

Clarifying Questions

1. Explain the difference between metaphysics and epistemology.
2. What is a *reductio ad absurdum* argument and what is its importance?
3. What is validity and how can you test whether an argument is valid?
4. Describe the difference between validity and soundness.
5. What is an inference to the best explanation argument and what are the criteria for evaluating one?
6. What are analogical arguments and what are the criteria for evaluating them?
7. What is the difference between an inductive and a deductive argument?
8. Describe the basic difference between a cosmological argument and a teleological argument.
9. What does Eleonore Stump say is the point of a theodicy and what is the importance of her view?
10. What is Aquinas' argument from motion?
11. What is the kalam cosmological argument developed by William Craig?
12. Explain the difference between Paley's design argument and the contemporary design argument.
13. What is distinctive about the ontological argument?
14. Describe the non-theistic religions we've studied.
15. State the basic terms of rational choice theory?
16. What are the terms of Pascal's Wager?
17. Explain the doctrine of karma.
18. Explain why is it plausible to think of Buddhism as an atheistic religion.
19. Explain how the cosmological view that makes Samkara's response to the problem of evil different from the monotheistic response.
20. Why is it difficult to specify distinctive doctrines of Hinduism?

Discussion Questions

1. Explain the problem of evil for theism, the goals of a theodicy, and what the free-will defense and the soul-making response contribute to justifying theism. Give your views as to how satisfactory the theistic response is.
2. Is it rational to believe that God exists? Discuss what the theistic arguments contribute to this question. Discuss what prudential arguments contribute to this question.