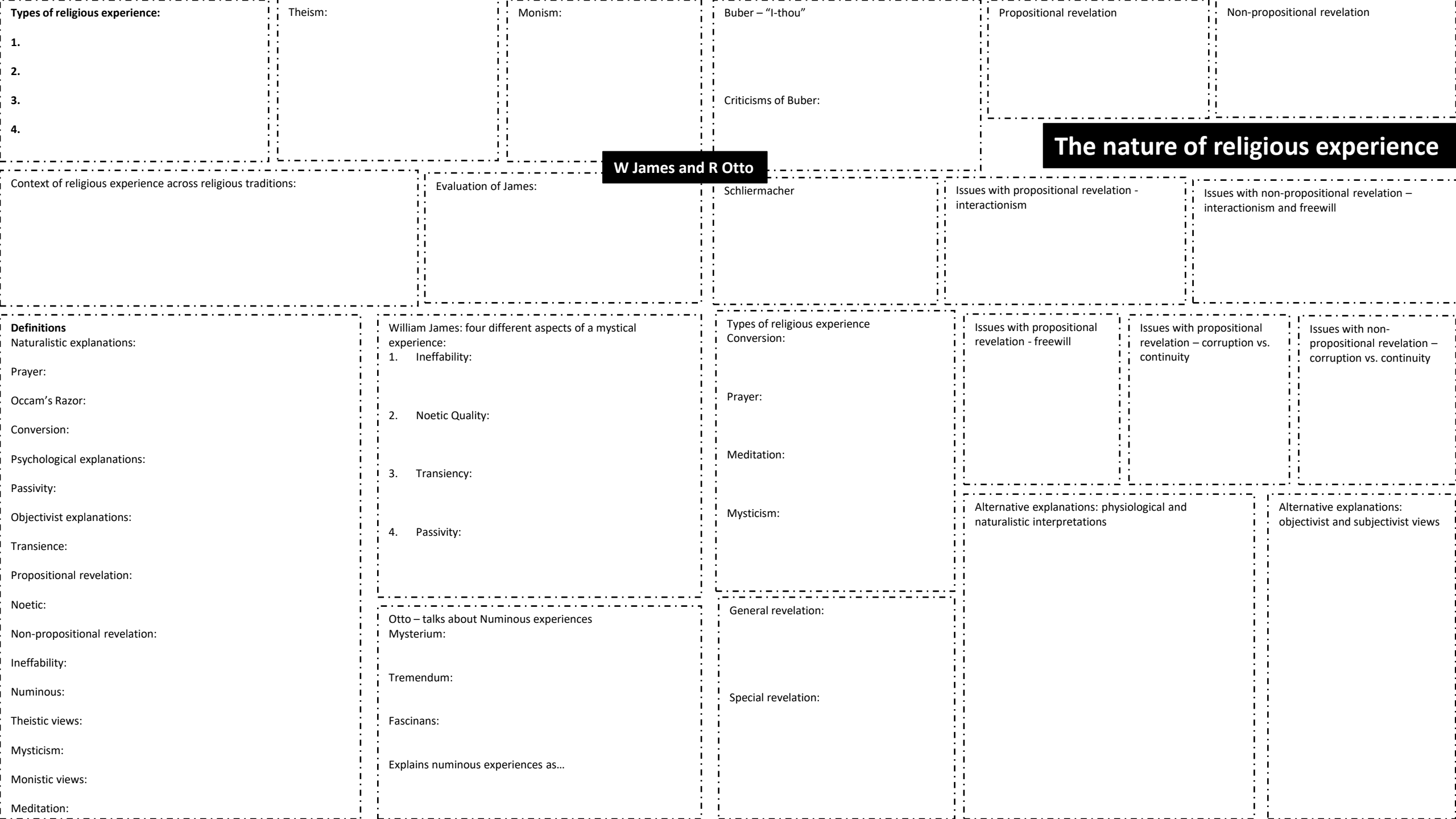


# Cosmological argument

## Motion Causation Contingency

## Aquinas Kant Hume





Inductive reasoning based on evidence

The value of role of testimony to religious experience:

**Swinburne, Hick, Persinger, Dawkins**

# Influence of religious experience as an argument for the existence of God

The link between appearances, how things seem, how things really are and conclusions drawn from experience about reality and existence

Strengths and weaknesses of religious experience as an argument for the existence of God

Criticisms of religious experience

Freud:

Can religious experience show that God exists?

