



A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES – SUMMER WORK

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks (10 in total) that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

The total time expected to complete all of the tasks set is approximately 10 hours.

Please complete these tasks in the spaces provided in the booklet or on paper and bring them with you to your first lesson in September.

The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all tasks completed
- have students' full names on each sheet
- multiple sheets should be connected together

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks in order to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

Welcome to Religious Studies

Subject outline

The content of the Religious Studies A Level course, focuses specifically on Philosophical and Ethical thinking as well as the Study of Christianity

To do well in this A level you will need to have an interest in the world we live in today and how it has changed and continues to change in terms of beliefs, ideas and practices.

Students will however continue to develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies, as well as maintain and further opportunities to express their ideas both verbally and in writing in lessons and for independent study.

The Russell Group of Universities describe Religious Studies as a subject which provides 'suitable preparation for entry to university education generally' and is therefore seen as a rigorous and challenging A Level to study.

Religious Studies at A Level consists of three units:

Philosophy of Religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences: Plato and Aristotle
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religion & Ethics:

- Normative ethical theories: Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism
- The application of ethical theory to euthanasia and business ethics
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Study of Religion: Christianity

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Assessment

All 3 units have examinations that are taken at the end of Year 2:

Paper 1 - Philosophy of Religion- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 2 - Religion and Ethics- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 3 – Study of Religion – Christianity - 2 hours, 33.3%

EQUIPMENT

In preparation for learning, in addition to the basic equipment list, students should bring the following items to every lesson:

- Religious Studies folder and booklets
- Black pens and a purple pen

Careers & Higher Education

A Level Religious Studies can assist entry to a diverse range of university courses, such as English Literature, History, Psychology and Law. Prospective medical and Bio-Science students find the study of ethics very useful and budding lawyers enjoy the chance to develop their skills in presenting arguments. The wide-ranging skills and knowledge the course provides allows students to move on to a host of further studies and career paths. Areas of work that some students have gone into in the past are law, teaching, journalism, policing and social work as well as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

Useful websites



The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy - <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Philosophy Bites provides an extensive series of excellent podcasts on a variety of topics in Philosophy and Ethics - <http://www.philosophybites.com/>

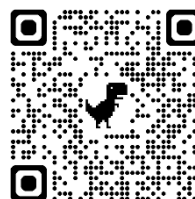


Useful YouTube channels for Philosophy and ethics



Philosophy and ethics ninja:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNUJUJtYwZTSKymLPry08cw?app=desktop>

The Cogito:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheCogito>



Summer work tasks

Please complete the following tasks:

Task 1: Use your previous knowledge and research to define the following terms (This task should take approximately 90 minutes)

Philosophy of Religion

Keyword	Definition
A priori	
A posteriori	
Analogy	
The soul	
Dualism	
Materialism	
Teleological argument	
Cosmological argument	
Ontological argument	
Religious experience	
Mystical experience	
Conversion experience	
Problem of evil and suffering	
Omnipotence	
Omniscience	
(omni)benevolence	
Eternity	
Free will	
Cognitive	
Non cognitive	

Keyword	Definition
Absolutism	
Relativism	
Deontological	
Teleological	
Normative ethics	
Conscience	
Agape	
Postulates	
Immortality	
Utility	
Hedonism	
Sanctity of life	
Quality of life	
Voluntary euthanasia	
Non-voluntary euthanasia	
Business	
Social responsibility	
Whistle-blowing	
Globalisation	
Meta-ethics	
Objective	
Subjective	
Conscience	
Premarital sex	
Extramarital sex	
Homosexuality	

Tasks 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: Video Research Activities

(Each of these tasks should take between 60-90 minutes)

Watch all of the 'Philosophy and Ethics Ninja' videos found in the link below in relation to the following 6 topics - 3 from Philosophy of Religion and 3 from Religion and Ethics:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNUJUJtYwZTSKymLPry08cw?app=desktop>

As you watch each of the videos, create a fact file, mind-map or other preferred presentation form on the following topics:

Philosophy of Religion:

Task 4: Miracles (x 2 videos)

Task 5: Religious Experience (x 4 videos)

Task 6: Problem of Evil (1 video)

Religion and Ethics:

Task 7: Divine Command Theory (x 2 videos)

Task 8: Aquinas' Natural Law (x 6 videos)

Task 9: Situation Ethics (x 6 videos)

You will need to include all philosophical and ethical views, scholarly opinions, key words and terms, key teachings, practical examples, applications to the theories, etc. You will most probably need to pause each of the videos in order to fully produce/collate your notes.

By doing this work, you will establish a good foundation ahead of the course and develop a solid grounding in the key concepts that you will be studying in Year 1 and in turn this will ensure that all work studied in class from September will be more easily embedded into both your knowledge base and understanding, thereby enabling you to develop high-level evaluative skills, that are essential in order to attain the higher grades when it comes to answering exam questions.

Please note: There are additional videos on each of these topics as you scroll further down the page but you do not need to use them unless you want to expand upon your awareness of the topic so as to present an extremely detailed piece of research and to ensure that you feel confident when presenting back your findings in September to your peers.

NB. To access all of the videos, first select 'videos' (where it says 'Home Videos Playlist') and ensure that 'latest' has been highlighted.



Philosophy of Religion

Task 4: Miracles

Definitions and key words

Philosophy of Religion

Task 5: Religious Experience

Definitions and key words

Philosophy of Religion

Task 6: Problem of Evil

Definitions and key words

Religion and Ethics

Task 7: Divine Command Theory

Definitions and key words

Religion and Ethics

Task 8: Natural Law

Definitions and key words

Religion and Ethics

Task 9: Situation Ethics

Definitions and key words

Task 10: REFLECTION (This task should take 15-20 minutes)

What university courses could Religious Studies A level support you in applying for?

What are some things that you would like to know more about in Religious Studies?

What are some of things that you really enjoyed in your Religious Studies GCSE?

What are some of things that you would like to improve, during your learning in Religious Studies?

What can you do with this course?