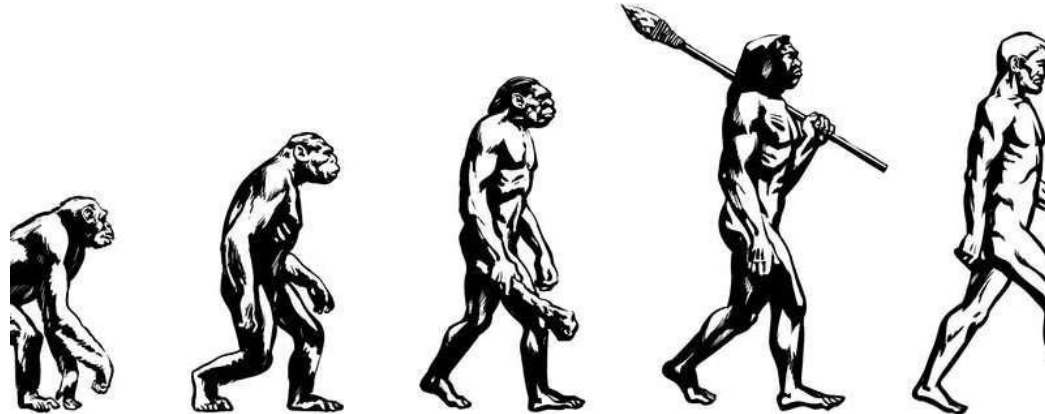
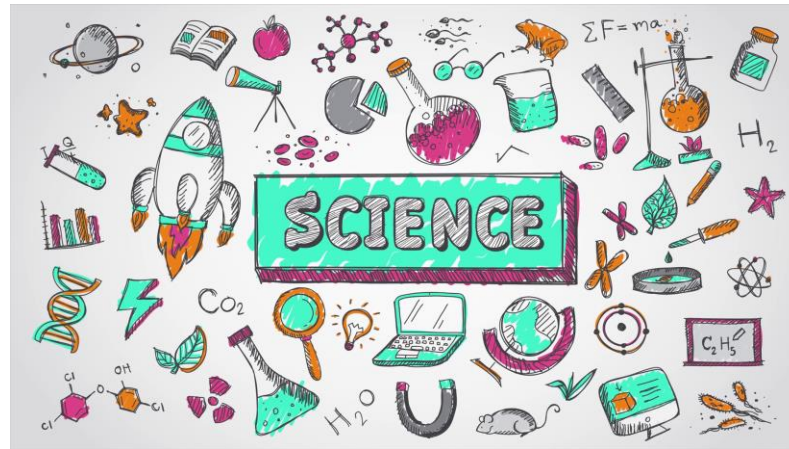


C – Challenges Against Inductive Arguments



Spec Check

AO1

Cosmological: David Hume – empirical objections and critique of causes

Alternative scientific explanations including the big bang

Teleological: David Hume - problems with analogies; rejection of traditional theistic claims: designer not necessarily God of classical theism; apprentice god; plurality of gods; absent god (teleological). Alternative scientific explanations including Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection.

AO2

- Whether inductive arguments for God's existence are persuasive.
- The extent to which the Kalam cosmological argument is convincing.
- The effectiveness of the cosmological/teleological argument for God's existence.
- Whether cosmological/teleological arguments for God's existence are persuasive in the 21st Century.
- The effectiveness of the challenges to the cosmological/teleological argument for God's existence.
- Whether scientific explanations are more persuasive than philosophical explanations for the universe's existence.

Challenges Against the Cosmological Argument – David Hume

- David Hume
- 17th Century Atheist Philosopher
- Wrote his work in the form of a play named 'dialogues' in which Hume's view is expressed through the character '*Philo*'
- Empiricist
- Had 2 challenges against the cosmological argument:
 - **1. Empirical objections**
 - **2. A critique of causes**



Hume's Challenges Against the Cosmological Argument – Empirical Objections

- **Empiricism** = The notion that all knowledge is based on experience and derived from the senses
- Hume was an **empiricist**. He argued that all knowledge, or truth claims, are derived through experience
- He disputed that notion that the cosmological or teleological argument synthetically prove the existence of God – because there is **no empirical evidence that God** has caused or designed the Universe
- Hume's Fork: *The general concept is that Hume asserts there are two distinct classes of knowledge, 1. rational (knowledge based on thoughts and ideas) and 2. empirical (knowledge based on experience in the material world), and that only the empirical can tell us useful things about the world (that we can only learn useful things about the world through experience).*