YES

NO

*Religious context –*

*Sensory experience –*

Marx:

*Complexity of interpretations –*

Hume:

*Issues of probability and proof –*

Dawkins:

*Nature of God –*

Culturally specific:

Testimony

*Limitations of language –*

Criticisms of religious experience: Persinger's helmet

Cumulative argument

*Lack of uniformity of experiences –*

Credulity – Swinburne says there's only three types of evidence that should be taken as rendering someone's testimony unreliable:

1.

2.

3.

Response to the criticisms:

Evaluation:

Natural evil:  
  
E.g.  
  
Moral evil:  
  
E.g.

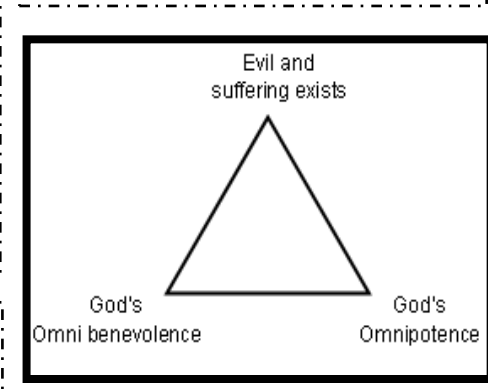
Epicurus quote:

Logical problem of evil:

Evidential problem of evil:

Mackie's inconsistent triad:

Steps to Mackie's argument:  
P1:  
  
P2:  
  
P3:  
  
C1:  
  
C2:  
  
P3:  
  
C3:



# Problem of evil and suffering

Hume  
Mackie

**Freewill defence**  
Mackie asks how can this count as a solution to the problem of evil, given that God created the freewilled creatures?  
A theist's response is...

Mackie then questions...

Mackie believes the freewill debate exposes a contradiction in an omnipotent God:

Strengths of Mackie:

Weaknesses of Mackie:

Hume calls evil 'the rock of atheism', meaning...

His book *Dialogues concerning natural religion* takes the form of a play, in which the character Philo presents the problem of evil.

Hume's character Philo addresses the evidential problem of evil by using the analogy of the Stranger:

Also the house full of imperfections:

