It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.' (Jeremiah 10:12 NRSV)

God is **omniscient** – **scripture** teaches that he _____ everything, and Christians may feel that God knows their silent **prayers**.

4. Find another Bible quote that demonstrates one or more of these ideas about the divine and write it here: (Hint: try Matthew 19.)

Reference:

2. Fill in the Bible quote.

Many Christians believe that God is

A _____ – active in the world. Many forms of **revelation** require God to be

A _____, e.g. **miracles** and Jesus (the **incarnation** of God) living on Earth.

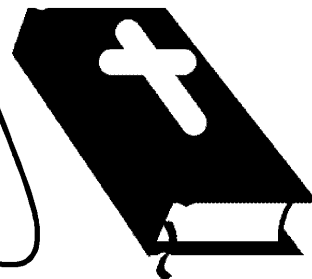
Christians may believe that God the Father is

B _____ while God the Son and God the Spirit are **A** _____, or believe that God can be both because he is God.

Different ideas about the divine come from these sources of revelation. Some may seem to conflict with each other, but some religious people accept this.

5. Do you think it makes sense for some Christians and impersonal; and immanent and transcender

Different Ideas about the Divine from these Sources



How this works...

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1. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

- A** – Indifference Commitment Dislike
- B** – General Special Christian
- C** – Visions Scripture Enlightenment

Value of revelations as sources of knowledge about the divine:

- Evidence for / proof of God's existence
- Show God's **A** _____ to humanity
- Teach God's will
- Many forms of **B** _____ revelation are easily accessible and available to everyone
- **C** _____ allows liberation from cycle of birth and rebirth

Problems with different ideas about the divine arising from these experiences:

- Revelations seem to support different religions and different branches of the same religion.
- Revelations may present conflicting ideas about the **divine**.



Value of, Problems with, and Alternative Explanations for, Revelation

4. Try to think of five alternative explanations for revelation.

Alternative explanations for revelation:

-
-
-
-
-

3. Give two reasons that revelation may be viewed as valuable. (2 marks)



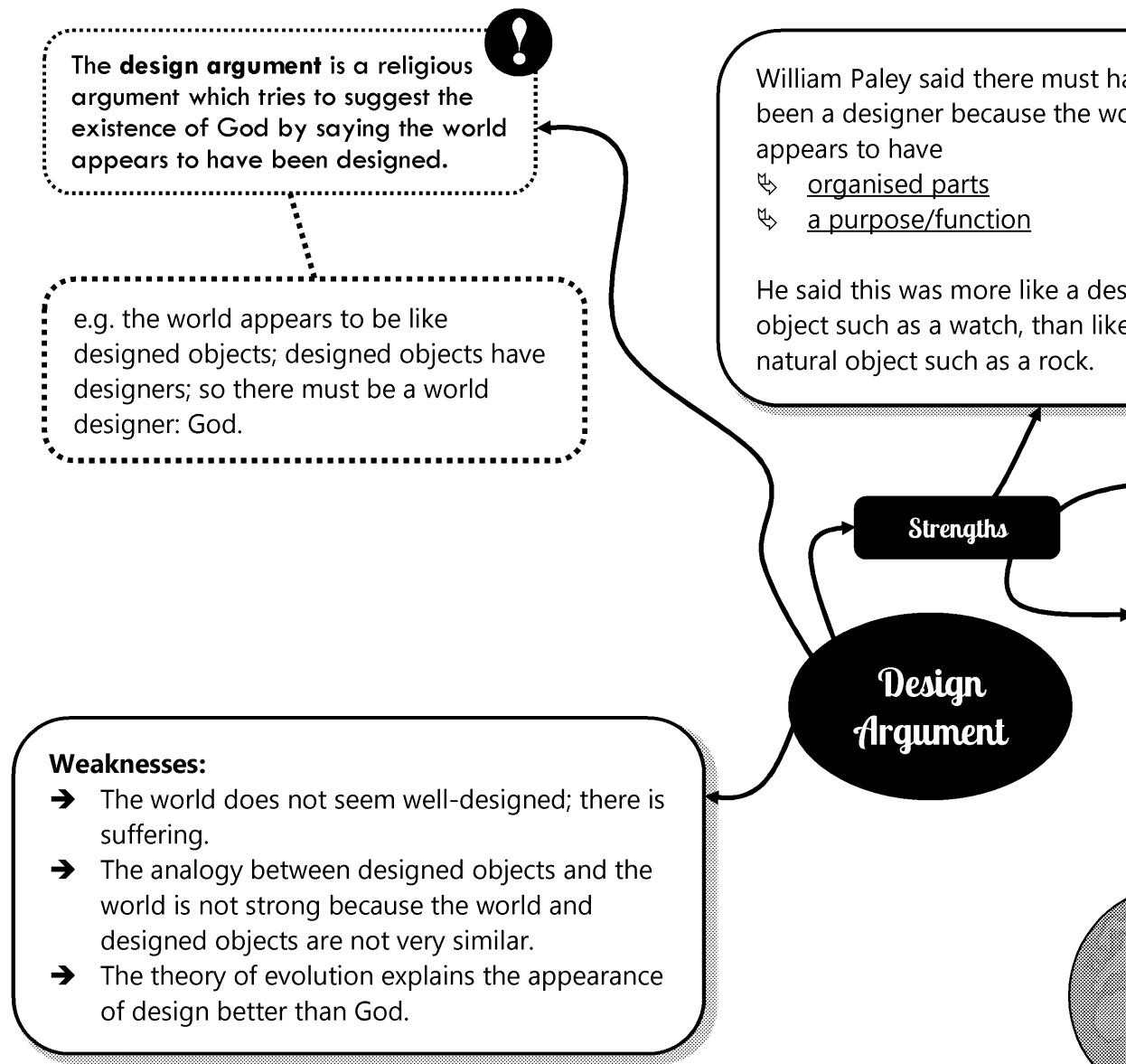
5. Do you think it matters that not all revelations seem to agree with each other? Why / why not?

