

## Candidate 5 evidence

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies National 5 Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
<p>1. Cosmological            "It is necessary to arrive at a first mover put in motion by no other; and this everyone understands to be God" - Aquinas            • Kalam - William Lane Craig</p>	
<p>2. Design            "Just as the watch has such a complex means to an end so does nature to a much greater extent. Just look at the complexity of the human eye. Thus we must conclude that nature has a maker to." - Paley            • Ockham's Razor - simplest</p>	
<p>3. Evil            "God almighty would in no way permit evil in his works were he not so omnipotent and good that even out of evil he could work good." - Augustine            • Irenaeus - evil develops people            • Dawkins            "IS God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God? - Epicurus</p>	

## Which Argument for the existence of God is the Strongest

It has been a question for hundreds of years whether or not God exists and over those years many arguments for God's existence have been made. In this essay I will cover 3 different arguments for God's existence. I will cover the first cause argument, the design argument and the argument for evil and suffering. This is a significant issue because many religious believers believe that there is a God but many non-religious believers believe there isn't a God so figuring it out could help.

\*and concluding which is the strongest

The first argument I am going to cover is the first cause argument. It goes as follows:

- Everything that exists must have a cause
- The universe exists
- Therefore the universe must have a cause
- That cause can only be God
- Therefore God exists proposed

This argument was ~~made~~ by 13th century philosopher Thomas Aquinas in his book Summa Theologica. He argued that, "It is necessary to arrive at a first mover, put in motion by no other; and this ~~is~~ everyone understands

to be God." Because the universe began something eternal must have caused it, which leads us to God. This argument is strong as it uses a posteriori knowledge, which means based on our own observations.

But the first cause argument has a very big weakness and that is that it goes back on itself. It does this by stating in point 1 that, "Everything that exists must have a cause." And stating in point 5, "Therefore God exists." So if ~~every~~ everything that exists must have a cause and God exists then surely God must have a cause, so what caused God? This problem was addressed by William Lane Craig when he developed the Kalam Argument which goes as follows:

- Every thing that began to exist must have a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore the universe must have a cause
- That cause could only be God
- Therefore God exists

This makes a stronger argument as it removes the circularity of the first cause argument as God is eternal so never began to

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exist so he doesn't need a cause.

The first cause argument is a pretty weak argument because it's a circular argument and jumps to conclusions.

The next argument I am going to cover is, in my opinion, the strongest argument for God's existence, the design argument. This argument was raised by William Paley who came <sup>nature</sup> up with the idea that because ~~the world~~ is so complex and everything works together then ~~the~~ nature must have a maker, just like a watch. He ~~once~~ said, "Just as the watch has such a complex means to an end so does nature to a much greater extent. Just look at the ~~complexity~~ complexity of the human eye. Thus we must conclude that nature has a maker to."

This argument is, in my opinion, the strongest for the existence of God because it has no clear flaws and is the simplest explanation. This is supported by the principle of Ockham's Razor which states that the simplest explanation is the most likely and the design argument is the simplest.

~~My~~ The final argument I'm going to cover is the argument for evil and suffering. Many people would say that evil and suffering is a bad thing but some theists believe evil and suffering is all part of God's plan and the fact there is evil and suffering proves that God exists. One of these people is Saint Augustine who said, "God almighty would in <sup>no</sup> way permit evil in his works were he not so omnipotent and good that even out of evil he could work good." He argued that God creates evil to make good. This argument is quite weak as it seems like he's just pulling on strings and it doesn't make many good points.

Atheists would counter this by saying that the fact evil exists proves that God doesn't exist because evil causes an inconsistent triad in God's qualities. They use the fact that ~~Atheists~~ theists believe that God is omnipotent, ~~omnibenevolent~~ omnibenevolent and ~~omniscient~~ omniscient against them by saying that if ~~he was~~ God was these things evil wouldn't exist. This is supported by Epicurus who said, "Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?"

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Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? ~~the~~ Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?" This makes the argument for evil and suffering weaker as it makes God seem like a bad God and is very hard to argue against.

In conclusion I think that the design argument is the strongest argument for ~~god~~ Gods existence as it is supported by Ockhams Razor and really has no weaknesses. I would say the weakest argument for Gods existence is the argument for evil and suffering because overall it is a very good argument and the counter is a much better argument and makes the argument much weaker.