**An Introduction to Philosophy**

**There are 4 Themes in Philosophy and each theme has 3 units. We will start with Theme 1 – Unit A.**

**Theme 1: Arguments for the Existence of God - Inductive**

Unit A: Inductive arguments – cosmological

Unit B: Inductive arguments – teleological

Unit C: Challenges to inductive arguments

The below questions are the types of questions that philosophers try to answer:

1. Does God exist?
2. Why are we here?
3. Why does evil and suffering exist?
4. What is the purpose of life?
5. Why do bad things happen to good people?

Philosophers: the name for the people that try and help answers some of these questions

These questions have been put up for debate for a many years (since the beginning of time). We are going to look at some of the theories that philosophers have put forward to answer some of these questions. In the last part of this unit, we will also look at the challenges to these answers.

**For example:**

For

God must exist because the universe could not have been created from nothing – there must have been some form of intelligence to create such a perfect universe!

Against

Science has proven this theory wrong – THE BIG BANG THEORY & CHARLES DARWIN’S THEORY OF EVOLUTION!

**Key Terms for UNIT A (Cosmological Arguments for the Existence of God)**

* A posteriori: a statement that is based on actual observation, evidence, experimental data or experience – relates to inductive reasoning
* Cosmological and teleological arguments: two examples of inductive arguments that use evidence of, and within, the universe to attempt to prove the existence of the God of Classical Theism
* Empirically: using knowledge gained through the experiences of any of the five senses
* Inductive proof: argument constructed on evidence and/or experience that puts forward a possible conclusion based on these
* Posit: to put forward, or state, a fact or belief, usually as the basis for an argument or conclusion
* Actuality: when something is in its fully realised state
* Efficient cause: the ‘third party’ that moves potentiality to actuality
* Potentiality: the ability to be able to become something else
* Contingent: anything that depends on something else (in the case of a contingent being – it is contingent upon another being for its existence, e.g. a child is contingent upon its parent)
* Intermediate cause: this refers to a cause that relies on something else to have triggered it (remember 2nd domino in the line)
* Necessary being: Aquinas’ contention that a non- contingent being is necessary for contingent being to exist. It is this necessary being that is the source of all existence for all other contingent beings
* Ultimate cause: in the sense of Aquinas’ writings, this is the end cause in the sequence that could have occurred had there not been preceding efficient and intermediate causes (think about this as the penultimate domino in the line)
* Actual infinite: something that is actually infinite in extent or in extent of the operations performed – it literally has no beginning or no end
* Apologist: an individual who writes or speaks in defence of a particular cause of belief
* Temporal: things relating to time
* Potential infinite: the potential infinite is something that could continue on, were effort to be applied. E.g. it would be possible to always continue a number line if we wanted to, or we could always come up with a bigger number

These are the key terms for unit 1 A. The examiner will expect you to understand all of these as they may come up in the question AND you will need to use as many as you can in your answer.

In the A question in the exam, you will NEED to explain the key term as well as use it as it is a knowledge and understanding questions. You will only need to use the key term in the B question as it is an evaluation question.

Don’t worry if you don’t understand the exam structure yet, you have plenty of time, but for now in the exam you will have to answer one AO1 question. This is a 30 mark answer where you will need to thoroughly explain whatever the question is asking. The AO2 question is a 30 mark evaluation questions (similar to the 15 marker at GCSE) but a little more advanced.

The link below is a video that covers the first unit of the first theme (Theme 1 -Unit A). This covers Aquinas’ first 3 Ways and The Kalam Cosmological Argument. You will go through this in a lot more detail in college/ sixth form, this is an overview only.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY

Use this link to teach yourself the contents of the first part of Philosophy. Once you have done this, please email me any questions or more work.

**Useful Websites:**

<http://web.mnstate.edu/gracyk/courses/web%20publishing/aquinasfiveways_argumentanalysis.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSlsL-lvF9o>

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/religious-studies-level-revision/philosophy-religion/arguments-existence-god/cosmological-argument>

<http://www.religiouseducation.co.uk/school/alevel/philosophy/cosmological/Kalam_summary.htm>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+kalam+cosmological+argument&docid=608009949579185168&mid=449674CEE679762FD49C449674CEE679762FD49C&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>