

Candidate 1 evidence

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a)

- The teleological argument is an argument for proving the existence of God. It is also known as the argument from design and states that the universe was designed specifically to hold intelligent life.
- The argument was popularised by William Paley, who compared the universe to an eyeball, but most famously a watch. Paley stated that watches are complex objects and if one takes a watch apart, one would find the intricate mechanisms built that give the watch a purpose.
- Paley split the argument into two - qua regularity and qua purpose. The former, qua regularity, involves the idea that everything in the universe has some form of order and complex uniformity, such as planetary orbits or alignment.
- The latter, qua purpose, involves the idea that everything in the universe serves a purpose and has some form of function. For example, trees to produce oxygen or eyes to see.
- A development of the teleological argument is the Anthropic Principle, first introduced by F.R. Tennant. The principle can be split into two - weak and strong. The weak anthropic principle involves knowing the universe is able to foster intelligent life as we are living in it. The strong anthropic principle involves believing that everything in the universe was designed to a tee. Even if the tiniest of details was off, such as the charge of an electron, then the universe would not have been able to sustain life.

b)

- "But the design argument still lives" This quote implies that the teleological argument is still present and prominent as a case for the existence of God.
- "as an argument that the precise structure of laws and constants that seem uniquely fitted to produce life" This quote implies that the teleological argument attempts to prove God's existence through observing the intricate systems set in place that all work together to foster intelligent life.
- "by a process of evolution is highly improbable" This quote implies that the argument that humans evolved into adapting for the universe is very unlikely due to the intricate nature of physics and nature's laws.
- "The existence of a designer or creator God" This quote implies that the presence of an intricate designer or creator, such as God, is responsible for 'manufacturing the universe'.
- "makes this much less improbable" This quote implies that if a God or designer were to exist, then the teleological argument would become more believable and that the universe may have been crafted for life.

c)

- “But the design argument still lives” I agree with this quote as I believe the teleological argument is a valid argument in proving God’s existence. I do not think it is a successful argument, but neither are its counterarguments, despite them being more probable.
- “as an argument that the precise structure of laws and constants that seem uniquely fitted to produce life” I disagree with this quote as I believe that the universe only seems fitted to produce life as we are living in it and have become accustomed to its nature. I believe humans evolved for the universe, not the other way around.
- “by a process of evolution is highly improbable” I disagree with this quote as I believe evolution and natural selection is the more probable explanation when discussing the intricacy of the universe.
- “The existence of a designer or creator God” I disagree with this quote as I do not believe that God helped design the universe in an intricate way so that it holds life. I believe it came about by chance and humans learned to adapt to it through trial and error.
- “makes this much less improbable” I agree with this quote to an extent as if God or any intelligent designer were to exist, then the teleological argument would be coherent and more probable.