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## **Theology Q1**

Is atheism implausible?

### **Key Issues and Questions to Address**

#### 1. Definitional Issues

What precisely is meant by "atheism"? (Lack of belief vs. active disbelief)

What constitutes "plausibility" in this context?

#### 2. Epistemological Considerations

Burden of proof: Does it rest with theists or atheists?

Standards of evidence: What counts as sufficient evidence for or against God's existence?

How does Locke's empiricism impact the plausibility of atheism?

#### 3. Metaphysical Questions

Can the universe exist without a creator?

Does the contingency of the universe suggest a necessary being?



Is materialism/naturalism sufficient to explain reality?

#### 4. Moral and Existential Dimensions

Can objective morality exist without God? (Locke's view on natural law)

Does atheism provide adequate grounds for meaning and purpose?

Locke's argument that atheism undermines social contracts

#### 5. Scientific Considerations

Does scientific explanation eliminate the need for God?

Fine-tuning arguments and their implications

The relationship between evolution and theistic belief

#### 6. Practical/Pragmatic Aspects

Pascal's Wager and pragmatic arguments for belief



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Social and psychological benefits/costs of atheism vs. theism

Locke's concern about the social implications of atheism

## 7. Historical Context

How has the plausibility of atheism changed throughout history?

The impact of the Enlightenment on religious belief

Locke's historical context and its influence on his views