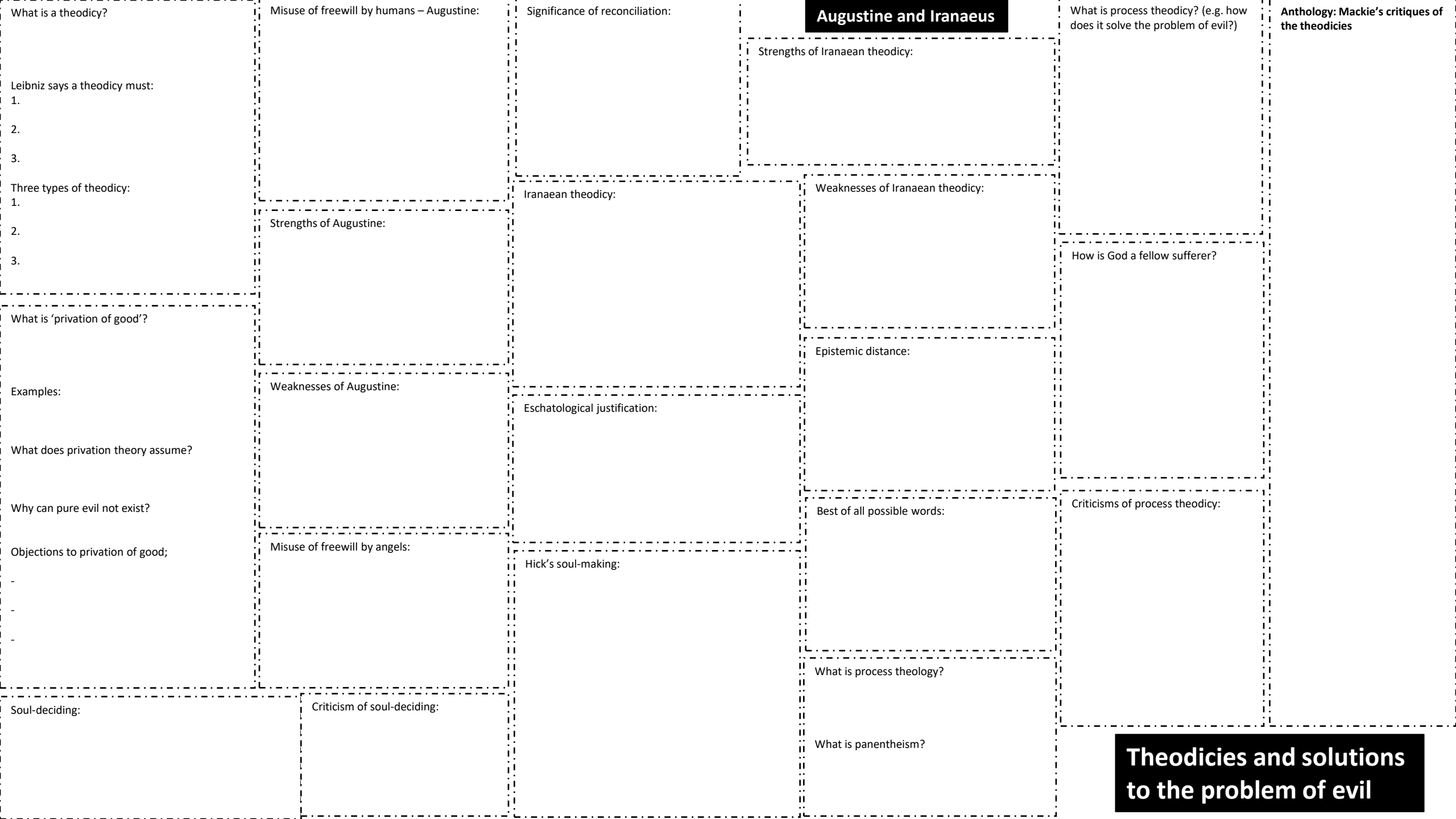
Weaknesses of Hume:

The nature of evil and suffering in Judaism:

Islam:

Hinduism:

Strengths of Hume:



**Augustine and Iranaeus**

**Anthology: Mackie's critiques of the theodicies**

What is a theodicy?

Misuse of freewill by humans – Augustine:

Significance of reconciliation:

Strengths of Iranaean theodicy:

What is process theodicy? (e.g. how does it solve the problem of evil?)

Leibniz says a theodicy must:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three types of theodicy:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Strengths of Augustine:

Iranaean theodicy:

Weaknesses of Iranaean theodicy:

How is God a fellow sufferer?

What is 'privation of good'?

Weaknesses of Augustine:

Eschatological justification:

Epistemic distance:

Examples:

What does privation theory assume?

Why can pure evil not exist?

Misuse of freewill by angels:

Hick's soul-making:

Best of all possible worlds:

Criticisms of process theodicy:

Objections to privation of good;

