

RE core knowledge for the year 7 exam 2022.

How valid are the arguments about the existence of God?

1. **What is philosophy?** Philosophy means “a love of wisdom”. It is about asking the questions that have no clear answers and thinking about what the answers could be.
2. **What does the Cosmological argument say about the existence of God?** That everything in the universe has a cause so the universe too must have a cause. This first cause must be eternal, so it must be God.
3. **How do some people use the Big Bang theory to counter the cosmological argument?** The Big Bang theory is the latest scientific reasoning that the universe came into being due to a cosmic explosion and that this explosion was the first cause of the universe.
4. **Can you be a theist and believe in both the cosmological argument and Big bang theory?** Yes! You could believe that God is the first cause behind the explosion as the reason for this is still not known by scientists.
5. **What does the Teleological argument say about the existence of God?** That our universe and everything in it is too complex to have come about randomly or by chance. Someone must have designed it to be the way it is. This designer must exist beyond our universe to must be God.
6. **What are the counter arguments to the teleological arguments?** That there could be designers other than God (eg the multiverse theory). There may also be other reasons why life on earth is so complex, such as the theory of evolution.
7. **Can you be a theist and also believe in the theory of evolution?** Yes! You could believe that God’s process of design was to allow creatures to evolve in the way the theory suggests.
8. **What does the Moral argument say about the existence of God?** We have objective moral standards about right and wrong. These suggest that God exists as he is the standard that good is measured against. If he did not exist there would be no moral standards.
9. **How could the Problem of Evil be used by atheists or agnostics to show that God does not exist?** The Problem of Evil is an argument which states that a loving, all-powerful and all-knowing God cannot exist because evil and suffering do. If God had those 3 characteristics then suffering shouldn’t exist, but it does, so God can’t exist the way that theists say he does.
10. **How do theists counter the Problem of Evil?** Theistic arguments against the Problem of Evil are called theodicies. There are many of these, for example: you cannot have good without bad so suffering and evil have to exist, humans are responsible for much of the suffering in our world (free will), we can’t see the big picture to say why evil and suffering exist as only God knows why, when people are suffering we have the opportunity to show compassion and love that would not be possible without it etc.

Why is Jesus so important to Christians? Core knowledge.

1. **Which book of the Bible does the creation story and the fall appear in?** Genesis – the first book in the Bible.
2. **What did God create last?** Humans.
3. **Why did God create humans?** They were made in the image of God (to be like Him), to populate the earth and to rule over the rest of God’s creation.
4. **Where were Adam and Eve when they first disobeyed God?** The Garden of Eden.
5. **What did Adam and Eve do to disobey God?** They ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had instructed them not to eat from.
6. **What did God do to Adam, Eve and the serpent?** They were given their own punishments and then banished from the Garden of Eden.

7. **What does the story of the Fall teach Christians?** That it is easy to give into temptation like Adam and Eve did and to break God's rules and that humans have been born with the tendency to sin (disobey God) since then.
8. **Where were the Israelites taken when they were exiled from their holy city Jerusalem?** They were taken to Babylon where their captors were from.
9. **Who were they hoping God would send to help them?** A Messiah (one chosen by God); someone who could restore and put right the relationship between God and humans.
10. **By the end of the exile what were they hoping the Messiah would be like?** A great warrior or king who would destroy their enemies.
11. **Where was Jesus born?** Bethlehem.
12. **Why is forgiveness important to Christians?** They believe that through Jesus' death on the cross their sins have been forgiven by God and they can go to heaven as a result. Jesus forgave those who killed him as he was dying so Christians believe they should forgive others too.
13. **What does the word "salvation" literally mean?** To be saved
14. **Why do Christians believe that Jesus has saved them?** Because by dying in their place he has taken their punishment for sin and opened the gates to heaven for them. His death restores the relationship between God and humans that had been broken since the Fall.