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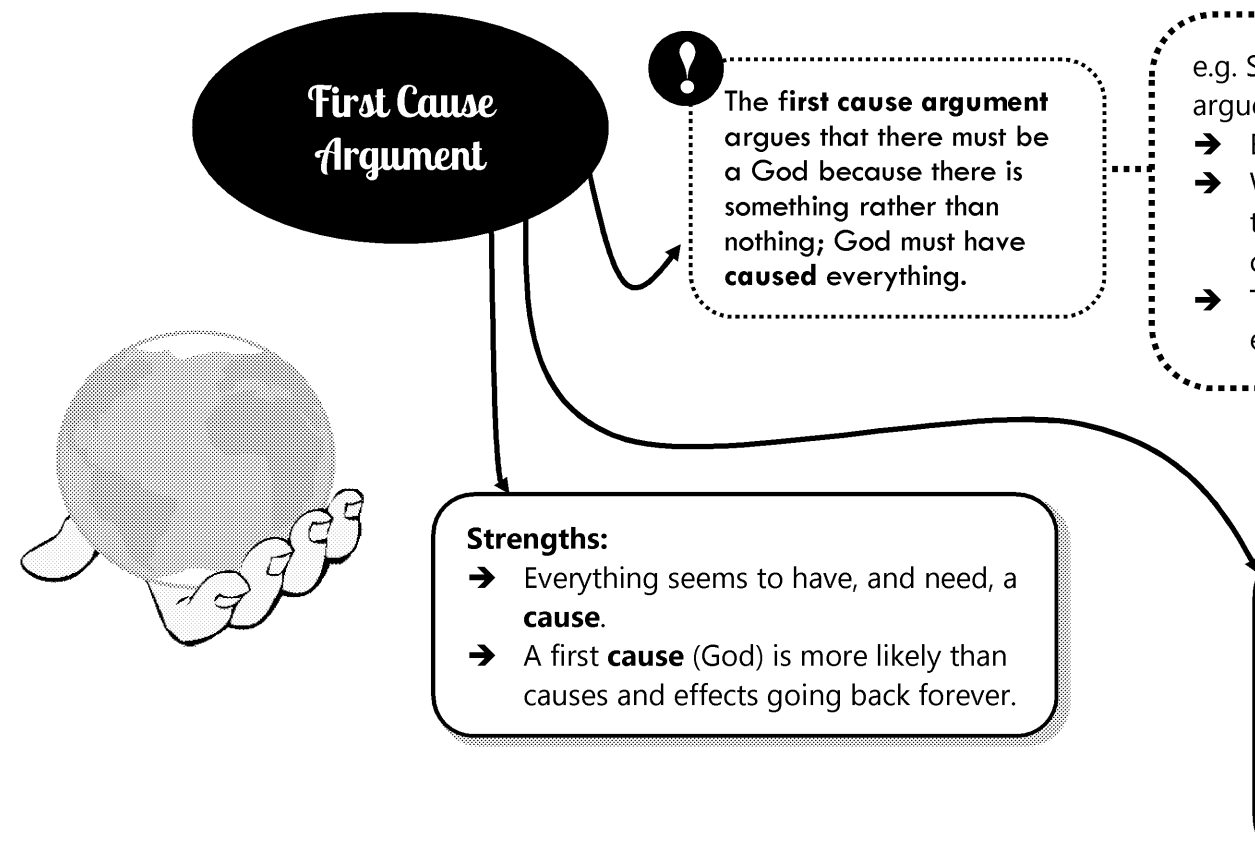


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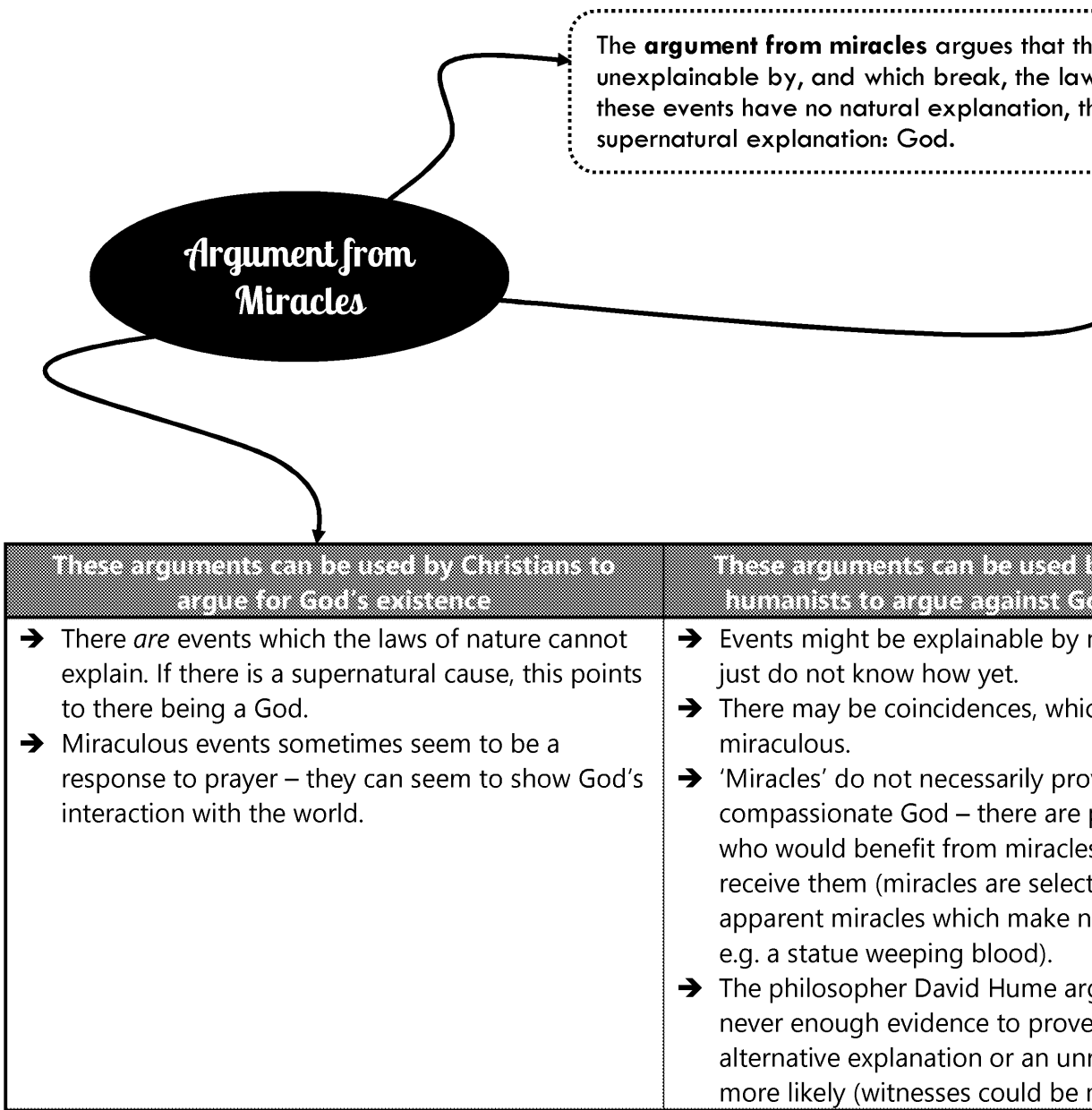


