

2. The Existence of God

Learners will study contrasting arguments about the existence or non-existence of God

Topic	Content	Key Knowledge
Arguments based on observation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the teleological argument the cosmological argument challenges to arguments from observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> details of this argument including reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquinas' Fifth Way Paley details of this argument including reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquinas' first three ways details of Hume's criticisms of these arguments for the existence of God from natural religion the challenge of evolution
<p>Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to arguments for the existence of God based on observation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether <i>a posteriori</i> or <i>a priori</i> is the more persuasive style of argument whether or not teleological arguments can be defended against the challenge of 'chance' whether cosmological arguments simply jump to the conclusion of a transcendent creator, without sufficient explanation whether or not there are logical fallacies in these arguments that cannot be overcome 		
<p>Contextual references</p> <p><i>For reference, the ideas of Aquinas, Paley and Hume listed above can be found in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i>, I.2.3 Paley, <i>Natural Theology</i> Chapters 1 and 2 Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> Part II <p>Suggested scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority</p> <p><i>Learners will be given credit for referring to any appropriate scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority, however the following examples may prove useful</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawkins, R. (1991) <i>The Blind Watchmaker</i>, Penguin, Chapter 1 Palmer, M. (2002) <i>The Question of God</i>, Routledge, Chapters 2 and 3 		