

## TWO TYPES OF EVIL

### Moral Evil

Evil that is the result of human actions.



### Natural Evil

Events that cause suffering but aren't the result of human actions



# THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

The problem of evil is an argument against the existence of God. The argument applies to Christians because they believe in the God of Classical Theism. This means God has certain traits which suggest that, if He exists, there should be no evil in the world.



Firstly, Christians believe God

is **omniscient**

(all-knowing). This means He has knowledge of everything that will happen in the world, including bad things.



Secondly, they believe God is

**omnibenevolent** (all-loving). If this

is the case God would care about His creation and not want anything bad to happen to them.



Thirdly, Christians believe God is

**omnipotent** (all-powerful). This means He

is able to stop evil from happening if He wishes.

If God has all these characteristics then He has knowledge of evil and the desire and power to stop it. However, evil still exists. Some people argue this shows the Christian God cannot exist.

## Knowledge Check

1. What is the problem of evil?
2. What is moral evil?
3. Give three examples of moral evil
4. What is natural evil?
5. Give three examples of natural evil
6. Why might natural evil pose a bigger problem for religious believers and their belief in God?
7. What is suffering caused by?
8. How might natural disasters be a cause of good?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

b) Describe the difference between moral and natural evil [5]

## MORAL EVIL



Bullying



Murder



Theft



Terrorism



Starvation

This is moral if it is the result of a political cause



War



Rape

## NATURAL EVIL



Volcano

This is an event caused by plate movements, humans are not involved



Earthquake

This is an event caused by plate movements, humans are not involved



Starvation

This is natural if it is caused by food shortages due to crop failure

## IMPORTANT!

Natural evil poses a big problem to religious people. They believe God is the creator of the world. If so, why would He create a world in which things like volcanoes exist and harm many people? Christians cannot explain this with the 'free will' argument (that it is human choice that causes evil and suffering)

### David Hume

A Scottish philosopher and atheist of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He claimed that The Problem of Evil was "**THE ROCK OF ATHEISM**". He believed that there was no logical way of explaining how a benevolent God can allow suffering to happen to good people (or even bad).



Ian Brady & Myra Hindley

They were serial killers, murdering five small children. They snatched these children off the street, sexually abused them and tortured them to death. They are infamous for having buried the bodies at Saddleworth Moor.

Human evil and natural evil can often work together, with human evil making natural evil worse – or better! For example, the suffering caused by an earthquake or floods can be made worse by people looting, but it can be made more bearable by people showing compassion and making personal sacrifices to help those who are suffering.

It is important to remember that:

**'evil' is a cause of suffering: 'suffering' is a result of evil.**

Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes are just some of the deadly hazards we are exposed to on Earth. As well as being dangerous to humans, these events shape our planet and affect where and how we live. Volcanoes are thought to have played an important role in the emergence of life. They enrich soils, making the land around them good places to grow crops. Earthquakes signal the movement of Earth's tectonic plates, which build mountains (including volcanoes). Fault lines are often rich in minerals – for example, gold is found along the San Andreas Fault in California.



Flood



Tsunami



Richard Dawkins

Called "**the most famous atheist of our time**", Dawkins claims that the randomness of natural evil and disease is **PROOF ENOUGH** that **A GOD CANNOT EXIST!**