


Anselm's Ontological Arguments			Gaunilo vs Anselm			Key Vocabulary				
1	Background	Lived 1033-1109 as a monk. He was the Archbishop of Canterbury	1	Response ?	Wrote <i>On behalf of the Fool</i> challenging Anselm	Analogy	Comparison between two similar things			
2	Book?	<i>Proslogion</i> . Anselm wrote it as a prayer	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!	A posteriori	Knowledge from experience			
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.	3	Other points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lots of our ideas only exist in the mindWe might have different definitions of GodWe know we exist but can conceive us not existing – why not the same for God	A priori	Knowledge from reason			
4	God?	*'That than which nothing greater can be thought' Both theists and atheists agree on this	4	Anselm's reply	Gaunilo discussed a contingent and temporal island, God is necessary	Contingent	Objects that rely on an external source/ cause to exist			
Formulations of the Ontological Argument			Kant's Criticisms			Deduction	Reaching a conclusion from logical deductions			
1	First Formulation:	Existence can be in the mind or in reality <ul style="list-style-type: none">By definition, God is the greatest possible beingGod* exists in everyone's minds, including atheists'.But it is greater to exist in reality than in the mindTo be God*, God must exist in reality	1	Circular argument	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	Logical fallacy	Incorrect logic and inferences			
2	Second Formulation	Some beings are contingent (we can imagine them not existing) and some beings are necessary (cannot not exist) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Necessary beings are better than contingent beingsGod* must be a necessary beingGod must exist	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	Necessary	Opposite of contingent			
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.'	<div></div> <div><i>This is the counterpart to the Philosophy unit on arguments from observation. This unit also links to the Nature of God unit.</i></div> <div>A02 Discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none">Compare a priori and a posteriori argumentsIs existence a predicate?Necessary verses contingent existence and God.</div> <td>Ontology</td> <td>Study of the nature of existence</td>			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			





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1	First Formulation:		4	Anselm's reply		Logical fallacy	
			Kant's Criticisms			Necessary	
2	Second Formulation		1	Circular argument		Ontology	
						Ontological Argument	
3	Quote		2	Existence is not a predicate		Predicate	
						Rationalism	