- 
- 
- 

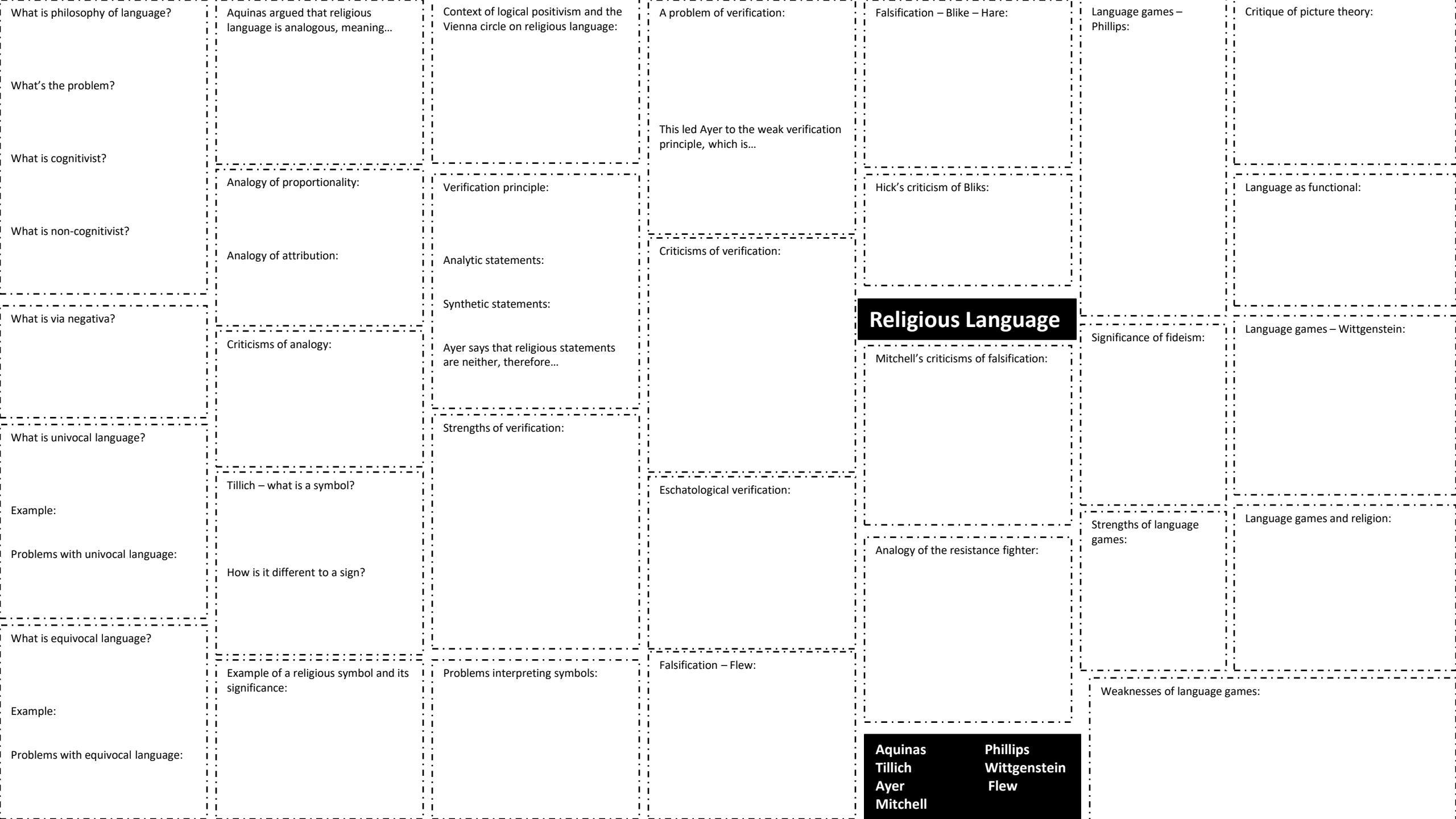
Soul-deciding:

Criticism of soul-deciding:

What is process theology?

What is panentheism?

**Theodicies and solutions to the problem of evil**



**Religious Language**

What is philosophy of language?  
 What's the problem?  
 What is cognitivist?  
 What is non-cognitivist?

Aquinas argued that religious language is analogous, meaning...  
 Analogy of proportionality:  
 Analogy of attribution:

Context of logical positivism and the Vienna circle on religious language:  
 Verification principle:  
 Analytic statements:  
 Synthetic statements:

A problem of verification:  
 This led Ayer to the weak verification principle, which is...  
 Criticisms of verification:

Falsification – Blike – Hare:  
 Hick's criticism of Bliks:

Language games – Phillips:

Critique of picture theory:  
 Language as functional:

What is via negativa?

