



## Y11 Religious Studies

Unit 3 - Believing in God

Homework Booklet - Due in every THURSDAY

Name:

Teacher:

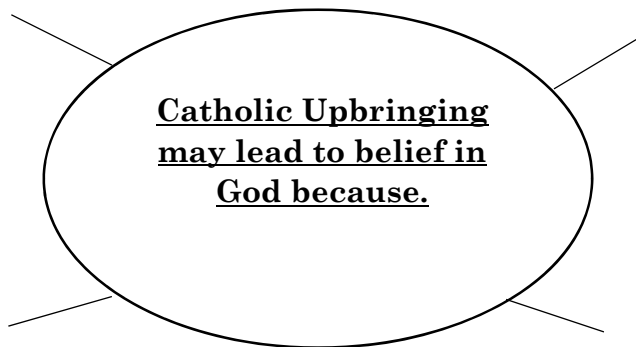


Task	Effort Grade	Incomplete (code)	Late (code)	Other Comments
1				
2				
3				
4				
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7				
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9				

Homework booklet

Unit 3 Believing in God

**Task 1: Due in Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**



**b) Do you agree having a Catholic upbringing leads to belief in God?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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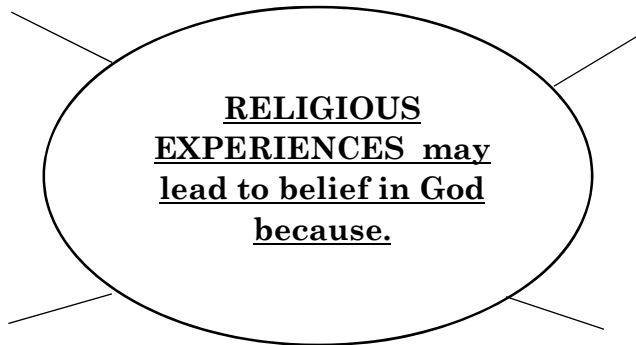
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 2: Due in Sept 17<sup>th</sup>**



**b)** Do you agree having a RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE would lead to belief in God?

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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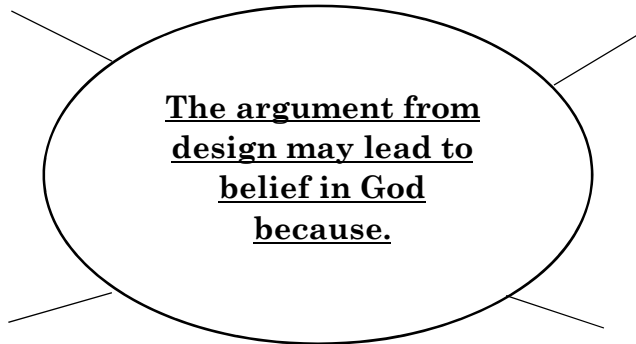
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 3: Due in Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**



**b) Do you agree the design argument leads to belief in God?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

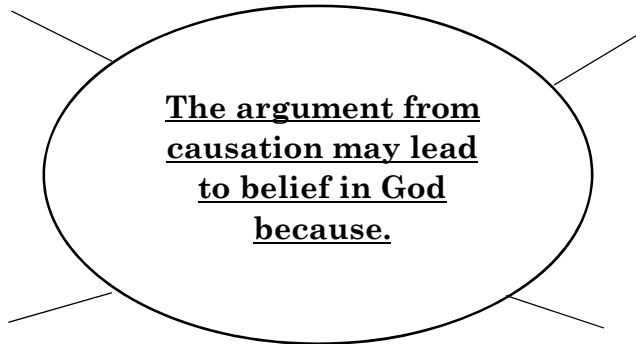
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 4: Due in Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**



**b) Do you agree the argument from causation leads to belief in God?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 5: Due in Oct 1st 2015**

**Agnosticism** = Not being sure whether God exists  
**Atheism** = Believing God does NOT exist

How scientific explanations of the world may lead to agnosticism and atheism.

