FIRST CAUSE AND DESIGN ARGUMENTS

Outline five keys stages of the Design Argument:
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Describe how William Paley explained the Design argument using the Watch analogy:

Why might some people reject the Design Argument?

Why might some people reject the First Cause Argument?

Outline the 5 key stages of the First Cause Argument
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

The key assumption in the First Cause arguments is that the universe had a starting point or cause, like all other things that exist. Christians and Jews say the starting point was God, who set a chain of events into motion that created the universe. Theists asks what existed before the Big Bang. They believe the answer is God. As God is eternal, he has no starting point.

What do you think about these two arguments?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV)
A miracle is ...

Name and describe two of the miracles that Jesus performed (Christianity)

Which miracle does this photo show? Describe it (Judaism and Christianity)

Theists argue that:

- If there is no scientific explanation for an event, it must be caused by something outside nature.
- God is the only thing that exists outside nature.
- These events must be the result of God’s intervention in the world.
- Therefore God must exist.

Stairwell B, 11 September 2001

Sixteen people survived the collapse of the North Tower of the World Trade Center during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. The fact that these people survived when nearly 3000 people died makes many people regard this as a miracle. Others argue that they survived because they were protected by the stairwell and ended up near the top of the debris.

Why might some people object to miracles proving that God exists?
1.
2.
3.

What is your personal opinion about miracles?
ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

What is the meaning of these key terms ...
Evil ...
Suffering ...

Explain how the existence of evil and suffering lead some people to say God does not exist

Describe the Big Bang Theory

Why might the Big Bang and Evolution Theories lead some people to say God does not exist?

Describe the Evolution Theory

Scientific explanations
Write definitions for:

Special revelation...

General revelation...

What are the alternative explanations of special revelation?

You might be asked to compare beliefs on visions between Christianity (the main religious tradition in Great Britain) and another religious tradition

Moses – explain his special revelation shown in this image (Judaism)

Saul on the Damascus road

Many Christians consider the story in Acts 9:1–19 an example of a vision. Saul, who had sworn to wipe out the new Christian Church, was traveling with colleagues to arrest any followers of Jesus in the city of Damascus. On their way they were all struck by a blinding light, but only Saul was spoken to by Jesus. Saul’s life-changing experience on the Damascus Road led to his baptism, changing his name to Paul, and his new-found commitment to the Christian faith.

How can nature be a form of revelation?

How is scripture a form of revelation?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omnipotent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omniscient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal nature (of God)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impersonal nature (of God)</td>
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**IDEAS ABOUT THE DIVINE**

Use AQA Christianity pp 118 - 121

**God depicted as creator on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Rome**

**Nicky Cruz**

Nicky Cruz was leader of the ‘Mau Mau’ gang in Brooklyn, NY in the 1950s. His life revolved around drugs, alcohol, and brutal violence. When his friend was stabbed, beaten and died in his arms, he began to have nightmares. He was arrested many times and a court-ordered psychiatrist said that Nicky was ‘headed to prison, the electric chair, and hell.’

No one in authority could reach Cruz – until he met a Christian street-preacher named David Wilkerson. David showed Nicky something he’d never known before: love, care and interest. This was despite the fact that Nicky beat him up, spat on him and once threatened to kill him.

At a religious meeting which Nicky attended with his gang, Wilkerson’s preaching of the gospel message of Jesus’ love and forgiveness got through to him. He felt called to go up to the front with some of his gang where he prayed with the preacher and asked God to forgive him. He and some other gang members converted to Christianity and handed their weapons in to the police. Nicky subsequently went to Bible college and became a minister in his old neighbourhood, even converting the new leader of the Mau Mau to belief in Jesus.

**Why might some people be against the idea of revelation and enlightenment?**

**Use AQA Christianity p 115 and classnotes**

**What do Buddhists believe about the enlightenment?**

**What do these two passages tell us about God?**

“You have searched me Lord and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.”

(Psalms 139; 1-2)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

(John 3; 16)

**Individual revelations have a great impact on the lives of those who receive them, even to the extent that they change their religious thinking completely. How does this story of Nicky Cruz show this?**