**WJEC AS Level - Teleological Argument-** what you need to know

**Historical Background**

* Plato (Demiurge and cosmic craftsman)
* Aristotle (unmoved mover, four cases, reference to intelligent creator)

**Traditional Arguments – rooted in analogy**

* Aquinas (his 5th way, heavily influenced by Aristotle’s four causes)
* William Paley ( Watch analogy and reference to the orbit of the planets and human eye)

**Criticisms**

* David Hume’s 5 main critiques (published 22years before Paley’s argument!)
* Kant and Mill (link with 2 of Hume’s critiques
* Evolution (not Darwin explicitly but his theory did provide an alternative)
* Dawkins (Natural Selection means no need for designer, design only apparent)

**Response to criticisms**

* Move away from analogy to using science as evidence (see below)
* Theistic evolution and irreducible complexity
* Suffering is not pointless but is meaningful

**Modern Arguments – move away from use of analogy as problematic. Evidence in science**

* Aesthetic Principle: FR Tennant and Swinburne ( Natural Selection cannot explain beauty or human appreciation of beauty, a sign of a benevolent designer)
* Anthropic Principle: R Swinburne, Polkinghorne, Paul Davies and Arthur Brown (Science shows us how perfect the conditions are for human existence, science and maths also show us the chances of that occurring by chance- conclusion being it is more probable to have been created that way for our specific existence than by chance)

**Part B issues**

* Strengths and weaknesses of the argument
* Relationship with science- to what extent does it weaken or support the argument
* How persuasive / effective is the argument
* The arguments ability to survive and adapt