**b) Do you agree science shows God did not create the universe?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

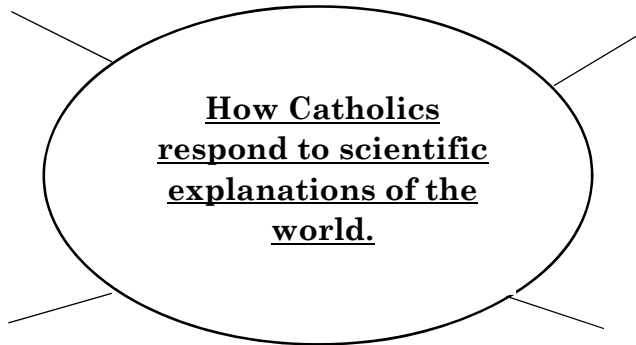
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 6: Due in Oct 8th 2015**



**b) Do you agree Christians can accept scientific explanations of the world?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 7: Due in Oct 15th 2015**

Why unanswered prayers may lead to agnosticism or atheism. (see p6 for definitions)

**b) Do you think unanswered prayers prove that God does not exist?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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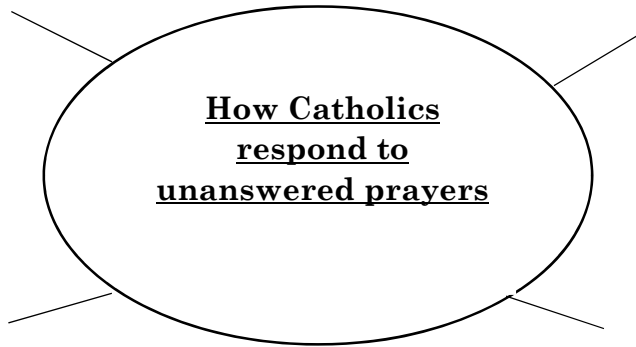
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” **LINKING TO QUESTION!****



**Task 8: Due in Oct 22nd 2015**



**b) Do you agree that Christians should not expect God to answer all prayers?**

**Yes I do because...**

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**Also..**

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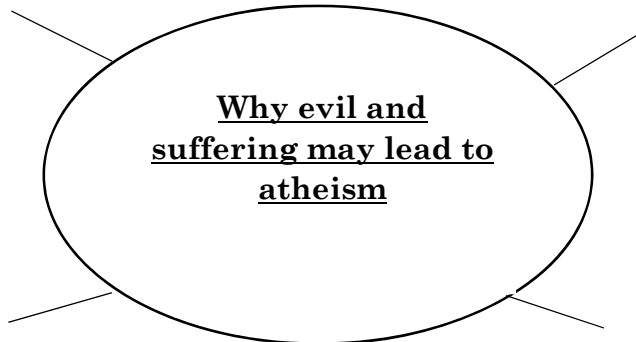
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 8: Due in Nov 5th 2015**



**b) Do you think evil and suffering show that God does not exist?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

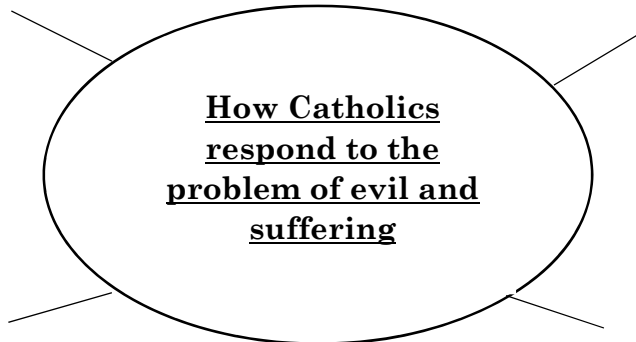
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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

**Task 8: Due in Nov 12th 2015**



**b) Do you agree that there is a reason why God allows suffering?**

Yes I do because...

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Also..

