

Ontological Argument – challenges against



By the end of this lesson you will:

- Re-capped what you know about the ontological argument so far
- Learnt Immanuel Kant's critique of the ontological argument
- Understood what you need to revise for theme 1 philosophy

Re-Cap – Odd one out

- **TASK:** On your post it, write the odd word out for each of the following. Be prepared to explain WHY
- A) Anselm / 17th Century / 11th century
- B) Positive attribution / Anselm / Proslogion
- C) Proslogion / Nothing than which greater can be conceived / Descartes
- D) Necessary being / Proslogion 2 / Proslogion 3
- E) Synthetic / perfections / Descartes
- F) Triangle / only in the mind / exists
- G) Limited being / Malcom / God is necessary

Gaunilo – Re-Cap

- Re-cap by turning to page 50 of your textbook
- Speak it out:
- **Reductio ad absurdum**
- **In defence of the fool**
- **Gaunilo's island**
- **Gaunilo's island as only contingent**

Immanuel Kant

- 18th Century Prussian philosopher
- Rejected Anselm's and Descartes' ontological argument
- Stated that existence is not a determining predicate: it cannot be a property that an object can either possess or lack
- Objected that by just saying 'God exists' teaches us anything about the characteristics of God
- Therefore we can't state a priori that a perfect God exists
- [Ontological argument with Kant critique](#)
- [Kant's criticism of ontological argument](#)



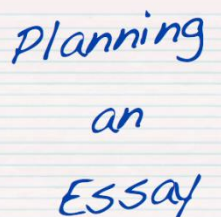
Immanuel Kant

- **4 questions**
- Read the 4 paragraphs on Kant's criticism of the ontological argument on page 51
- Come up with a question for each paragraph and write it on your post it note



AO1 - Essay Skills

- **‘Explain the challenges against deductive arguments for the existence of God’ (20)**
- Although this is a question which asks for challenges, it is NOT an evaluative essay.
- As it is an AO1 question, it simply wants you to list what the challenges are
- At no stage should you be offering opinion or evaluation in an AO1
- **TASK:** Make a bullet point plan for this question – what would you include and why?



Planning
an
Essay

A02 – Essay Skills

- The extent to which ‘a priori’ arguments for God’s existence are persuasive.
- The extent to which different religious views on the nature of God impact on arguments for the existence of God.
- The effectiveness of the ontological argument for God’s existence.
- Whether the ontological argument is more persuasive than the cosmological/teleological arguments for God’s existence.
- The effectiveness of the challenges to the ontological argument for God’s existence.
- The extent to which objections to the ontological argument are persuasive.
- **TASK:** Each of you will be given a question to plan AND write up on the computer. Use your EDUQAS textbooks to help you. Plan before you write.

Re-Cap: Theme 1 D-F

- **1.** Play WHIST with your partner
- **2.** Fill in your blank spec sheets **WITHOUT** looking at the Spec – how accurate are you?
- **4.** I'm going to give you a scholar – write down all the key words / dates / concepts associated with that scholar
- **5.** Make a mind map on the deductive argument for the existence of God – don't forget to add general strengths and weaknesses of the theory to help you with your AO2s!

Revision – Theme 1 - Philosophy

AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding		AO2 – Issues for Analysis and Evaluation
A	Inductive arguments – Cosmological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether inductive arguments for the existence of God 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 are persuasive in the 21st Century. • The effectiveness of the challenges to the cosmological/teleological arguments for God’s existence. • Whether scientific explanations are more persuasive than philosophical explanations for the universe’s existence.
B	Inductive arguments – Teleological	
C	Challenges to inductive arguments	
D	Deductive arguments – Origins of the ontological argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which ‘a priori’ arguments for God’s existence are persuasive. • The extent to which different religious views on the nature of God impact on arguments for the existence of God. • The effectiveness of the ontological argument for God’s existence. • Whether the ontological argument is more persuasive than the cosmological/teleological arguments for God’s existence. • The effectiveness of the challenges to the ontological argument for God’s existence. • The extent to which objections to the ontological argument are persuasive.
E	Deductive arguments – Developments of the ontological argument	
F	Challenges to the ontological argument	