

Topic	Knowledge
<p>Moral and Natural Evil</p>	<p>* There are many ways to identify evil but there are two main ways to define it, Moral (human) and Natural (eg natural disasters)Evil, evidence of both can be seen throughout the world</p> <p>* The problem of evil is the idea that if God existed then there should be no evil in the world. God is meant to be all loving (benevolent) but He created a world and allowed evil to exist. He is meant to be all-powerful, yet He does not stop evil from happening and He is meant to be all-knowing yet he created the world knowing there would be evil and suffering in it.</p> <p>* Generally regarded as one of the most important philosophers to write in English, David Hume (1711–1776) was a Scottish philosopher and atheist who was also well known in his own time as an historian and essayist. He wrote many major philosophical works which focused on reason and understanding.</p> <p>* One of his most famous quotes suggested that we should always consider the evidence when making decisions on what to believe, because of this he proposed that the evidence of our world being flawed and poorly designed was overwhelming, no one can deny the existence of evil, there is too much.</p> <p>* He criticised the nature of God in two arguments, the Evidential Existence of evil and the argument of Prior Probability</p> <p>* Evidential Existence: Hume uses the analogy of a falling down house to show how religious people react to the flaws in the world. Leaking roof – that’s to stop fires! No door – that’s to let in fresh air! Religious people do the same, they see the vast amount of evil in the world and try to explain it away – it doesn’t make sense, the amount of evidence for evil outweighs the ‘excuses.</p> <p>* Prior Probability: Hume asks the question ‘If a stranger came to our planet – would they think it was a good design?’ he suggests that as per prior probability if a stranger (he doesn’t use the term alien but it’s the same premise) came to our world they would easily conclude that the world is a poor design – therefore questioning the power and nature of God</p>
<p>Humanism & Philosophy</p>	<p>* Humanists do not believe in God but place great importance on human life, when considering evil and suffering, they do not believe it is a punishment or test because they do not believe in God. They think that humans have choice which gives them control and responsibility over their actions. This means that moral evil is down to human’s greed and poor behaviour. Natural evil is down to chance so cannot be linked to anyone else’s behaviour.</p> <p>* Mackie was an Australian philosopher who in 1977 wrote ‘Evil and Omnipotence’ which famously challenged the existence of God through the argument of evil. His first premise, The Inconsistent Triad is a philosophical argument, which shows God cannot be both omnipotent and omnibenevolent while evil exists. It proves that, if evil does exist, then God is either lacking power to remove evil or love to want to remove evil. In either case, this means God cannot exist (as the key characteristics of God do not feature). Another of his famous arguments centres around the religious claim that we must have evil as it is the opposite to good, they are logically opposite and so we must have evil to understand good. However Mackie challenges this and asks, why can’t God create good without evil? Is he not powerful enough to do this? Does he want us to suffer to understand good? What kind of God wants that?</p>
<p>Free Will</p>	<p>* Free will is the idea that humans have free decisions to make in any situation. They have not been forced or coerced and they could have chosen to do the opposite to what they did.</p> <p>* Christians believe that they have been given complete free will as a gift from God, their actions on earth will determine if they enter heaven or hell, they have the complete freedom in their lives to make these decisions and ultimately will be judged by God. Evil and suffering in this life is a preparation for heaven. Evil and suffering give people a chance to become better people and improve their souls. They believe that God will reward them in heaven.</p> <p>* Most Muslims believe they have free will in the sense that they are responsible for everything they do in a particular situation. They must choose between right, using the guidance of Allah, and wrong, following the temptations of the Devil. However, most Muslims do not believe they have absolute free will, as Allah can intervene in their lives at any moment. Most Muslims believe that their lives are predetermined – Allah already knows if they are going to paradise or hell – there is not anything they can do to change this but should spend their life becoming the best Muslim they can be.</p>

	<p>* If we are free to choose our actions then evil is the fault of humans. However, if we are determined, then there is an argument to say humans cannot be held responsible for their actions. Some non-religious psychologists think we are determined due to our upbringing or learnt behaviour traits.</p>
Fall of Man	<p>* The fall of man is an event that happened which separated humans ('man') away from God. This stemmed from the story in the first book of the Bible: Genesis. Adam and Eve, who were perfect in God's eyes, were told that they could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden (a beautiful place). There was only one tree they couldn't eat from (the tree of knowledge of good and evil). They were told if they did then they would die. They were convinced to disobey this command from God by a cunning snake (often thought by Christians to be the devil). This free action of disobedience was a crime against God: a sin. As it was the first sin, Christians know it as The Original Sin.</p> <p>* Adam and Eve were punished and fell away from God's perfect state: The Fall of Man, Christians use this story to show how evil is not God's fault, but the fault of humans misusing their free will to make poor choices.</p> <p>* Non-religious people may respond by asking why God would allow evil into the world in the first place but Christians respond by pointing out that free will is a gift from God, which allows us to enjoy our lives and not be like robots.</p>
Augustine	<p>* Saint Augustine of Hippo was a Roman early Christian theologian and philosopher whose writings influenced the development of Christianity and philosophy. He suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + God is 100% GOOD and created the world - The world is PERFECT - God exists outside of the world + God could not have created evil - Evil is not a substance - Instead evil refers to what is lacking in a thing – it's a matter of PERSPECTIVE + We live INSIDE the world - We see evil from a different PERSPECTIVE - Evil is just what is LACKING in the world + Certain things wouldn't exist without evil - Courage, Forgiveness, Patience, Heroism, Perseverance, Faithfulness

Key Word	Definition	Quotes	Topic
Moral Evil	Evil which humans are responsible for (Human evil)	'A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence'	Moral & Natural Evil
Natural Evil	Evil which humans are not responsible for but nature is.	David Hume	
The Problem of Evil	The idea that if God existed then there would be no evil in the world. God's characteristics do not fit with a world with evil in it.	'God is omnipotent: God is wholly good, and yet evil exists. There must be some contradiction between these three propositions'	Inconsistent triad
Evidential Problem of Evil	Hume's argument that the evidence of evil in the world is so great that it cannot be explained away.	John Mackie	
Prior Probability	Hume's argument that without prior knowledge of our planet or its creator a stranger would probably conclude the world is a poor design	"So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.'	Fall of Man
Humanism	People who do not believe in God but place great importance on human life	Bible	
The Inconsistent Triad	The argument which shows God, cannot be both omnipotent and omnibenevolent while evil exists – this undermines God's existence.	'Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you'	Fall of Man
Logical Opposites	Mackie's argument that suggests good and evil are not logically opposite and if God wanted he could created a world with only good	Bible	
Free Will	The power of acting freely without force.	'All of nature, therefore, is good, since the Creator of all nature is supremely good'	Augustine
Predetermination	The idea that all actions are determined by something other than free will.	St Augustine	

Year 8 RPE

Topic 3: Good and Evil

Knowledge Organiser

Fall of Man	A description of the time when humans fell away from God's perfect state due to the original sin.
Original Sin	The first sin when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.