Criticisms of analogy:

Ayer says that religious statements are neither, therefore...  
 Strengths of verification:

Eschatological verification:

Mitchell's criticisms of falsification:

Significance of fideism:

Language games – Wittgenstein:

What is univocal language?  
 Example:  
 Problems with univocal language:

Tillich – what is a symbol?  
 How is it different to a sign?

Problems interpreting symbols:

Falsification – Flew:

Analogy of the resistance fighter:

Strengths of language games:

Language games and religion:

What is equivocal language?  
 Example:  
 Problems with equivocal language:

Example of a religious symbol and its significance:

Weaknesses of language games:

Aquinas  
 Tillich  
 Ayer  
 Mitchell

Phillips  
 Wittgenstein  
 Flew





**Works of scholars: context to critiques of religious belief**

Weak atheism:  
  
Strong atheism:  
  
Agnosticism:

What is a functional explanation?  
  
What is a projection explanation?

Dawkins' critique of religious belief:  
  
How does Melvin Tinker oppose Dawkins?

What was the Deist Project?  
  
Explain the context of the Enlightenment:

Kant

Why might people be atheist?

Emile Durkheim's critique of religious belief:  
  
Criticism of Durkheim:

Kierkegaard:  
  
Nietzsche:

How and why did the era of 'philosophical theology' become the 'era of philosophy of religion'?

Scheiermacher

What is the burden of proof?

Karl Marx's critique of religious belief:  
  
Criticisms of Marx:

Hume:

What is Deism?  
  
What is Scholasticism?

Hegel

**Dawkins and Westphal**

Copleston's argument from contingency:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

Copleston argues that it is possible to distinguish between a necessary and a contingent being. How does Russell respond?

Good Copleston quotes:

**Russell's criticism**

'There is no reason why everything needs to have an explanation!'

'Everything could just hold everything else together!'

'Why should there be just one explanation?'

'It doesn't have to be God that holds everything together.'

'Why does this ultimate being have to exist?'

**Copleston's response**

What Leibniz' principle of sufficient reason?

Copleston argues that all things must have a cause for their existence and therefore there must be a necessary being to provide a reason for all this dependency. How does Russell respond?

Good Russell quotes:

Copleston on religious experience:

Copleston appeals to three factors:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How do Copleston and Russell disagree about the principle of sufficient reason?

