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What is the Cosmological Argument?	An argument for the existence of God that suggests everything has a cause, and there must be a first cause, which is God.
Who is most commonly associated with the Cosmological Argument?	Thomas Aquinas, particularly in his "Five Ways" outlined in Summa Theologica.
What is Aquinas' First Way?	The Argument from Motion: everything in motion was moved by something else, leading to the need for an unmoved mover (God).
What is Aquinas' Second Way?	The Argument from Causation: every effect has a cause, and there must be a first uncaused cause (God).

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What is Aquinas' Third Way?

The Argument from Contingency: contingent beings rely on something else for their existence, so there must be a necessary being (God).

What is meant by "contingent being"?

A being that depends on something else for its existence and could cease to exist.

What is meant by "necessary being"?

A being that must exist and cannot not exist; its existence is not dependent on anything else.

What is the Kalam Cosmological Argument?

An Islamic version that argues the universe had a beginning and therefore must have a cause for its existence. It has been further developed by modern philosophers such as William Lane Craig.

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What is J.L. Mackie's general critique of the Cosmological Argument?

Mackie argued that the Cosmological Argument assumes causation applies universally without sufficient justification. He also criticised the leap from a cause to identifying that cause as God, calling it an unwarranted assumption.

Who is a key modern proponent of the Kalam Argument?

William Lane Craig.

What does the Kalam Argument claim about infinity?

It argues that an actual infinite cannot exist, so the universe must have had a beginning.

What is Leibniz's Principle of Sufficient Reason?

The principle that everything must have a reason or explanation for its existence.

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What is a common criticism of the Cosmological Argument?

It assumes the universe needs a cause but does not explain why God does not need one.

What did David Hume argue against the Cosmological Argument?

He questioned why the universe itself could not be a necessary being.

What is Bertrand Russell's "brute fact" criticism?

He argued that the universe "just is" and requires no further explanation.

What is the fallacy of composition?

The error of assuming that what is true of parts must also be true of the whole (e.g., every part of the universe has a cause, so the universe must have a cause).

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<p>How does quantum mechanics challenge the Cosmological Argument?</p>	<p>Quantum mechanics suggests that some events, like particle behaviour, may occur without a clear cause.</p>
<p>What is the Big Bang theory's relevance to the Cosmological Argument?</p>	<p>It supports the idea that the universe had a beginning, which aligns with the argument's claim that the universe needs a cause.</p>
<p>What type of argument is the Cosmological Argument?</p>	<p>It is an a posteriori argument, meaning it is based on empirical observation and experience.</p>

Advice for using these flashcards:

- Review the flashcards regularly to reinforce your understanding of the Cosmological Argument.
- Use them to test yourself or with a study partner to improve recall and comprehension.
- Focus on understanding the key concepts, thinkers, and criticisms to prepare for essay questions.
- Consider making additional notes on areas you find challenging for deeper learning.