Teleological Argument – Study Guide

1. **Teleological** is built from two Greek words, *telos* and *logos*. *Telos* means _end/purpose_, while *logos* means _logic/rationality_. Therefore, the teleological arguments aims to explain a thing’s _purpose_ or _design_.

2. Three verses that speak of God’s creative power are
   a. Psalm 19:1
   b. Genesis 1:1
   c. Romans 1:18-20

3. The **Teleological Argument** does not focus on _evolution_ or _Darwin_. Rather, it concentrates on the _fine-tuning_ of the universe. By changing the focus, the Christian avoids the _emotions_ that usually accompany a discussion about evolution. Another benefit is that the skeptic has the _burden of proof_ to explain why the universe is able to _support life_ in the first place.

4. Write out the teleological argument.
   a. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
   b. It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
   c. Therefore, it is due to design.

5. Define _fine-tuning_.
   a. Certain constants and quantities in the universe fall into an extraordinarily narrow range of values for the universe to be life-permitting.

6. What are the _two kinds_ of fine-tuning? Briefly describe each one.
   a. Constants
      i. When certain laws of nature are expressed as mathematical equations, we see certain constants, or unchanging quantities, featured.
   b. Arbitrary Quantities
      i. When we look at the origin of the universe, we notice certain quantities that are initial conditions, which the laws of nature then operate on. The quantities are not determined by the laws of nature, and could have had different values.
7. Examples of fine-tuning
   a. Weak force
      i. Changing this value on the order of one part in $10^{100}$ would prevent a life-permitting universe from forming.
      ii. Divide 1 by $10^{100}$ to obtain this value.
      iii. $0.00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000001$
   b. Cosmological Constant
      i. Changing this value on the order of one part in $10^{120}$ would prevent a life-permitting universe from forming.
   c. Low Entropy Initial Condition
      i. Arbitrary Quantity
      ii. The odds of this low-entropy state existing by chance along is on the order of one chance out of $10^{10(123)}$

8. Physical necessity means the quantities and constants _must_ have the values they do. _Chance_ means the values are there by accident.

9. Premise 1 is _unobjectionable_, since it contains all _alternatives_.

10. Physical necessity as an alternative seems to be _implausible_, because the physical constants and arbitrary quantities are not _dependent_ on the laws of nature. They could have been different. It is only put forward as a mere _possibility_.

11. Chance as an alternative is implausible, because the _chances_ that a life-permitting universe existing are so _astronomically low_ it becomes unreasonable to hold this view.

12. The _Many worlds_, or _multiverse_, hypothesis states that our universe is but one member of a multitude of other universes.

13. What are some responses to the multiverse hypothesis?
   a. The mechanism generating the multiverse would need to be fine-tuned itself.
   b. There is not a shred of evidence