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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation



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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation

[God to Job] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.” (Job 38:4 NRSV)



Religious Responses:

- Maybe God is not able to stop all **suffering**. It might be impossible to create a world where no suffering exists.
- It might be more loving to allow humans **free will** than to control them – this means **evil** is possible.
- The biblical book of Job shows that if there is a God, humans do not fully understand him – God may have his reasons for allowing evil and suffering.
- Evil may be a test of faith, or a test of character – suffering provides people with an opportunity to be charitable and help others.
- It may be fair for a just God to punish humans with suffering.

Atheists argue that the powerful God, because of the suffering in the world. A loving God would be able to stop them.

Natural Suffering

Argument and Response

Natural suffering is pain which is not caused by a person, but by natural events, e.g. pain caused by a volcano or earthquake, or by disease.

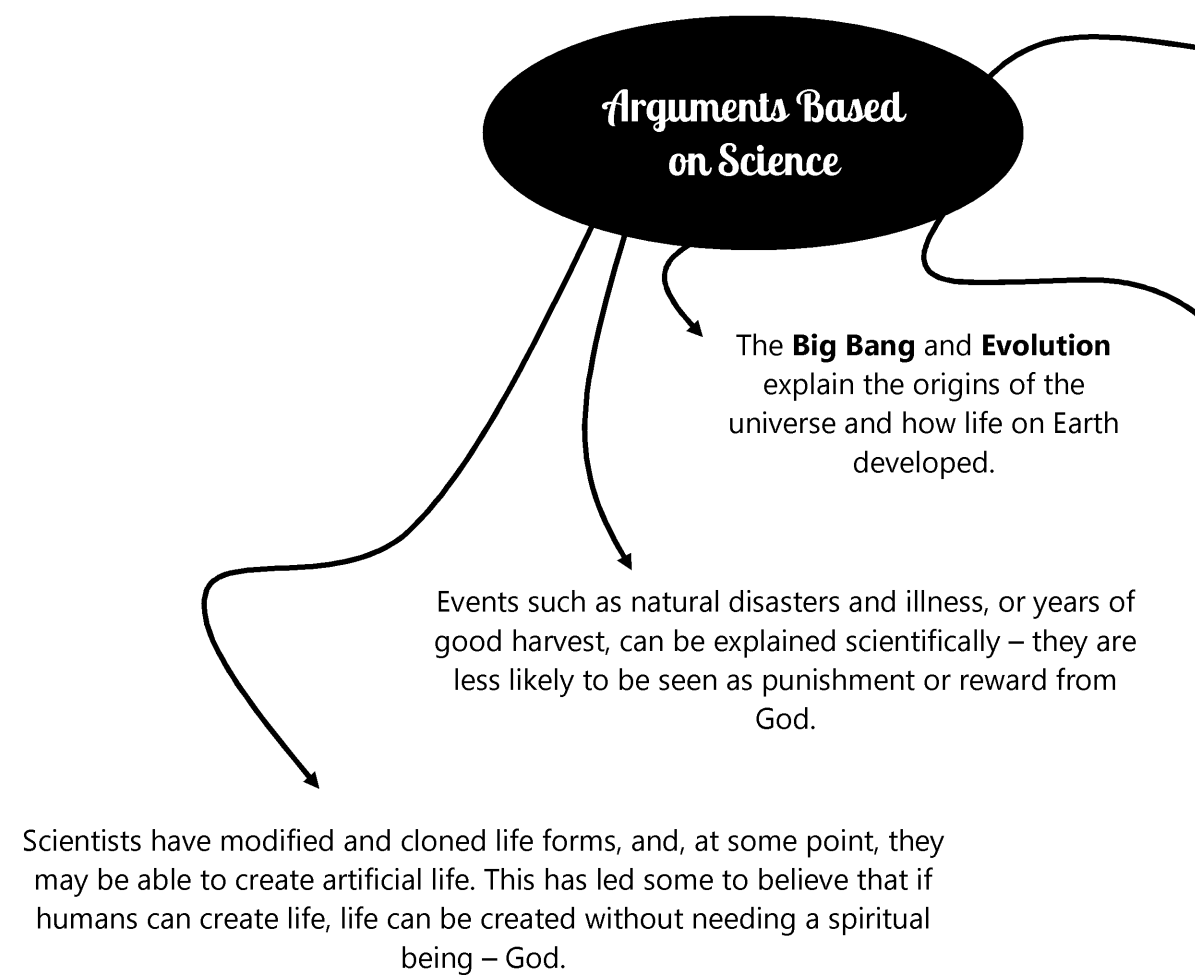
It can be argued that a God would design a world without **suffering**.

