

The Problems of Evil

1	The problem	Evil causes suffering and evil is incompatible with God's attributes.
2	Logical problem	Epicurus: God's attributes are logically incompatible with evil. Either evil, benevolence or omnipotence must be wrong to resolve the inconsistent triad
3	Evidential problem	Rowe: the quality and quantity of evil in the world causes religious doubt.

Augustine's Theodicy

1	Original Perfection	God is perfect so made a perfect world. It lacked nothing
2	Privation	Evil is the absence of good. The world has lost some of its original divine goodness
3	Harmony	Angels and humans disobeyed God at the Fall and so harmony ended in the natural world – natural evil now occurs
4	Punishment	All humans are punished for Adam's sin because God is just
5	Grace	God sent Jesus out of love and to create to possibility of forgiveness and salvation
6	Freewill	God had to give us freewill as it is more loving, despite the evil that occurs with it.

Hick's reworking of Irenaean theodicy

1	Irenaean theodicy	Evil is an opportunity to grow from divine image to likeness. This is called 'soul-making' theodicy
2	Hick	Modern reworking of Irenaeus' theodicy
3	Epistemic distance	God intentionally hides from us to allow us to develop
4	Purpose	Evil in the world is instrumentally good as it causes soul-making
5	Freewill	Moral growth must be autonomous, not forced by God
6	Virtues	We only learn virtues like charity in suffering
7	Universal salvation	We all suffer and so are all saved and go to heaven. We will continue developing in heaven.

Key Vocabulary

Divine action	God controlling events in the world
Divine likeness	Irenaeus said we are created in God's image and develop to be his likeness
Dysteleological	Existence has no purpose
Freewill	Autonomous and free choices by the agent
Inconsistent triad	God's omnipotence and benevolence conflict with evil
Moral evil	Evil caused by human intention
Natural evil	Evil caused by natural events
Original perfection	God's creation was good and lacked nothing
Privatio boni	Absence of goodness (privation)
The Fall	Adam and Eve's disobedience of God
Theodicies	A theory to justify God's righteousness despite evil
Universal salvation	Everyone goes to heaven
Vale of soul making	A world with challenge that allows us to morally grow

A02 Discussion

Strengths and weaknesses of each theodicy	Comparing the evidential and logical problems
Does Augustine spare God the blame of evil?	Does Hick's soul-making justify the quality and quantity of evil?

This Philosophy unit explores challenges to God's existence. It pairs with the Religious Experience unit. You will also learn more about Augustine in DCT Human Nature and Hick in Pluralism units



The Problems of Evil					Key Vocabulary	
1	The problem				Divine action	
2	Logical problem				Divine likeness	
3	Evidential problem				Dysteleological	
Augustine's Theodicy			Hick's reworking of Irenaean theodicy		Freewill	
1	Original Perfection		1	Irenaean theodicy	Inconsistent triad	
2	Privation		2	Hick	Moral evil	
3	Harmony		3	Epistemic distance	Natural evil	
4	Punishment		4	Purpose	Original perfection	
5	Grace		5	Freewill	Privatio boni	
6	Freewill		6	Virtues	The Fall	
			7	Universal salvation	Theodicies	
					Universal salvation	
					Vale of soul making	