

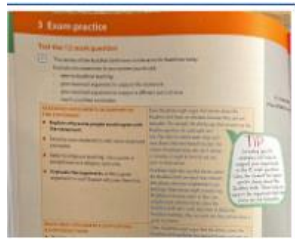
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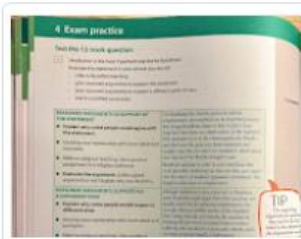
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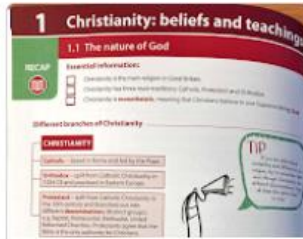
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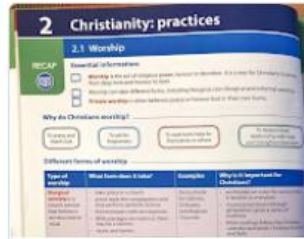
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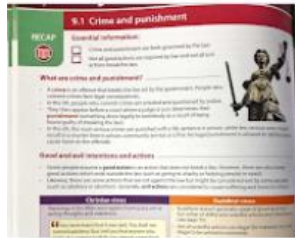
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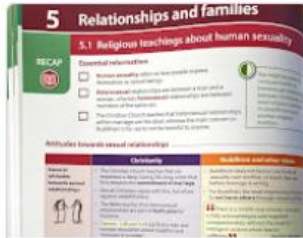
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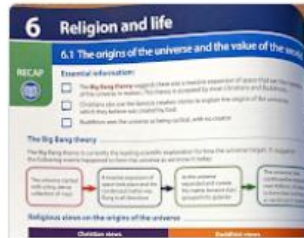
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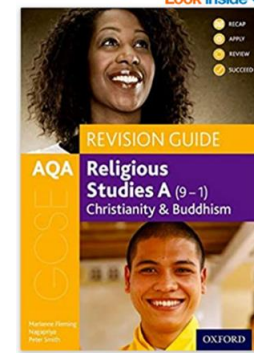
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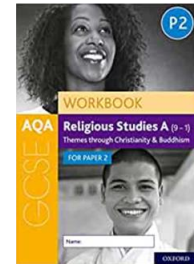
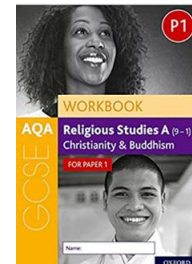


Revision guides



AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1)

The revision guide accompanies 2 workbooks, one for each of the 2 papers. These can be bought online new or second hand.



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Key terms

Atheism	The belief there is no God (these people are called atheists).
Agnostic	Not being certain if God is real.
Theist	A person who believes there is a God.
Design Argument	The ideas that 'all complex things need a designer,' Earth is complex so it needs a designer, God is the only being able to design it so he must exist to be the designer. (William Paley)
Causation Argument (First Cause)	'Everything needs to have been caused,' so the Earth needs a cause, the cause of Earth must be omnipotent and only God is like this so he must exist to be the cause.
General revelation	Where God indirectly reveals himself through nature showing his 'handiwork.' EG a mighty forest or the Giant's Causeway
Special revelation	Where God directly reveals himself to you like with St Paul or Moses and the Burning Bush
Humanism	A belief system that has good values but does not accept God
Impersonal	Beyond our capacity/ ability to understand
Personal	God desires a relationship with us
Immanent	God is with us 'here and now.'
Miracles	Events that break the laws of nature and make you think God must have done them (so he exists)
Natural evil	Evil/ suffering caused by nature (EG Volcanoes/earthquakes/flooding)
Moral evil	Evil caused by humans (Murder/theft/torture)
Transcendent	Beyond time and space (existed before it)
Vision	Seeing something which is not physical, such as Joseph's vision of the Angel Gabriel
Scripture	Holy writings (Bible) which reveal things about the nature of God
Problem of	The idea that God can't exist if evil does, else he would have got rid of

Key teachings

The Nature of God

The 'nature' of a thing means what it is like. God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent. He is the creator of the world and is able to perform miracles.

The Problem of Evil

Some people think that is God was all powerful he could stop evil, if was all knowing he would know how to stop it, and if he was all loving he would want to. Sadly, evil still exists, which suggests God does not. This is shown in the Inconstant Triad by Epicurus.

The Problem of Evil (Counter arguments)

Some people turn the Inconstant Triad into a 'consistent square' by saying God has a reason for allowing evil. For example, it could be because he can't interfere with our freewill (ability to choose our actions), it could be a part of his plan or it could even be the work of the devil! This means he can still exist even if there is evil. Perhaps evil does not even really exist.

The Design Argument

William Paley argued that complex things needs a designer, the Earth is complex so it needs a designer and the only being able to design it is God. This means God exists. He used examples like the eye, hand and

The Design Argument (Counter arguments)

Some argue that the designer could be omniscient aliens for all we know, or a 'pantheon of Gods' (David Hume- a group of Gods). This means the argument fails and must be abandoned. Evolution could be the 'designer.'

The Causation Argument

Thomas Aquinas said everything needs a cause, so the Earth needs a cause, the cause must be all powerful and the only being like this is God so he exists.

