

# REVIEW OF ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS

**Historical Context:** In which centuries did the following philosophers/theologians live?

- a) Gaunilo
- b) Plantinga
- c) Descartes
- d) Aquinas
- e) Anselm
- f) Kant
- g) Malcolm
- h) Hume

**Technical terms:** What do the following terms mean?

- a) aseity
- b) ontological
- c) modal/modality
- d) predicate
- e) Proslogion

## Logical Pairs

a) 'Pair off' the concepts listed below.

a priori	de re	a posteriori	contingent	empiricism	rationalism
synthetic	necessary	deduction	induction	analytic	de dicto

b) Which concepts apply to (i) Ontological Arguments?

(ii) Cosmological Arguments?

**Objections:** On what bases did these philosophers/theologians object to the Ontological Argument(s)?

- a) Gaunilo
- b) Aquinas

- c) Hume
- d) Kant

### Quotes

Who wrote the following?

- a) *"...we do not make the least addition to the thing when we further declare that this thing is."*
- b) *"For one can think there exists something that cannot be thought of as not existing, and that would be greater than something which can be thought of as not existing."*
- c) *"... there would be no less contradiction in conceiving of a God ... to whom existence was wanting ... than in conceiving of a mountain which had no valley."*
- d) *"Existence is not a perfection, but that in the absence of which there are no perfections."*
- e) *"Nothing is demonstrable unless the contrary implies a contradiction. Nothing that is distinctly conceivable implies a contradiction."*
- f) *"It would be self-contradictory to posit a triangle and yet reject its three angles, but there is no contradiction in rejecting the triangle together with its three angles."*
- g) *"We cannot define something into existence – even if it has all the perfections we can imagine."*

**True/False:** Some of the statements below are false; rewrite them (without using 'not' or other negatives) so as to make them true.

- a) Kant attacked Anselm's Ontological Argument.
- b) Hume and Kant were contemporaries.
- c) Anselm's Proslogion was a prayerful meditation.
- d) Plantinga's redrafted Ontological Argument was designed to convince the sceptic.
- e) Descartes was the first to call Anselm's arguments as Ontological Arguments.
- f) Malcolm introduced the 'possible worlds' scenario into his redrafted Ontological Argument.