

Topic	Content	Key Knowledge
The problem of evil*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problem of evil and suffering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ different presentations ◦ theodicies that propose some justification or reason for divine action or inaction in the face of evil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including its logical (the inconsistency between divine attributes and the presence of evil) and evidential (the evidence of so much terrible evil in the world) aspects • Augustine’s use of original perfection and the Fall • Hick’s reworking of the Irenaean theodicy which gives some purpose to natural evil in enabling human beings to reach divine likeness
<p>Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to the problem of evil, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether or not Augustine’s view of the origins of moral and natural evils is enough to spare God from blame for evils in the world • whether or not the need to create a ‘vale of soul-making’ can justify the existence or extent of evils • which of the logical or evidential aspects of the problem of evil pose the greater challenge to belief • whether or not it is possible to successfully defend monotheism in the face of evil 		
<p>Contextual references</p> <p><i>For reference, the ideas of Augustine and Hick listed above can be found in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustine, <i>The City of God</i> Part II • Hick, J. <i>Evil and the God of Love</i>, Part IV <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"> • Genesis 2:4–25, 3:1–24 • Romans 5:12–13 • Augustine, ‘What is evil?’ in Davies, B. (2000) <i>Philosophy of Religion: a guide and anthology</i>, Oxford University Press 		