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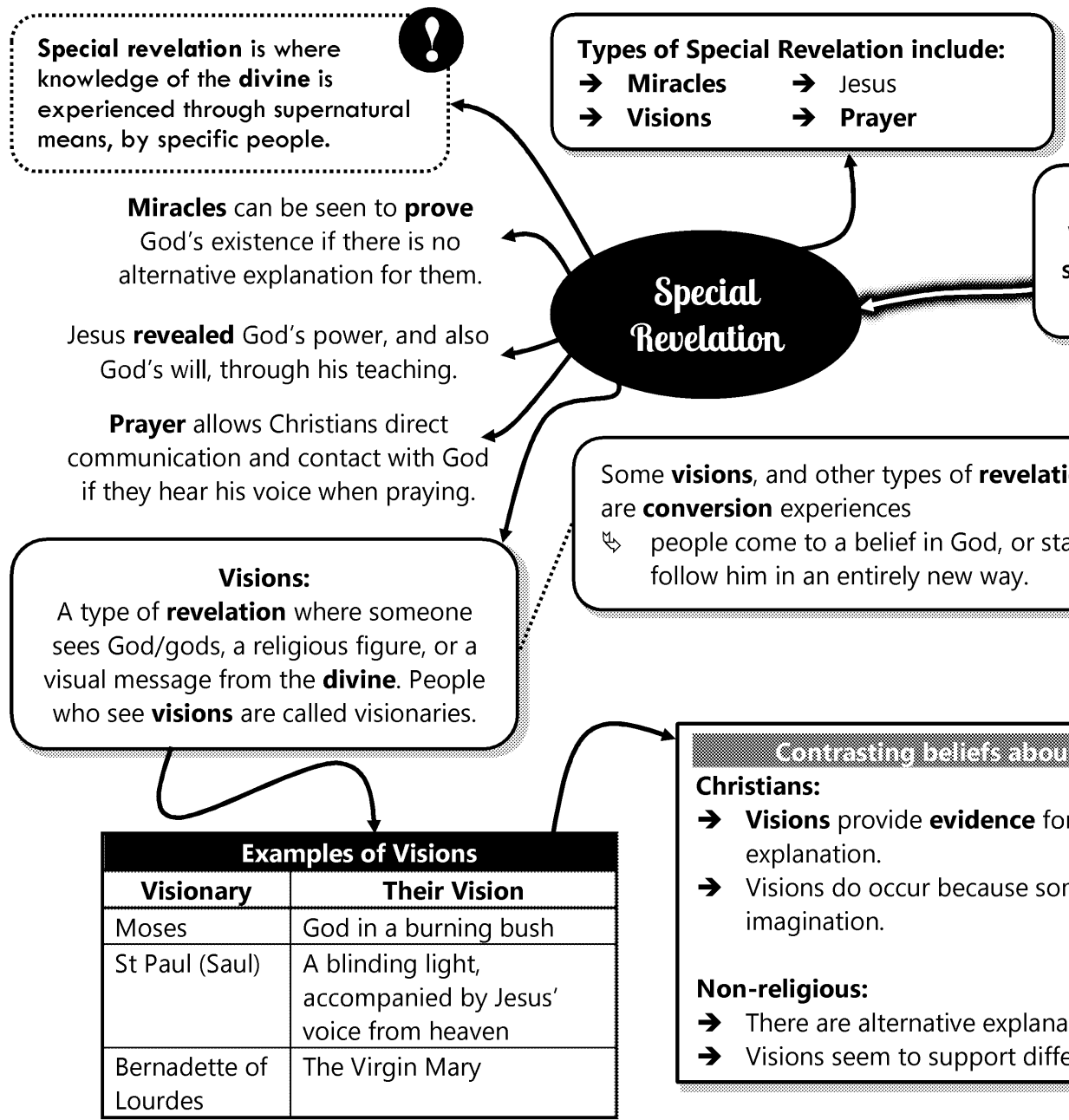


