

ANSWERING ATHEISM

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Instructions: Fill in the following blanks based on Trent's presentation in the video. Note that some words may be used twice.

Word Bank

absolute	agnostics	aliens
atheists	atom	begins to exist
Big Bang theory	chance	constants
different	fittest	free will
good	logically impossible	money
subjective	suffering	theists
the scientific method	time	unmoved

1. We can answer the question "Does God exist?" in only three ways. Which group does Trent associate with each of the following answers to that question?

Yes _____

No _____

I don't know _____

Five reasons to think God does not exist (or that atheism is true)

I. There's no evidence for God.

2. Just as the lack of evidence for _____ doesn't show there are no _____ in the universe, the supposed lack of evidence for God would not prove God did not exist. In this case we would just be agnostics (and not atheists) unless someone could give us good reasons to think there is a God.
3. Not everything we believe is proven directly from science, because we cannot prove the existence of other minds, the existence of moral truths, or as Trent says, "Science can't even prove that all truth comes from _____." Science is restricted to natural explanations within the universe, so we must use philosophy in order to see if there is a God beyond the universe who created it.

II. Evolution shows God does not exist.

4. Since _____ is not a concern to an eternal God, then why would a long period of _____ that occurred during the evolution of life show God did not exist? There is no contradiction in saying that God used evolution in order to create the living world.

III. God was made up by human beings.

5. Just as the existence of counterfeit _____ does not disprove the existence of real _____, the existence of counterfeit or mythical gods (like Zeus or Thor) does not disprove the existence of the real God. We must instead examine the arguments for the infinite and perfect God of theism to see if they show he exists.

IV. God is a logical contradiction.

6. Does God's inability to make a rock he can't lift show God is not all-powerful (or omnipotent)? No, omnipotence means God is able to do anything that is

_____. It is logically impossible for a perfect being to act imperfectly or to make something he can't control (such as a rock he can't lift).

V. Evil and suffering show God does not exist.

7. When God creates creatures with _____, they have the opportunity to do genuine good as well as genuine evil. God can tolerate this evil for the good that would not otherwise exist.
8. Consider Trent's example from the movie *Frequency*. He said, "We are not in a good position to know that God can't bring _____ from _____."

Five reasons to think God does exist (or that theism is true)

I. People have experienced God. (The argument from personal experience)

9. Most people know God exists through personal experiences like prayer. This evidence is _____ because, in Trent's words, "you can't share your experience with others to show that God exists." In order to show other people that God exists, we must use *objective* evidence that can be examined by anyone.

II. The universe exists. (The argument from motion)

10. Nothing can move itself but must instead be moved by another. Since even an infinite number of boxcars can't move without a locomotive, our universe could have motion or change only if it was first moved by a being that can, in Trent's words, "move itself, that's an _____ mover, and Aquinas says that's God."

III. The universe began to exist. (The argument from first cause)

11. Fr. George Lemaitre theorized that the expansion of space and the effects of gravity show that the universe must have had a beginning. Today we call his theory the _____.

12. Some critics say that “If everything needs a cause, then what caused God.” But Trent actually did not make that argument. He said,

“Everything which _____ needs a cause. This argument would apply to the finite universe but not to God, who is eternal and never _____.”

IV. The universe is designed. (The argument from fine-tuning)

13. _____ are the unchanging quantities in the laws of physics (like C in $E=MC^2$). You are more likely find a random _____ in the entire universe than you are to have a universe where the constants are at the right level to support intelligent life.
14. If we reject _____ as an explanation for getting ten royal flushes in a row, then shouldn't we reject _____ as an explanation for the vastly more improbable case of there being a universe where intelligent life can evolve?

V. The universe contains moral truths. (The argument from morality)

15. When relativists say, “There are no moral absolutes; we must tolerate everyone's moral opinions,” they are not making a relative statement, but an _____ statement. They contradict themselves by showing that some things really are wrong for everyone.
16. Evolution can't explain morality, because it is not based on survival of the most moral but on survival of the _____. Since evolution could encourage immoral acts for survival, it can't be the basis of morality.
17. Morality can't come from society, because if it did we could not say one society is better than another, we could only say they are _____. If morality is objective, then there must be a standard of morality which transcends all times, places, and people. This standard would be a perfect and infinite being, or God.