

Anselm's Ontological Arguments		
1	Background	Lived 1033-1109 as a monk. He was the Archbishop of Canterbury
2	Book?	<i>Proslogion</i> . Anselm wrote it as a prayer
3	Starting point?	'The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' <i>Psalm 14:1</i> . This showed Anselm that atheists have an understanding of God when they deny existence.
4	God?	*'That than which nothing greater can be thought' .... Both theists and atheists agree on this

Gaulilo vs Anselm		
1	Response ?	Wrote <i>On behalf of the Fool</i> challenging Anselm
2	Perfect Island	Imagine the greatest island possible... it exists in your mind. There is then no doubt the island exists as it is the greatest island, and existence in reality is greater This is logical fallacy!
3	Other points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of our ideas only exist in the mind</li> <li>• We might have different definitions of God</li> <li>• We know we exist but can conceive us not existing – why not the same for God</li> </ul>
4	Anselm's reply	Gaulilo discussed a contingent and temporal island, God is necessary

Key Vocabulary	
Analogy	Comparison between two similar things
A posteriori	Knowledge from experience
A priori	Knowledge from reason
Contingent	Objects that rely on an external source/ cause to exist
Deduction	Reaching a conclusion from logical deductions
Logical fallacy	Incorrect logic and inferences
Necessary	Opposite of contingent
Ontology	Study of the nature of existence
Ontological Argument	Arguing that God exists based on ontology
Predicate	Characteristic/attribute of something
Rationalism	Method of knowing by reason

**Formulations of the Ontological Argument**

1	First Formulation:	<p>Existence can be in the mind or in reality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By definition, God is the greatest possible being</li> <li>• God* exists in everyone's minds, including atheists'.</li> <li>• But it is greater to exist in reality than in the mind</li> <li>• To be God*, God must exist in reality</li> </ul>
2	Second Formulation	<p>Some beings are contingent (we can imagine them not existing) and some beings are necessary (cannot not exist)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessary beings are better than contingent beings</li> <li>• God* must be a necessary being</li> <li>• God must exist</li> </ul>
3	Quote	'...you cannot be conceived not to exist... it is so evident to a rational mind that you do exist in the highest degree of all.'

**Kant's Criticisms**

1	Circular argument	<p>Existence is part of being perfect. Having 3 angles makes something a triangle The triangle must exist to have 3 sides If God doesn't exist, God doesn't need to be perfect and exist</p>
2	Existence is not a predicate	'Existence' is a different attribute than 'red' or 'good'. If I say something 'exists' I tell you nothing new about the object. Existence can't be shown a priori



*This is the counterpart to the Philosophy unit on arguments from observation. This unit also links to the Nature of God unit.*

A02 Discussion

- Compare a priori and a posteriori arguments
- Is existence a predicate?
- Necessary verses contingent existence and God.

Anselm's Ontological Arguments			Gaunilo vs Anselm			Key Vocabulary	
1	Background		1	Response?		Analogy	
2	Book?		2	Perfect Island		A posteriori	
3	Starting point?		3	Other points		A priori	
4	God?					Contingent	
Formulations of the Ontological Argument			4	Anselm's reply		Deduction	
1	First Formulation:					Logical fallacy	
			Kant's Criticisms			Necessary	
2	Second Formulation		1	Circular argument		Ontology	
3	Quote		2	Existence is not a predicate		Ontological Argument	
						Predicate	
						Rationalism	