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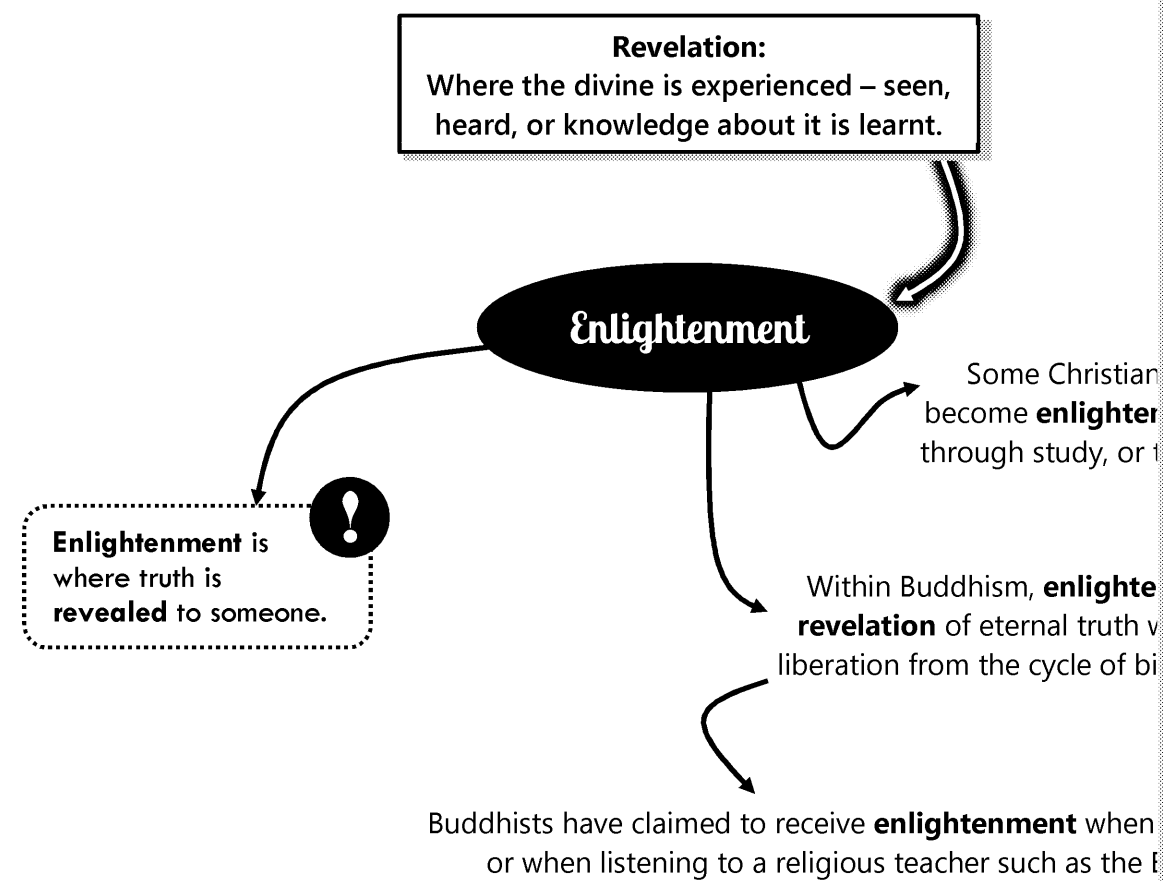


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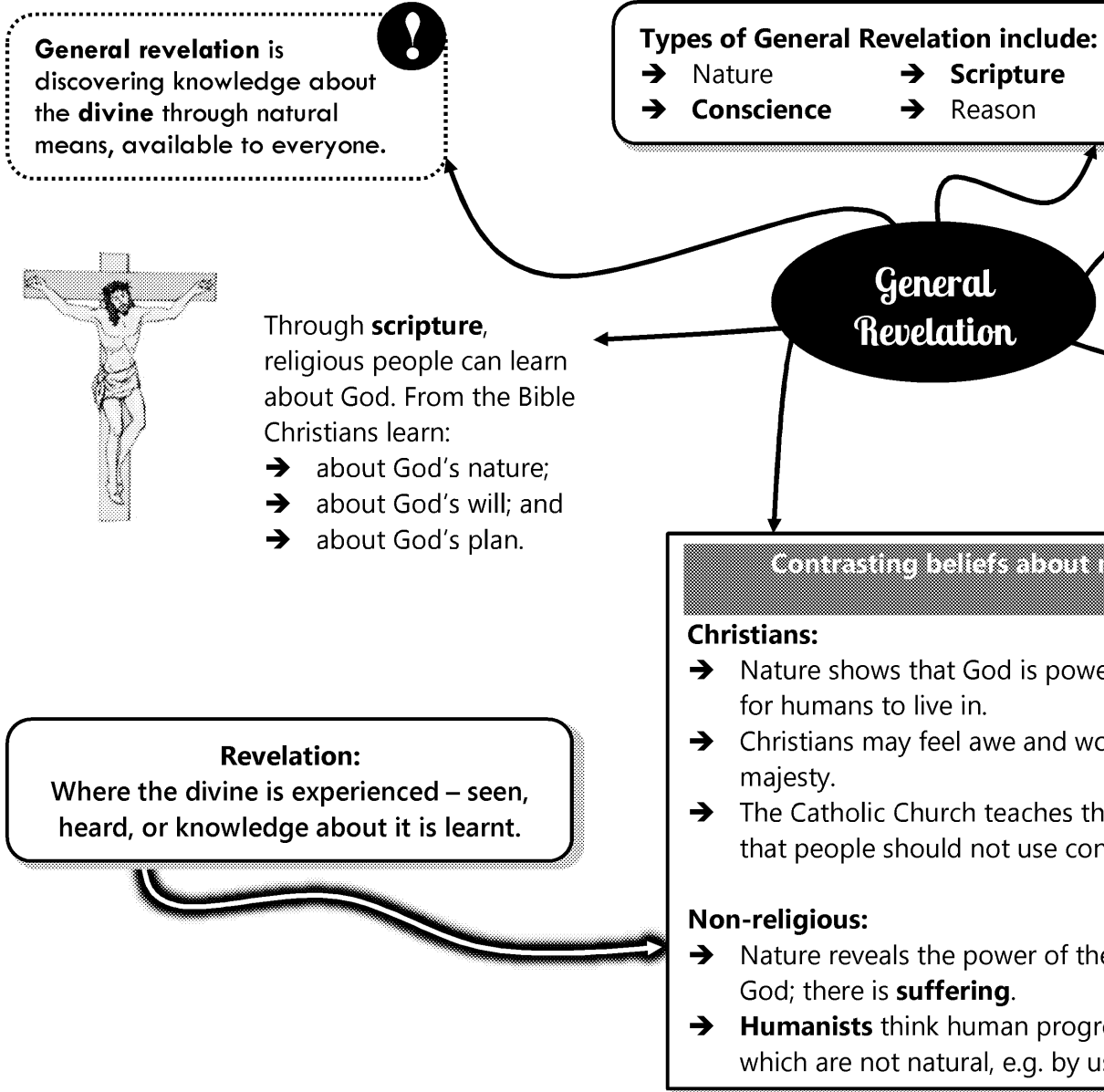


