

A level Philosophy and Ethics

Year 12 Handbook and Summer Tasks

Instructions:

This booklet contains clear information about starting this A level. Please read it carefully before starting in September.

Please complete all of the tasks set in this booklet before beginning your A-Level Philosophy and Ethics course in September.

Before joining the course officially, this book must be totally complete and handed in on your first day.

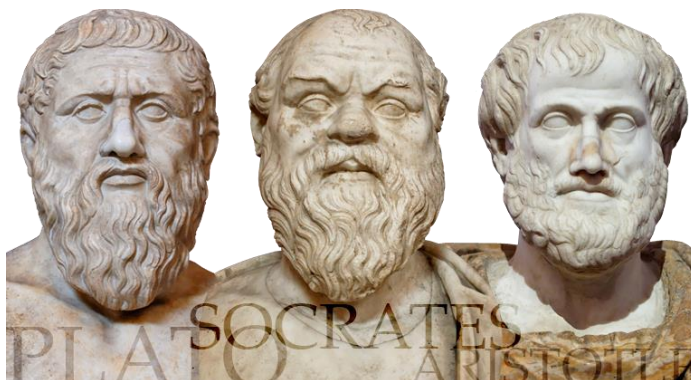
Failure to complete this booklet will result in your being sent away from your first lesson.

The course is divided into three sections- **Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian thought.**

Any questions/ problems, please email :

mcain@rodingvalley.net

awheaton@rodingvalley.net

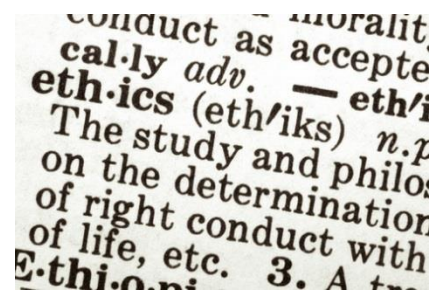
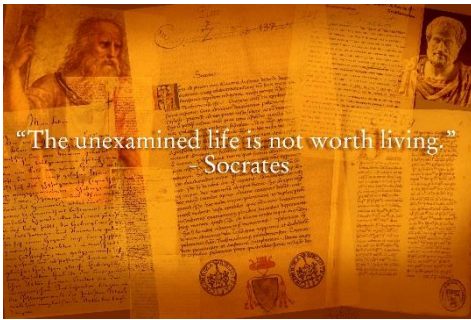


Subject overview - OCR A Level

Assessment overview

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Philosophy of religion (01)	120	2 hours	33⅓%
Religion and ethics (02)	120	2 hours	33⅓%
Developments in religious thought (03-07)	120	2 hours	33⅓%

Students must complete all components (01, 02 and one from 03 to 07) to be awarded the OCR A Level in Religious Studies.



Content overview

Component 01: Philosophy of religion

Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- 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.

Component 02: Religion and ethics

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Component 03: Developments in religious thought

- Christianity (03)

Philosophy PLCs for year 12

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes complete</u>	<u>Cue cards / Mind map</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>Amber</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Q done</u>	<u>Action needed?</u>
Ancient philosophical influences							
<u>Plato</u>							
The philosophical views of Plato, in relation to understanding of reality							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato's reliance on reason as opposed to the senses 							
The Forms							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nature of the Forms; hierarchy of the Forms 							
The analogy of the cave							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> details of the analogy, its purpose and relation to the theory of the Forms 							
<u>Aristotle</u>							
The philosophical views of Aristotle in relation to understanding							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristotle's use of teleology 							
The four causes							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material, formal, efficient and final causes 							
The Prime Mover							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nature of Aristotle's Prime Mover and connections between this and the final cause of reality Comparison and evaluation of Plato's Form of the Good and Aristotle's Prime Mover Comparison and evaluation of Plato's reliance on reason (rationalism) and Aristotle's 							
Use of the senses (empiricism) in their attempts to make sense of reality							
<u>Soul, mind and body</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The philosophical language of soul, mind and body in the thinking of Plato and Aristotle Metaphysics of consciousness, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o substance dualism o materialism 							

- Plato’s view of the soul as the essential and immaterial part of a human, temporarily united with the body

- Aristotle’s view of the soul as the form of the body; the way the body behaves and lives; something which cannot be separated from the body

- The idea that mind and body are distinct substances

- Descartes’ proposal of material and spiritual substances as a solution to the mind/soul and body problem

- The idea that mind and consciousness can be fully explained by physical or material interactions

- The rejection of a soul as a spiritual substance

- Materialist critiques of dualism, and dualist responses to materialism

- Whether the concept of ‘soul’ is best understood metaphorically or as a reality

- The idea that any discussion about the mind-body distinction is a category error

Arguments based on observation

- The teleological argument

details of this argument including reference to:

- o Aquinas’ Fifth Way

- o Paley

- The cosmological argument

details of this argument including reference to:

- o Aquinas’ first three ways

- Challenges to arguments from observation

details of Hume’s criticisms of these arguments for the existence of God from natural religion

