

<b>Subject</b>	<b>A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion</b>
Context	The following tasks will help you to gain an overview of Theme 1 of the Philosophy of Religion component of your RS A Level. You will gain some insight into the key scholars and ideas that are essential to this theme as well as beginning to understand what people believe about God and where there are similarities and differences in beliefs about the nature of God.
Securing	<p>You will need to learn the names and key ideas of the following scholars in order to be successful with Theme 1 – Arguments for God’s Existence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aristotle (384-322 BCE) - empiricism</li> <li>• St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – Inductive arguments – 5 Ways – Cosmological &amp; Teleological Arguments</li> <li>• William Lane Craig (1949-present) – Cosmological Argument</li> <li>• David Hume (1711-1776) – challenged inductive arguments for God</li> <li>• William Paley (1743-1804) – Teleological Argument – watchmaker analogy</li> <li>• F.R. Tennant (1866-1957) – Teleological Argument – anthropic &amp; aesthetic principles</li> <li>• St Anselm (1033-1109) – Deductive Arguments – Ontological Argument</li> <li>• Descartes (1596-1650) - Deductive Arguments – Ontological Argument</li> <li>• Gaunilo (994-1083) – challenged Anselm’s argument</li> <li>• Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) – challenged Descartes’ argument</li> <li>• Norman Malcolm (1911-1990) – developed a newer version of the Ontological Argument</li> </ul> <p>There will be a quick knowledge test in your first lesson in September</p>
Processing	<p>You are now going to find out a bit more about each of the people involved in Theme 1.</p> <p>You need to produce a ‘potted history’ of each scholar...think Top Trumps!</p> <p>You need to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates, place of origin, basic background.</li> <li>• Key philosophies and ideas e.g. empiricism, rationalism</li> <li>• Which argument they support or challenge</li> <li>• Basic explanations, examples that they use.</li> </ul> <p>Now look at your ‘Top Trumps’ of the key scholars – who would support each other? Who would challenge each other?</p> <p>You need to present your findings as a diagram – this could be a mind map that shows connections and areas of conflict.</p>

	<p><a href="https://www.britannica.com/browse/Philosophers">https://www.britannica.com/browse/Philosophers</a>  <a href="http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm">http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm</a>  <a href="https://www.reasonablefaith.org/william-lane-craig">https://www.reasonablefaith.org/william-lane-craig</a>  <a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Frederick-Robert-Tennant">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Frederick-Robert-Tennant</a>  <a href="https://iep.utm.edu/malcolm/">https://iep.utm.edu/malcolm/</a>  <a href="https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gaunilo">https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gaunilo</a></p>
Exploring	<p>In order to understand these key arguments for God's existence, you need to understand what people believe about God.</p> <p>Watch the following episode entitled 'Who is God?' from Morgan Freeman's series 'The Idea of God'</p> <p><a href="https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cieh6">https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cieh6</a></p> <p>As you watch, make a note of the different ideas about God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India &amp; Hinduism</li> <li>• Stonehenge &amp; sun worship</li> <li>• Egypt</li> <li>• Israel &amp; Judaism – foundations of monotheism</li> <li>• Egypt &amp; Islam</li> <li>• Mexico &amp; Navajos</li> <li>• Is God in all of us?</li> <li>• Christianity</li> </ul> <p>Where are the similarities and differences? Is there one thing that unities all ideas about God?</p>
Reviewing	<p>Based on the work you have completed, write down 5 questions that you would like to ask your teacher about Theme 1 in your first lesson.</p>
Extension	<p>If you want to find out more about arguments for God's existence there are plenty of episodes of the following podcast</p> <p><a href="https://thepanpsycast.com/home">https://thepanpsycast.com/home</a></p> <p>There are also other episodes of 'The Idea of God' that cover some of the things later in the course, but also other areas that might be interesting!</p> <p>What are miracles?</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/j_3P8Ljn8zq?si=8UOUWEezMq6Lo7TE">https://youtu.be/j_3P8Ljn8zq?si=8UOUWEezMq6Lo7TE</a></p> <p>Why does evil exist?</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/-ZVARIX8pas?si=4-TU_isYrEldO9BL">https://youtu.be/-ZVARIX8pas?si=4-TU_isYrEldO9BL</a></p> <p>Apocalypse</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/VJ_hgaQe8tl?si=zjf509MFs6kk65KY">https://youtu.be/VJ_hgaQe8tl?si=zjf509MFs6kk65KY</a></p>