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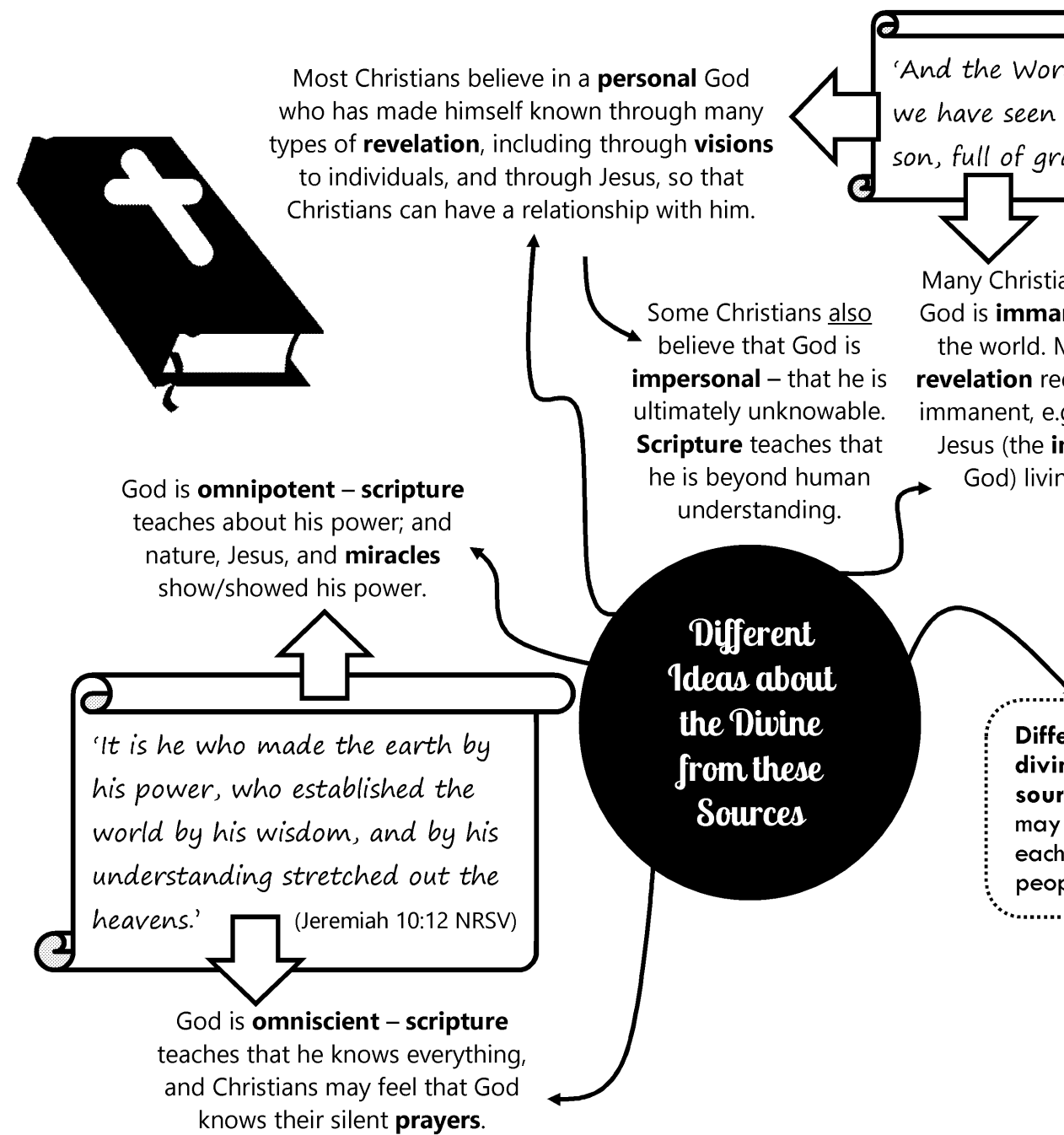


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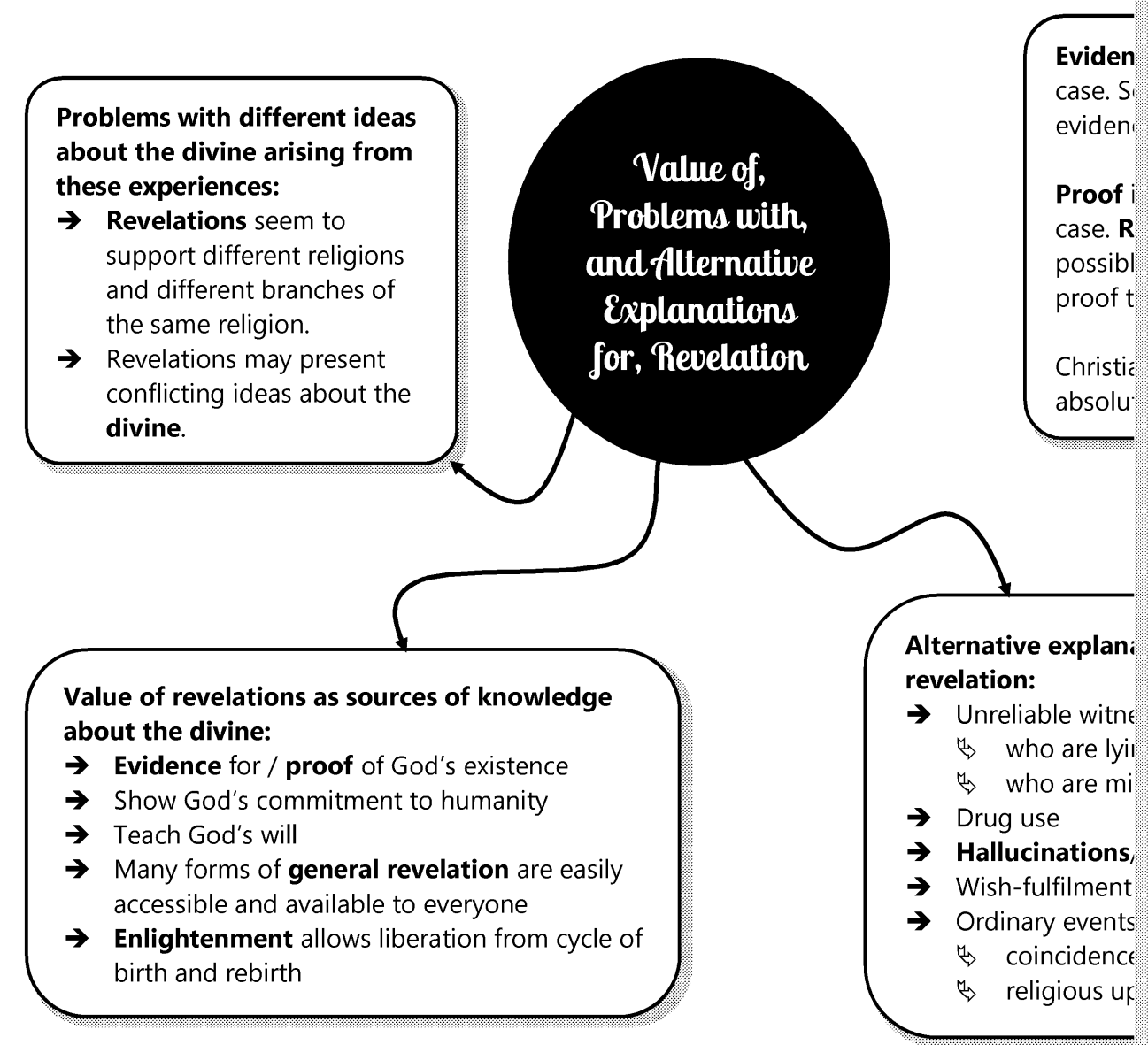