Hume's Challenges Against the Cosmological Argument – Critique of Causes

- Hume had 4 major objections to the suggestion that God 'caused' the universe.
- **1. The 'fallacy of composition'**
- **2. Lack of experience of creating a universe**
- **3. Lack of evidence to prove that the universe is caused**
- **4. No evidence that it was specifically the 'God of Classical Theism' that caused the Universe**
- **TASK:** Paraphrase the bullet points on page 24 of your EDUQAS textbook in your notes

Hume's Challenges Against the Cosmological Argument – Critique of Causes

- **1. The 'fallacy of composition'**

- Philosophical notion that whatever is true of the parts is not necessarily true of the whole.
- E.g. Each brick in Aquinas College weighs 2.5 kg. Therefore, Aquinas College as a whole weighs 2.5 kg.
- Hume argued that one cannot move from saying that everything *in* the universe has a cause, therefore the universe as a whole has a cause.
- *“Did I show you the particular causes of each individual in a collection of twenty particles of matter, I should think it very unreasonable, should you afterwards ask me, what was the cause of the whole twenty.”*

Hume's Challenges Against the Cosmological Argument – Critique of Causes

- **3. Lack of evidence to prove that the universe is caused**
- Humans *assume* that every event has a cause, but do they?
- **Matthew Taylor** gives the following example to explain this point:
- If you're waiting for a bus to stop, you put your hand out and the bus should come to a stop (providing the driver does not ignore you or fail to see you).
- What causes the bus to stop?
- If you had never before seen a bus or a person requesting a bus to stop, why would it be wrong to conclude that the person putting out their hand caused the bus to stop?
- We can make assumptions about cause and effect that can be mistaken.
- Hume argued that we assume that there is a relationship between cause and effect, because our minds have developed a habit of seeing causes and automatically associating effects with them.
- Hume stated that, as a matter of logic, one cannot claim or assume that *every* effect has a cause.

Other Philosophical Objections to the Cosmological Argument – A*

- **HUME:** A necessary being is illogical. If something is necessary, its opposite would be contradictory. No one can say that a triangle has four sides – it doesn't – yet people do say that God doesn't exist. E.g. A triangle has four sides. No statement about existence can be logically necessary. Any being claimed to exist, may or may not exist. It *is* possible to say these do NOT exist. Therefore, argues Hume, God is not a necessary being!
- **HUME:** Infinite Regress. Hume argued that an infinite series of causes *is* possible. Does the chain of causes *have* to end somewhere?
- **MILL:** Agreed with Aquinas' theory that everything around us has a cause. However, to then state that the cause of the universe (God) was then uncaused is a contradiction. Surely it would make sense to ask, 'what / who caused God?'. "Our experience, instead of furnishing an argument for a first cause, is repugnant to it."
- **RUSSELL:** Argued that the existence of the universe is 'brute fact'. He said the universe "just is". If the universe "just is", the question, 'how did the universe get here?' is removed, thus making the argument pointless! He also agreed with Hume that the cosmological argument commits the fallacy of composition. "Every man who exists has a mother, and it seems to me your argument is therefore that the human race has a mother, but obviously the human race hasn't a mother – that's a different logical sphere."

Alternative Scientific Explanations against the Cosmological Argument – The Big Bang

- This challenges Aquinas' suggestion that 'nothing can come out of nothing'
- Some physicists argue, from conservation energy law, that the big bang in fact came from zero to existence
- It was the explosion itself which created the energy we now have in the universe
- [The beginning of the Universe \(scientific explanation\)](#)

Other Alternative Scientific Explanations against the Cosmological Argument – A*

- **KENNY:** Kenny argued that Aquinas' principle that nothing moves itself goes against the fact that people and animals move themselves. He used Newton's First Law of Motion (principle of inertia) to show how animals have the capacity to move themselves without being moved by another. Newton's First Law of Motion is sometimes called the law of inertia. Inertia is the tendency of all objects to resist any change in motion. Because of inertia, an object at rest will remain at rest until a force makes it move. Likewise, inertia is the reason that a moving object stays in motion with the same velocity unless a force changes its speed or direction. Therefore, argued Kenny, Newton's First Law of Motion, in which movement can be explained by a body's own inertia from a previous motion, disproves Aquinas' argument.
- **QUANTUM PHYSICS:** This challenges Aquinas' suggestion that 'nothing can come out of nothing'. Q.P is the idea that electrons can actually pass out of existence at one point and come back at another WITHOUT A CAUSE. Thus, something can come from nothing

