Intro to Philosophy

Review for Exam 1
What is an “Argument?”

• A set of statements that purport to lead to a conclusion.

• There are two kinds of Arguments: Inductive and Deductive.
Arguments

Deductive

- An argument in which the premises are claimed to support the conclusion in such a way that it is structurally impossible for the premises to be true and the conclusion false.

Inductive

- Has a set of premises which provides evidential support for the conclusion.

- An argument in which the premises are claimed to support the conclusion in such a way that it is structurally improbable that the premises be true and the conclusion false.
Inductive Argument

1) If A, then probably B.
2) A.
3) Therefore, probably B.

1) Most men have two legs.
2) Tim is a man.
3) Therefore, Tim probably has two legs.
Deductive Argument

1) If A, then B.
2) A.
3) Therefore, B.

1) If $S$ is a triangle, then $S$ is trilateral.
2) $S$ is a triangle
3) Therefore, $S$ is trilateral.
For Deductive Arguments…

• Validity = A structural property of a deductive argument such that If all of the premises were true then the conclusion couldn’t be false.

• Soundness = A valid deductive argument with true premises.
A Priori vs. A Posteriori

- These are different ways/modes of evidential support.
- In what way does A support B?
- What is the nature of the evidential support?
Examples

• The earth revolves around the sun.  
  – A posteriori
• All bachelors are unmarried males.  
  – A priori
• 2+2=4  
  – A priori
• If all A’s are B’s, and all B’s are C’s, then all A’s are C’s.  
  – A priori
• Momentum = Mass x Velocity  
  – A posteriori
Anselm’s Ontological Argument

1) God is The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being.
2) The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being exists in the understanding.
3) It is greater to exist in reality than merely in the understanding.
4) Suppose that The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being does not exist in reality.
5) If (4), then The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being is not-The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being.
   (But this is a contradiction and therefore cannot be!)
6) Thus it is not the case that The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being does not exist in reality.

7) Therefore, The-Greatest-Conceivable-Being (i.e. God) exists in reality.
Gaunilo’s Objection to the Argument

• There must be something wrong with the argument as a whole.
• It proves too much!
• The same reasoning could be applied to things that obviously don’t exist, E.g., the greatest conceivable island.
The Cosmological Argument

• An a posteriori argument that seeks to demonstrate the existence of a First Cause to the cosmos.
Aquinas’ Cosmological Argument: The Second Way

1) Some things are caused to exist.
2) Nothing can cause itself to exist.
3a) If there were no first cause, nothing else would have happened & therefore nothing would be happening now.
3b) But things are happening now.
3c) Thus the series cannot go on to infinity.

4) Therefore, there is a First Cause, i.e., an uncaused causer.
Objection!

The Second Way
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2) Nothing can cause itself to exist.
3a) If there were no first cause, nothing else would have happened & therefore nothing would be happening now.
3b) But things are happening now.
3c) Thus the series cannot go on to infinity.

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Objection to the Second Way
• (3a) begs the question!
• What does it mean to beg the question?
  – When the arguer assumes the very point he is trying to prove.
  – In other words, it is circular!
Samuel Clarke’s Version

1) Suppose that everything that exists is a part of an infinite series of dependent beings.

2) If (1), then there is no explanation for the entire series that comes from “outside” of the series, since by hypothesis the series is all there is.

3) If (1), then there is no explanation for the entire series that comes from “inside” the series.

4) If (2) & (3) are true, then the entire series has no explanation at all.

5) But (4) is absurd!

6) Therefore, (1) is false. (i.e., there must be a necessary being that exists outside of the natural order)
Objection!

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2) If (1), then there is no explanation for the entire series that comes from “outside” of the series, since by hypothesis the series is all there is.
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4) If (2) & (3) are true, then the entire series has no explanation at all.
5) But (4) is absurd!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why suppose that (5) is true?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is it really all that absurd to think that there must be an explanation?</td>
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6) Therefore, (1) is false. (i.e., there must be a necessary being that exists outside of the natural order)
The Problem of Evil

1) God is omnibenevolent, so He would prefer to create a world with no evil.
2) God is omniscient, so He would know about all of the evil that can, would, and will occur.
3) God is omnipotent, so He would be able to create a world with no evil.
4) Evil exists in the world.

Therefore, God does not exist.
Objection!

• Richard Swinburne offers a theodicy.
• What is a theodicy?
  – An explanation as to why the existence of evil is consistent with the existence of God.
Swinburne

• According to Swinburne, evil is not just a lack/absence of goodness.
• Evil is a positive reality, and therefore needs to be explained.
• Examples of positive states:
  – Light, heat, etc…
• Examples of negative states:
  – Darkness, coldness, emptiness etc… (absences)
Evil

Moral Evil
• Evil brought about by acts of free will.
  – Murder.
  – Theft.
  – Rape.
  – The Holocaust.

Natural Evil
• Evil brought about natural disasters.
  – Earthquakes.
  – Tornados.
  – Floods.
Swinburne

• It is intrinsically good to have free will since it allows us to heroically care for others.
• For **moral evil**: Living in a world with other free agents puts us in the care of these other agents.
• For **natural evil**: Living in a world with natural evil is what gives us the opportunity to use our free will to aid others.
• It is honorable to live in a world where we could be called upon at any moment to do our duty and be courageous and compassionate.
Animals

• Even though we have no reason to think that animals have free will, there are still things are worthwhile to them that require pain and suffering:
  – Finding a mate.
  – Going through perils to build a nest for younglings.
  – Other intentional activities.
Good Luck!