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Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation



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Theme C Topic on a Page Activities

Exam-style questions here are not exactly the same as they would be in an exam. Some focus primarily, or solely, on Christianity, where the exam would allow any religions to be used. Some also focus on views which are not specifically religious where the exam would ask about religious views. This is to allow students to practise the ideas taught in this resource.

Design Argument

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) The teleological argument.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example: I do not find this argument very strong because the analogy between the world is weak, and even if they were similar, this does not prove that there is a God.
- 6) For example:
 - Some Christians believe that the design argument proves the existence of God because the world is like other objects which have been designed, so the world must have been designed by God. They argue that the world had purpose and function, so it was more like a machine than a random collection of things.
 - Non-religious people do not think that the design argument proves the existence of God. They do not feel that the analogy between the world and designed objects is good enough to prove that there is a God. They may also feel that the world could seem designed because of the complexity of life, but it does not actually seem that well designed because there is suffering.

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant point

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)

If the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks

- 7) For example: Aquinas argued that the natural world acted as though it had a purpose, but that natural things can work without intelligence, e.g. an arrow. Therefore, there must be a God who has designed the world.

First Cause Argument

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.

Extension:

 - The Big Bang still needs a cause, it could not be the first cause.
 - It goes against the laws of nature to suggest that something did not need a cause.
 - If God is spiritual not physical, then he does not need a physical cause.
- 4) Cosmological Argument
- 5) For example: This argument is slightly convincing because everything physical needs a cause. It does not make sense to think of something starting without a cause. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that there was a first cause which started the physical process of causes and effects in the first place.

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- 6) For example:
 - The Big Bang could have been the first cause.
 - God being the first cause does not explain what caused God.

Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)

- 7) For example: I think the first cause argument is stronger than the design argument which appeared designed have designers – there are some very beautiful and everything in our world currently does have a cause, so it makes more sense a designer.

Argument from Miracles

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example:

‘[Jesus] woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” and there was a dead calm.’ (Mark 4:39 NRSV)
- 5) For example: I do not feel that the argument from miracles is convincing, because all the time – there is probably a natural explanation for everything.

- 6) For example:

One argument with justification
 Different arguments for and against, with justification
 OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Even if this argument is evidence for God’s existence, because miracles do not prove God’s existence.
- ‘Miracles’ could be coincidences.
- ‘Miracles’ could have natural, scientific explanations which humans are not aware of.
- It is always more likely that witnesses of miracles are lying or mistaken than miracles occurring which prove God’s existence.

Points and Justification against

- If there are miracles then there must be something supernatural causing them, which is God.
- Some miracles have involved God revealing himself to humans in person.
- Many people claim to have experienced miracles, and they cannot all be explained by natural causes.
- Miraculous events sometimes occur in response to prayers to God, so they are answering prayer.

Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted.

- 7) For example: Isaiah called down fire from heaven, three men were saved from the fire, five thousand, Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus healed the paralysed man...

Argument from Evil and Suffering

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example:
 - Natural Suffering can be caused by tsunamis, wild animals, wild fires...
 - Moral Suffering can be caused by bullying, rape, torture...
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example: It think I would rather have free will, even with evil and suffering than I am my own person, and that my life is real, not controlled.
- 6) For example:
 - Some Christians believe that they should not question why there is evil and suffering, because God may have good reasons for allowing it. Humans may not understand these – for example, humans cannot create a world without evil and suffering.
 - ‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you were there’ (NRSV)
 - Some Christians do not believe that the argument from evil and suffering is valid because they feel that evil and suffering are a test. For example, evil and suffering show whether faith is genuine or not, and they also test character, as you are not allowed to be good until they have to be good in the face of adversity.

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for conclusion

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture
- 7) For example: Yes, I think evil and suffering make there being a God less likely. If there was a God, he would eventually explain everything, but it is also possible that there will be things that he cannot explain. I think humans need God, even with science, as science explains things that people used to believe in, but science cannot explain some things now, it may be able to explain away more reasons for belief in God in the future.