Challenges Against the Teleological Argument

– David Hume

- Had 6 challenges against the teleological argument:
 - **1. Problems with analogies**
 - **2. Rejection of traditional Theistic claims**
 - **3. Designer not necessarily the God of classical Theism**
 - **4. Apprentice God**
 - **5. Plurality of Gods**
 - **6. Absent God**
- **TASK:** Use pages 24-26 in your textbook to make notes about Hume's criticisms



Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Problems with Analogies

- Hume **critiques the use of analogies** to explain how the universe is designed. Hume was writing BEFORE Paley, so wasn't criticising him directly, but this can be used as a criticism against Paley's 'watch' theory
- For Hume, the universe is unique, and **can't be compared** to any man made and artificial object such as a watch or a house
- Humans don't have the experience of designing something as complex as the Universe
- *'And does not a plant or an animal, which springs from vegetation or generation, bear a stronger resemblance to the world than does any artificial machine, which arises from reason and design?'*

Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Rejection of Traditional Theistic Claims

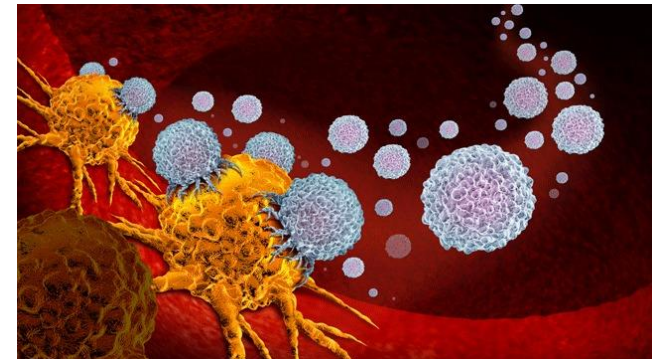
- Hume argues that just because the world seems designed, doesn't mean that it is
- Hume draws upon the ideas of Greek philosopher Epicurus and the Epicurean Hypothesis.
- **Epicurean Hypothesis** = the current co-called order in the universe that exists is nothing more than a random association of atoms that had previously been in **a chaotic state** , but, through the principles of the universe, these atoms re-organise themselves infinitely and occasionally in a way **which represents order**

Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Designer not necessarily the God of Classical Theism

- Hume does not believe that God has designed the universe, because he is an atheist
- He also had a philosophical challenge against Christians who use the design of the world to jump to the conclusion that the world has been designed by the God of classical Theism
- What evidence is there that the design was initiated by a monotheistic, all powerful, all loving being? If anything, the evidence points otherwise

Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Apprentice God

- How can the world be designed by an omnipotent being when it contains so many **flaws**? Would it not make more sense to claim that the world has been designed by an apprentice God who **lacks skill**
- *'Botched and bungled, throughout an eternity, ere this system was struck out'*



Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Plurality of Gods

- Hume also disputes the claim that the world was designed by one God (monotheism)
- Just as a ship has **many builders**, would something as complex as the Universe not need **more than one designer**?



Joe Tyel Chan

Hume's Challenges against the Teleological Argument – Absent God

- Finally, Hume suggests that it is illogical to claim that God would stay with his design (omnipresent) after creating it
- A house builder doesn't stay with their creation forever, nor does a watch maker stay with their watch – they move on. Surely if a God designed the universe, they would also move on to design another Universe?

Alternative Scientific Explanations against the Cosmological Argument – Evolution

- **TASK:** Read the information on Charles Darwin's theory of Evolution on page 27 of your textbook. Make notes including the following terms:
 - **Survival of the fittest**
 - **Bred out**
 - **Ability to adapt**
 - **Natural selection**



General Challenges Against Inductive Arguments – A*

- Many proponents of inductive arguments use their 'cumulative' nature as a key strength. **Cumulative** = increasing or increased in quantity, degree
- The Cosmological, and particularly the Teleological, arguments are cumulative because the more we learn about the world, the more evidence we see of both cause and design
- However, Flew's Leaky Bucket criticism can be used against the cumulative nature of inductive arguments. Think of a bucket holding lots of water; you may have 1, 2, 3 or even 100 buckets with lots of water. However, if the buckets have holes in them, you will never be able to have a complete bucket of water

“The challenges against the teleological/cosmological argument for God’s existence ARE effective”. Discuss this view (30)

- It’s time for you to decide!
- Can we prove God’s existence through either the Cosmological or Teleological arguments?
- Use the essay on page 29 in your textbook in groups to construct arguments for and against the effectiveness of the challenges against the T.A and the C.A

“The challenges against the teleological/cosmological argument for God’s existence ARE effective”. Discuss this view (30)

Challenges ARE effective	Challenges AREN'T effective