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**REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DEVELOP EACH POINT BY SAYING : “This shows...” or “This is evidence that...” LINKING TO QUESTION!**

## Task 9: Key words to learn by heart 19<sup>th</sup> November

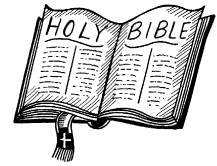
### Key Words

<b>Numinous</b>	The feeling of the presence of something greater than yourself i.e. the church
<b>Conversion</b>	When your life is changed by giving yourself to God
<b>Miracle</b>	Something that seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done this
<b>Prayer</b>	An attempt to contact God, usually through words
<b>Design</b>	When things are connected and seem to have a purpose e.g. eyes are designed for seeing
<b>Omnipotent</b>	The belief that God is all-powerful
<b>Agnosticism</b>	Not being sure whether God exists
<b>Atheism</b>	Believing that God does not exist
<b>Moral evil</b>	Actions carried out by humans that cause suffering
<b>Natural evil</b>	Things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans e.g. earthquakes
<b>Free will</b>	The idea that human beings are free to make their own choices
<b>Omni Benevolent</b>	The belief that God is all-good
<b>Omniscient</b>	That belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen

## REVISION GUIDE TO HELP YOU WITH ANSWERS

### Task 1: A Catholic upbringing can lead to belief in God because:

- ❖ Family life is important part of leading a child to belief in God. Parents can pray and read the Bible with their children and teach them about their faith
- ❖ The Church is an essential part to help lead children to believe in this happens in a number of ways. The Sacraments of Initiation welcome you into the Church community - baptism, confirmation and Eucharist!
- ❖ There is Sunday School as well which teaches children about God, how to pray and read the Bible
- ❖ At Catholic schools you would pray and learn about God in Assemblies and R.E. lessons.




God,  
would

**Growing up in this environment, it is easy to see why the child would believe in God and therefore might not question His existence because:**

1. A young child accepts parents' beliefs
2. They have answers to prayer
3. They feel close to God in worship
4. Are taught about the existence of God at school and Sunday School



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1. They will grow up thinking all other religions are wrong
  2. They are forced into the religion
  3. Against their human rights

Task 2: What are the types of religious experiences that lead to belief in God?

*Religious experience means the ways people come into direct contact with God.*

The Conversion Experience: - people who change their lives around after a definite experience with God. Just like St Paul had on the road to Damascus. Shows that else could explain this change

Prayer: - when your prayer is answered. For example, when someone has a problem or an illness they ask God to help them and the problem or illness disappears...this can lead to belief in God. Shows that nothing natural could explain this




The Numinous Experience: - the feeling of something greater than yourself. It is a feeling you can get if you are in a holy building or when you pray or even when you look up at the stars. Shows that nothing in nature explains why you get this feeling

Miracles: - Something that cannot be explained, for example...someone who is cured from an incurable disease after being prayed for or after something else connected with religion. Shows that there is no normal explanation only God is powerful enough for this

### Task 3: How design lead people to believe in God:

1. **The universe appears to be designed:** -**ALWAYS GIVE EXAMPLES** : the universe works according to the laws of gravity and how we are the right distance from the sun not to burn.
2. **Also humans seem to be designed.** They grow from a tiny blueprint of DNA, the complex mechanism of the eye allowing people to see and the way the Big Bang worked with the laws of science to produce a universe of order.
3. **Paley's Watch:** -EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A WATCH WAS FOR (we don't know what the universe is for) , you could see just by looking that it is too complicated to just happen by chance. It must have had a designer
4. **The watch and the universe also must have a purpose, they are not random**

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1. What about bad design eg. Disease?
  2. Why does it have to be the Christian God?
  3. No need for a designer when we have EVOLUTION
  4. Dinosaurs?

**Task 3: ARGUMENT FOR DESIGN**

There is evidence of design in the world. Eg. Stick insects look like sticks so they don't get eaten

If there is evidence of design the something must have designed it

The only thing great enough to design it is God

Therefore God exists

**Task 4: ARGUMENT FOR CAUSATION**

Nothing can happen by itself

Everything that happens has to be caused by something else.

