

Medieval Philosophy  
Study Questions  
St. Anselm

1. What were some of the influences (philosophically and theologically) that shaped Anselm as a philosophical theologian? Be sure to consider Lanfranc's influence on Anselm.
2. What is Anselm's ontological argument in chapter two of the *Proslogion*? (Know the premises and conclusion of the argument)
3. How does Anselm define God for the purposes of the ontological argument?
4. What does existence *in re* and existence *in intellectu* mean?
5. What is the difference between a factual and conceptual atheist? How does this distinction relate to Anselm's argument?
6. What is a great-making property? How do great-making properties relate to Anselm's definition of God?
7. In what work does Anselm present his ontological argument? What does Anselm devote the rest of this work to doing, after he presents his alleged proof of the existence of God?
8. What indication is there that Anselm's ontological argument is directed to the theist or Christian, and that it is not an attempt to convince atheists to believe in God?
9. What was Gaunilo's famous objection to Anselm's ontological argument? How is Gaunilo's objection problematic as a criticism of Anselm's ontological argument?
10. In what ways does it seem that Anselm is a cataphatic as opposed to apophatic theologian, that is, one who believes that we're not limited to negative prediction in talking about God but that we can make literally true, positive assertions about God?