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Intro to Philosophy

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Reading Questions

1) In your own words, explain the Cosmological Argument for God's existence in terms of motion and (similarly) cause and effect.

Cosmology is a very traditional view of theology that provides existence and evidence of God. The cosmological argument for the existence of God is based on nature, theology, and the universe and why they all exist. This argument also claims that the existence of God amongst humans is shown through reason, explanation, and change.

2) What does an "infinite regress" mean, and why is it so central to the Cosmological argument?

An infinite regress is a series of elements that are all related to the first event, but have no description of where each element guides or creates the next. This infinite regression argument, appeals to itself an infinite regression.

3) How is the "third" of the five ways about the contingent existence of everything in the universe?

Aquinas' third way is the cosmological argument for the existence of god proven by a possibility and need. It explains how by differentiating between possible and necessary organisms. And how potential organisms are those that exist and those that do not, and potential organisms are subject

to generation and environment but if every living thing or possible, there can be nothing in the present. Therefore, there must be at least one essential organism, and every living thing that needs it is bound to itself by one or another essential organism it needs.

1) Explain in your own words what Anselm means by a being "that than which nothing greater can be conceived".

By Anselm, referring to, and being quotation marks, that then which nothing greater can be conceived" is in itself hard for our minds to wrap around. He's saying that even we might not understand these beings, grandeur and power, and certainly have nothing to compare it to in our own lives.

2) On 346, what is Anselm's argument about why this greatest possible being *must* exist in reality, by its very nature?

Anselm argued that with these attributes and qualities that are greater than we can ever imagine. They also include existence, not just in the mind or imagination, but in reality. He argues that in order for this being to be the greatest it must exist in reality is part of his greatness.

1) Describe the Teleological Argument as presented on pages 365-366.

The teleological argument argues that the existence of order and purpose in the natural world, is evidence for the existence of a higher power who created and designed it to be that way. This argument is based on observations of the natural world and ways in which it exhibits order complexity and purpose. All of which we may consider the need for a designer of such beauty and order.

2) On 367, Hume, through Philo, states that for all we know, "matter may contain the source or spring of order originally within itself, as well as mind does". What do you think he means by this statement and the paragraph it's found in?

In this quote, Philo is suggesting the observations of the natural world may not lead to the existence of a designer or creator, as the teleological argument says. Instead, it is possible that matter itself contains order, just as human minds do. Philo suggests that since we have no experience creating worlds, we have no basis for claiming, claiming that such order and complexity requires a creator like us.

3) What are some of the problems Hume presents concerning the comparison of the universe to a machine and the assumption that it must also be designed?

The problems he presents include an argument that the comparison of the universe to machines is downright flawed. Not only do we not know enough about the universe, but we also don't understand the order and complexity that surrounds us. He argues that the existence of evil, and imperfection in the natural world is also caused to believe there's no such perfect creator.