The universe cannot have just happened by itself

A very powerful force must have caused the universe

This cause must have been God

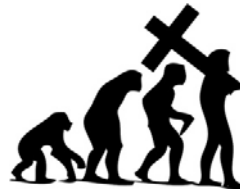
CAUSATION : Doesn't prove God because 1. The universe could be eternal, big bang and big crunch continually 2.It contradicts itself – if everything needs a cause then so does God. 3. Why the God of Christianity why not an evil God starting it all off? 4.There's no reason why the whole universe needs an explanation – maybe it just exists full stop.



## Task 5: Scientific explanations for the world and the Christian response:

Agnosticism - Not being sure whether or not God exists

Atheism - Believing that God does not exist



Some people believe that science offers a better explanation for things such as miracles or even the universe, rather than the account in the Bible.

1. **THE BIBLE SAYS** the universe is only 6000 years old **BUT SCIENCE HAS PROVEN** it is 14 billion years old
2. **THE BIBLE SAYS** the universe was made in 7 days by God, **BUT SCIENCE SAYS** the Big Bang made it and it is still evolving over billions of years
3. **THE BIBLE SAYS** we came directly from Adam and Eve. **BUT SCIENCE SAYS** we evolved from lower life forms like apes.
4. **SCIENCE** says we used to need God to explain *gaps* in our understanding but now we know enough not to need God at all

Therefore if scientists can prove tell people where the world came from and how people came into existence people will begin to think that God does not exist.

## Task 6: How do Christians respond to scientific explanation?

### **Most Christians say:**

- The Bible and science are both correct. God made the world by creating a 'Big Bang' happened.
- One of God's days could be 2 billion of our years, so it was made in 7 days. The order of creation is exactly fitting with evolution.
- The Bible message is more like poetry. It was not intended for literal interpretation but still contains truth
- The universe is so finely tuned to support life that the chances of this happening without God are next to none. It had to be not too hot, not too cold etc - the "Goldilocks" principle

### Task 7: Why unanswered prayers might lead to atheism:

1. If people don't feel God's presence when they pray, then they will doubt whether or not he exists at all.
2. God is supposed to care for those who worship him, but if people DO EVERYTHING GOD ASKS and God ignores their prayers, then does God really exist?
3. People might pray for really important things like their child to be cured from cancer. When the child dies they would think God didn't care.
4. If a billion people are praying every Sunday for world peace then there shouldn't be any wars. But there are. So God doesn't exist.

### However God might not answer all prayers because:

1. Would God also answer selfish prayers for people to become millionaires...look at what happened in Bruce Almighty.
2. Some prayers are impossible if other people pray for the opposite! Eg, Sunderland AND Newcastle to win their next derby
3. God may also answer no or not yet. He knows better what is good for us.
4. He may give us the "opportunity" to do it for ourselves rather than simply giving us it
5. Good parents don't say yes to everything they're asked for. This is to help their children learn and grow. God is like our father. He will not spoil us.
6. God has a plan that we are too simple to understand, but we should just trust.

### Task 8: The problem of evil and suffering and the Christian response:

Religious and believers find the existence of evil and suffering a problem for the following reasons:

1. They believe that God is all good (omni-benevolent), but if God is all good, He ought not to want evil and suffering in his world;
2. They believe that God has the power to do anything (omnipotent) but if He is all-powerful, he must be able to rid the world of evil and suffering
3. They believe that God is all seeing and knowing in which case He knows what is happening (omniscient), but if God all knowing and powerful He must not love us enough to make it stop;
4. However, there is evil and suffering in the world and so either God is not good, or God is not all-powerful, or God does not exist.

### Task 9: The Catholic response to evil and suffering:

1. Many Christians respond to the problem by believing that **only God knows the answer**, but people cannot understand. Jesus showed us that God wants us to fight against evil and suffering so they follow the example of Jesus and pray for those who suffer and offer practical help
2. Some Christians think that God could not give humans **free will** unless they had the chance to do evil things (being free is part of being made in God's image). Humans have used their free will to do evil things and bring suffering into the world, not God.
3. Other Christians believe this life is **a sort of test** in which people prepare their souls for heaven. If there was no evil and suffering then they would not be able to develop as good people and help fight against evil and suffering.
4. All Christians believe they must respond to suffering by **trying to help** those who suffer and to evil by fighting against it.