**AQA Specification: The Existence of God and Revelation**

**3.2.1.3 Theme C: The existence of God and revelation**

Students should study religious teachings, and religious and philosophical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism:

* Visions.
* Miracles.
* Nature as general revelation.

**Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God**

* The Design argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.
* The First Cause argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.
* The argument from miracles, including its strengths and weaknesses, and one example of a miracle.
* Evil and suffering as an argument against the existence of God.
* Arguments based on science against the existence of God.

**The nature of the divine and revelation**

* Special revelation as a source of knowledge about the divine (God, gods or ultimate reality) including visions and one example of a vision.
* Enlightenment as a source of knowledge about the divine.
* General revelation: nature and scripture as a way of understanding the divine.
* Different ideas about the divine that come from these sources:
	+ omnipotent and omniscient
	+ personal and impersonal
	+ immanent and transcendent.
* The value of general and special revelation and enlightenment as sources of knowledge about the divine, including:
	+ the problems of different ideas about the divine arising from these experiences
	+ alternative explanations for the experiences, and the possibility that the people who claimed to have them were lying or mistaken.