**Studying Philosophy – Year 11 Transition Work**

***Philosophy of Religion – Mr Pollock***

***Topic 1 Cosmological Arguments***

Print and read Aquinas’ cosmological argument and Hume’s objection to the argument.

**Aquinas *Summa Theologica*** ‘Question 2. The existence of God. Article 3. Whether God exists?’ Read his first 3 ways. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1002.htm>

**David Hume *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*, Pt 9 – read paragraph 9**

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1779_3.pdf>

<http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/handout-david-humes-criticisms-of-the-cosmological-argument/> - additional help.

You are expected to conduct a ‘close reading’ of these texts.

* See above for how to complete this.

**Tasks**

* Write **at least 2** A4 side in answer to the following question: *‘Does the cosmological argument prove the existence of God?’*
* Keep your essay relevant to the question
* If quoting, keep quotes short and/or summarise Aquinas’/Hume’s arguments in your own words.
* Clearly outline Aquinas and Hume’s argument and **explain how** they reach their conclusion.
* Make your conclusion clear.

If you need additional help or want to include other ideas see the links below.

***Research Opportunities for the Cosmological Argument***

Bertrand Russell and Frederick Copelston on the cosmological argument.

<http://www.scandalon.co.uk/philosophy/cosmological_russell_copleston.htm>

<http://www.scandalon.co.uk/philosophy/cosmological_radio.htm>

***Topic 2 Ontological Arguments***

Print and read Anselm’s ontological argument and Gaunilo’s objection to the argument.

**Anselm *Proslogium*** Chapters I-IV <https://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/extract-1-anselms-prologion/>

**Gaunilo *On Behalf Of The Fool*** <https://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/extract-2-gaunilos-reply/>

You are expected to conduct a ‘close reading’ of these texts.

* See above for how to complete this.

**Tasks**

* Write **at least 2** A4 side in answer to the following question: *‘Does the ontological argument prove the existence of God?’*
* Keep your essay relevant to the question
* If quoting, keep quotes short and/or summarise Anselm’s and Gaunilo’s arguments in your own words.
* Clearly outline Anselm’s and Gaunilo’s argument and **explain how** they reach their conclusion.
* Use this link if you are having difficulty accessing the material
* Use this link if you are having difficulty accessing the material <https://www3.nd.edu/~jspeaks/courses/mcgill/201/gaunilo.html>
* Make your conclusion clear.