The Causation Argument (Counter arguments)

It could have been caused by a 'pantheon of Gods' (David Hume), the Big Bang or it could even be infinite and not have a cause. There is no solid evidence it was God. Bertrand Russell just said it was a 'brute fact.'

Miracles

Events like Joseph of Cupertino (a 16th Century Monk who could fly) and Set Bernadette's Incorruptible Corpse (the bodies of some Saints don't rot down after death), suggest that God must be using his power to make them happen. Any biblical miracles count too! This means he must be

Revelation

If God shows himself to you, it proves he is real. For example, he 'walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve' and spoke to Moses as a 'Burning Bush.'

Miracles and Revelation (Counter arguments)

These events typically have few witnesses and those that claim they have seen them could be lying or could be mistaken. Things like miracles can be simple coincidence.

Key Quotes

Quotes for the existence of God

- 'Everything needs a cause' **Thomas Aquinas**
- 'Complex things need a designer' **William Paley**
- 'The daffodils need to be caused to bloom' **Thomas Aquinas (Causation)**
- 'Look at the complexity of the human eye' **William Paley**
- 'Privatio Boni' **Augustine**
- Junkyard Jet Argument **Fred Hoyle**
- 'I am Jesus whom you persecute' **Jesus** to St Paul on the Road to Damascus (Special Revelation)
- 'Even the trees point to the heavens' **St Claire** on General Revelation
- 'Where were you when I made the foundations of the Earth' God speaking to Job **Book of Job (Bible)**
- Picture Argument **Aquinas**
- 'Blessed are those who believe without seeing' **Jesus**
- 'Fallen world' **Augustine**

Quotes against the existence of God

- The evidence comes from a 'barbaric age' **Richard Dawkins**
- 'A wise man bases his belief on the evidence' **David Hume**
- 'Pantheon of Gods' **David Hume**
- Inconsistent Triad **Epicurus**
- Pointless Evil & The Deer Analogy **William Rowe**
- God is a 'blind watch maker' **Richard Dawkins**
- 'We are atheists about most of the gods we have even known...some of us just go one god further' **Richard Dawkins**

Ultimate GCSE Questions List		Paper 2- Existence of God	12 markers
4 markers Give two ways in which Christians are influenced by the Design Argument. Give two reasons why people think the Design Argument fails to prove the existence of God. Explain why the First Cause argument might not prove God is real. Explain how religious people are influenced by the First Cause argument. Explain how religious people would respond to criticisms of the First Cause argument. Give two contrasting views about the ability of miracles of prove the existence of God. Give two ways a Christian might respond to criticisms about miracles as evidence for the divine. Give two reasons why people might suggest science shows that God probably does not exist. Give two views held in contemporary British society about the Problem of Evil. In your answer, refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain. Give two contrasting views on special revelation as evidence for the existence of God. Give two reasons why people reject general revelation. Give two contrasting views about enlightenment. Give two reasons why some people think the only evidence required for God is scripture. Give two reasons as to why Christians think God can be immanent and transcendent. Give two reasons why religious people think revelation is so important.		5 markers Explain two teachings about the Design Argument. Explain two ways in which people respond to teachings about the Design Argument. Refer to the teachings of the main religious tradition of Great Britain. Explain two teachings about the First Cause argument. Explain two beliefs in contemporary British society about the First Cause argument. Explain two religious beliefs about visions. Explain why some people reject miracles. Explain why some people think miracles are the most important evidence for the existence of God. Explain two contrasting religious responses to scientific criticism about the existence of God. Explain two ways in which prayer might prove that God exists. Explain two religious teachings about the Problem of Evil. Explain two ways in which scripture is important in proving the existence of God. Explain two teachings about God as immanent. Explain two teachings about God as transcendent. Explain how religious people might respond to the idea that God is immanent and transcendent. Explain two teachings about general revelation. Explain two views in contemporary British society about the usefulness of general revelation for the existence of God.	‘God is real’ ‘The Design argument is the best evidence that there is a God’ ‘The First Cause argument fails to prove that God is actually the first cause.’ ‘There are no solutions to the Problem of Evil’ ‘Miracles should not be believed’ ‘Science has all the answers to the beginning of the Universe’ ‘Special revelation is better than general revelation’ ‘Visions prove that God is real’ ‘you can only get to know God through prayer’ ‘The Bible is all you need to show that God exists’ ‘All Christians should ignore scientific claims about the beginning of the Universe. ‘Prayer proves that God is real’ ‘If God was real, there would not be any suffering’ ‘People invented the idea of God because they were scared of death’

Existence of God: Recall

Give two reasons people might be an atheist.

Briefly explain the Problem of Evil.

How might a Christian respond to the Problem of Evil?

Explain & give examples:

Natural Evil:

Moral evil:

Explain the Design Argument

Give supporting arguments for design.

Give counter arguments for the design argument.

Explain the first cause argument (causation)

Give supporting arguments for the causation argument.

Give counter points for the causation argument.

Explain two reasons why miracles prove God is real.

Explain why some people reject miracles as evidence for God.

Explain what miracles show about the nature of God.

Give 2 teachings on unanswered prayer.

Give examples of general revelation.

Give examples of special revelation.

‘Special revelation is the best proof for the existence of God.’