



# Philosophy & Religious Studies

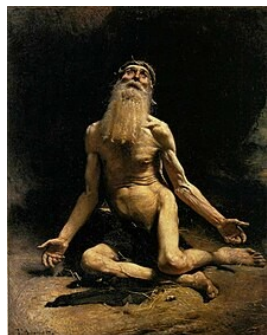
Y8  
Divergent  
Beliefs  
about God

### Keywords:

|                 |                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Atheist:        | Does not believe in God                      |
| Agnostic:       | Is unsure about faith/God                    |
| Theist:         | Believes in God                              |
| Omnipotent:     | God is all-powerful                          |
| Omniscient:     | God is all-knowing                           |
| Omnibenevolent: | God is all-good/loving                       |
| Omnipresent:    | God is everywhere                            |
| Polytheist:     | Believes in many gods                        |
| Monotheist:     | Believes in the one God                      |
| Allegory:       | A story that has hidden meaning or symbolism |

### Atheist and why they don't believe in God

Morals don't have to come from God  
Society's opinion on what is right and wrong changes over time  
We can't see/hear God, so we have no proof that God is real  
People believe in science instead as it provides us with evidence  
Problem of evil  
There are many different religions that claim different things and they can't all be true... solution... none of them are true  
No religious experience/upbringing



### The Story of Job

Job is a righteous believer in God and a good man. God allows the Satan to cause great suffering on Job as a test to see if he remains faithful. Job loses everything and everyone he loves, but through it all, remains faithful and praises God. The story of Job is about faith in God, even when we doubt, and things get really hard.

**The Problem of Evil:** If God is omniscient, omnibenevolent and omnipotent, why does God allow such suffering?

**Humanism: is a non-religious approach to living an ethical life that is based on reason, compassion, and tolerance.**

There does not have to be any purpose to life  
Life is natural, with no purpose behind it  
We create meaning in our own lives  
The universe was not created for us  
We are still connected through family, community and traditions and the natural world we live in  
We make our own meaning to life that changes throughout our life  
We should be happy by living as well as we can



There are prisoners chained up in a cave. Behind them are a fire and a walkway. All they can see are the shadows cast on the wall. One of the prisoners is freed. He goes out and sees the real world. He comes back to tell the prisoners what he has seen, but they cannot understand him. All they see is his shadow and hear strange noises. Although the men chained have no knowledge of the outside world, it doesn't make it any less real.

Plato used the analogy in relation to those who have no interest in knowledge and learning. However, if we consider this as an analogy for belief...A theist would say that those who do not have faith are in the cave of darkness and ignorance about God. They have come out into the light of Jesus and God, etc. Atheists would say that those who believe in God need to come out of the darkness and into the light of knowledge and stop believing in a myth.

**The Argument for God as a Designer** - William Paley uses the example of a watch to demonstrate that there are things in the world that are just too complex to have appeared from nowhere. There are lots of examples around us of things that must have been designed. For example, the human body is so complex and intricate it just couldn't have appeared from nowhere. Paley is arguing that the universe is so complex that there must have been an intelligent 'being' that designed it. Paley argues that it is God that designed the universe, and because of this his argument is that we have to agree that God does exist.

A counter argument is that the universe, earth and people did not just 'appear'! They have evolved and developed through tiny changes over Billions of years.