Arguments Based on Science

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) c) Artificial Cloning
- 5) For example: It does seem likely that science will explain more in the future. Science is advancing so fast that it will eventually explain everything, but it is also possible that there will be things that science cannot explain.
- 6) For example: I do think humans need God, even with science, as science explains things that people used to believe in, but science cannot explain some things now, it may be able to explain away more reasons for belief in God in the future.
- 7) For example: I think the arguments from science are more effective (than the arguments from evil and suffering) in arguing against the existence of God, because there are reasons for belief in God (e.g. to allow free will), but science explains things that people used to believe in, but science cannot explain some things now, it may be able to explain away more reasons for belief in God in the future.

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Special Revelation

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: St Peter and Isaiah.
- 5) For example: There can be scientific explanations for examples of special revelation, such as hallucinations or illusions. Moreover, people may be misinterpreting things, e.g. something could be a coincidence rather than a miracle. Also, some reports seem to agree with each other – they may support different religions, or institutions deemed immoral.
- 6) For example:
 - Many Christians believe that special revelation allows them to experience and feel that God revealed himself as Jesus on Earth, showed humans his love, and taught them to love one another.
 - Non-religious people do not believe that special revelation is genuine. They offer other explanations for such revelation; that there are natural explanations for what appear as 'special revelations' appear to reveal conflicting things to different people, or that they cannot be genuine, or all special revelations would agree with each other. Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant point
 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)
 If the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks
- 7) For example: The Roman Emperor Constantine reportedly had a Christian vision in which he saw a cross in the sky, and a message that he would conquer in this sign. He believed he would win this battle with God's help. He then won the battle (making his soldiers wear the Chi Rho on their shields first), converted to Christianity, and helped the Roman Empire.

Enlightenment

- 1) For example:

'... when we speak about enlightenment at the state of Buddhahood, we are speaking of the true state.' (Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama) – He is saying that enlightenment is about oneself, and the true state of things).
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) c) Nirvana
- 5) For example: In Buddhism enlightenment does not involve the intervention of a deity; it is something which people can achieve for themselves. Buddhist enlightenment does not involve the existence of God. Buddhists believe that becoming enlightened means peace and happiness, or nirvana – other types of special revelation do not mean that someone attains enlightenment.
- 6) For example: One story of the Buddha is that he grew up rich and sheltered, and was a wandering holy man. The Buddha left his life of luxury to try to find the truth about life and to understand suffering. He tried to discover this by denying himself physical pleasures and doing hard work. He sat meditating under a Bodhi tree and achieved enlightenment.
- 7) For example: Buddhists believe that enlightenment involves the extinguishing of all desires and emotions. Buddhists believe they can achieve enlightenment through following the Eightfold Path, which consists of eight steps which are: Right View, Right Resolve, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Mindfulness, and Right Meditation.

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General Revelation

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: People should be able to use their conscience and their reason and their internal capacities. Nature is readily available, though it is not everywhere. Scripture is everywhere; some scriptures are banned or unavailable in certain countries, but with the advent of smartphones, for many people access to scripture could be everywhere.
- 5) For example: I think that conscience is the most reliable form of general revelation and is applicable to all unique situations.
- 6) For example:
 - One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
 - OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

 - General revelation is available to everybody, unlike special revelation.
 - General revelation can help people to know many things about God and special revelations may only reveal one, or a few things, and could be relevant to particular situations.
 - Nature, conscience, and reason can be used by people of all religions, whereas reports of special revelations which are not within their religion.

Points and Justification against

 - God can communicate important things to individuals directly through special revelation relevant to particular situations.
 - Special revelation has a greater chance of being accurate, as people could be misled by general revelation.
 - It can be argued that general revelation reveals nothing about God – Churches' uses of conscience, reason and scripture, are just their own ideas, not God's.

Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted.
- 7) For example: The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1777–1781 (Chapter 1, Article 1) states that God communicates to people through their conscience, and that with reference to conscience, people can know what they are planning to make, or have made, are right or wrong.

Different Ideas about the Divine from these Sources

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example:

'But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26 NRSV)

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¹ http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c1a6.htm

- 5) For example: I think it does make sense for Christians to have such interpretation. God can be many things, and his nature may not make full sense to humans as it is beyond human understanding. Also, if different aspects of God are personal/impersonal or immanent/transcendent makes sense – humans can also be nice and horrible, and intelligent and unintelligent.
- 6) For example:
 - Many Christians believe that God (the divine) is immanent; close and accessible to humans. This is because they / other Christians feel that they have experienced God through visions and miracles. Christians also believe that God is immanent because he became (God the Son) into the world to live with humanity.
 - ‘And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the only son, full of grace and truth.’ (John 1:14 NRSV)
 - Many Christians believe that God (the divine) is omnipotent. They believe that God created the world through creation, and also through miracles they believe that he has power over the world. That God is powerful, and many Christians believe that the Bible is true. Many church denominations also teach that God is omnipotent.
 - ‘It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and understanding stretched out the heavens.’ (Jeremiah 10:12 NRSV)

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark per reference to scripture

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture reference
- 7) For example: Some Buddhists believe that nirvana is transcendent. Many Hindus believe in a personal God, some see him as impersonal and transcendent and others feel that he is personally involved in the world. Judaism also see God as transcendent, as Christianity does, as well as seeing him as personally involved in the world.

Values of, Problems with, and Alternative Explanations for

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) For example:
 - It can be seen to be evidence for the existence of God.
 - It can be seen to teach humanity God’s will.

Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example: I do not think it matters that not all revelations disagree with each other. God communicates with people in ways that they understand, which will differ from person to person and that he communicates with people at different times and in different situations.
- 6) For example: I think religious people are not justified in believing in revelation. Naturalistic explanations are much more likely than supernatural intervention, and without evidence it is mistaken or lying.
- 7) The eighteenth-century philosopher David Hume argued that there is never a miracle. He suggested that an alternative explanation was always more likely than a miracle. He claimed that people know of occasions where people have lied, but people do not know of cases where people have not lied; so people should always disbelieve accounts of miracles.

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