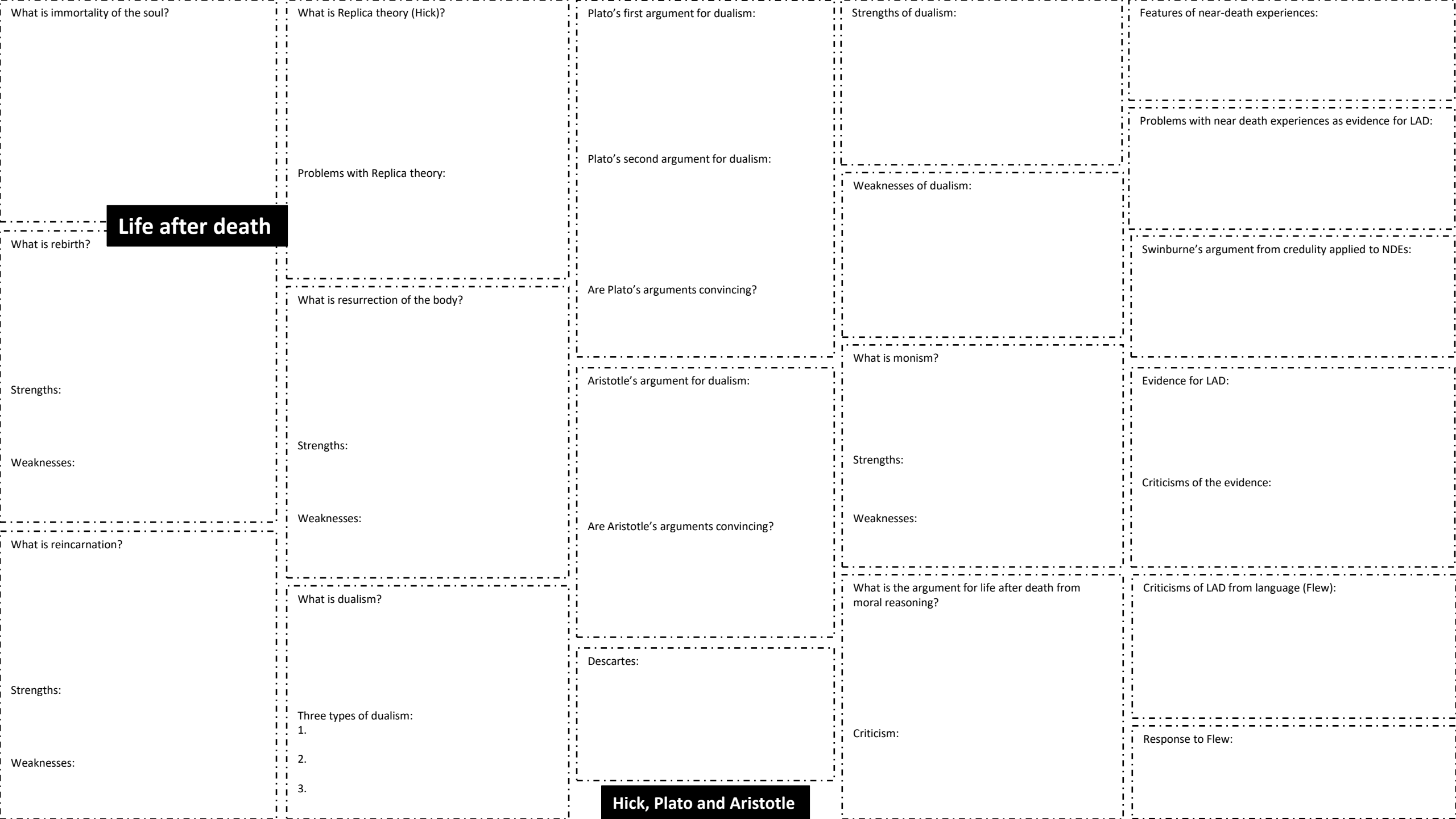
Copleston argues that the universe is the totality of the objects inside of it. How does Russell respond?

Russell's criticism of Copleston's points on religious experience:

How are these ideas applied to issues in religion and belief?

**Works of scholars: Copleston vs. Russell**

# Life after death



<p>Explain scientific methodologies:</p>	<p>Is the transgression of natural law enough to call an event a miracle?</p>	<p>Hume's criticisms of miracles – enlightenment context:</p>	<p>What is the Big Bang theory?</p>	<p>What is intelligent design?</p>
<p><b>Religion and Science</b></p> <p>Karl Popper What is the difference between science and pseudoscience?</p>	<p>Religious significance of miracles Swinburne:</p> <p>John Locke:</p> <p>Gareth Moore:</p>	<p>Hume's criticisms of miracles:</p> <p>Responses to Hume:</p>	<p>Evidence for the Big Bang:</p>	<p>Strengths:</p> <p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p>What are miracles?</p> <p>Hume's definition:</p> <p>Mackie's definition:</p>	<p>Ray Holland – beneficial coincidence</p>	<p>Responses to Hume:</p>	<p>What is steady state theory?</p> <p>What is the theory of evolution?</p>	<p>What is irreducible complexity?</p> <p>What is creationism?</p>
<p>How are the laws of nature violated?</p>	<p>Aquinas' view of miracles</p>	<p>Other argument against miracles:</p>	<p><b>Darwin and Dawkins</b></p> <p>What is the Gaia Hypothesis?</p> <p>Analysis:</p>	<p>What is cosmological constant?</p>