- The challenge of evolution

- Whether a posteriori or a priori is the more persuasive style of argument

- Whether or not teleological arguments can be defended against the challenge of ‘chance’

- Whether cosmological arguments simply jump to the

- Whether or not there are logical fallacies in these arguments that cannot be overcome

Arguments based on reason

- The ontological argument

- Details of this argument including reference to:

- o Anselm

- o Gaunilo’s criticisms

- o Kant’s criticisms

- Whether a posteriori or a priori is the more persuasive style of argument

- Whether or not existence can be treated as a predicate

- Whether or not the ontological argument justifies belief

- Whether or not there are logical fallacies in this argument that cannot be overcome

<u>Religious experience</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and influence of religious experience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o mystical experience o conversion experience • Different ways in which individual religious experiences can be understood 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of mystical and conversion experiences and views about these, 							
Views and main conclusions of William James							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As union with a greater power • Psychological effect such as illusion • The product of a physiological effect 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether personal testimony or witness is enough to support the validity of religious experiences 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not corporate religious experiences might be considered more reliable or valid than individual experiences 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not religious experience provides a basis for belief in God or a greater power 							
<u>The problem of evil</u>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including its logical (the inconsistency between divine attributes and the presence of evil) and evidential (the evidence of so much terrible evil in the world) aspects 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustine's use of original perfection and the Fall 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hick's reworking of the Irenaean theodicy which gives some purpose to natural evil in enabling human beings to reach divine likeness 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not Augustine's view of the origins of moral and natural evils is enough to spare God from blame for evils in the world 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not the need to create a 'vale of soul-making' can justify the existence or extent of evils 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the logical or evidential aspects of the problem of evil pose the greater challenge to belief 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not it is possible to successfully defend monotheism in the face of evil 							

Ethics PLCs

ETHICAL THEORY							
the concepts of absolutist and relativist morality;							
what it means to call an ethical theory absolutist and objective;							
what it means to call an ethical theory relativist and subjective;							
the terms deontological and teleological.							
Natural Law							
Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The origins of the significant concept of telos in Aristotle and it's religious development in the writing of Aquinas 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The four tiers of law and how they are related 1. Eternal Law: the principles by which God made and controls the universe and which are only fully known to God 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Divine Law: the law God revealed in the Bible, particularly the 10 Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Natural Law: the moral law of God within human nature that is discoverable through the use of reason 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Human Law: The laws of nations 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The precepts: what they are and how they are related · Key precept (do good/avoid evil) · Five primary precepts (preservation of life / ordering society / worship God / education / reproduction) · Secondary precepts 							
Situation Ethics							
Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:							
Fletchers Situation Ethics including							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Origins of agape in the NT and it's religious development in the writing of Fletcher 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Six Propositions 							

Knowledge of God's Existence*

• Natural knowledge of God's existence: o as an innate human sense of the divine as all humans are made in God's image they have an inbuilt capacity and desire to know God, including:

human openness to beauty and goodness as aspects of God

human intellectual ability to reflect on and recognise God's existence

• what can be known of God can be seen in the apparent design and purpose of nature

• Revealed knowledge of God's existence:

through faith and God's grace

revealed knowledge of God in Jesus Christ

as humans are sinful and have finite minds, natural knowledge is not sufficient to gain full knowledge of God; knowledge of God is possible through:

faith

grace as God's gift of knowledge of himself through the Holy Spirit

• full and perfect knowledge of God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and through the life of the Church and the Bible

whether or not God can be known through reason alone

• whether or not faith is sufficient reason for belief in God's existence

• whether or not the Fall has completely removed all natural human knowledge of God

• whether or not natural knowledge of God is the same as revealed knowledge of God

• whether or not belief in God's existence is sufficient to put one's trust in him

The person of Jesus Christ*					
• Jesus Christ's authority as: the Son of God					
• Jesus' divinity as expressed in his: knowledge of God miracles resurrection With reference to Mark 6:47–52 and John 9:1–41 a teacher of wisdom					
• Jesus' moral teaching on: repentance and forgiveness inner purity and moral motivation With reference to Matthew 5:17–48 and Luke 15:11–32 a liberator					
• Jesus' role as liberator of the marginalised and the poor, as expressed in his: challenge to political authority challenge to religious authority With reference to Mark 5:24–34 and Luke 10:25–37					
whether or not Jesus was only a teacher of wisdom					
• whether or not Jesus was more than a political liberator					
• whether or not Jesus' relationship with God was very special or truly unique					
• whether or not Jesus thought he was divine					

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Christian moral principles*							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity of Christian moral reasoning and practices and sources of ethics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Bible as the only authority for Christian ethical practices as the Bible reveals God's will, then only biblical ethical commands must be followed 							
Bible, Church and reason as the sources of Christian ethical practices							
Christian ethics must be a combination of biblical teaching, Church teaching and human reason							
love (agape) as the only Christian ethical principle which governs Christian practices							
Jesus' only command was to love and that human reason must decide how best to apply this							
whether or not Christian ethics are distinctive							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not Christian ethics are personal or communal 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not the principle of love is sufficient to live a good life 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not the Bible is a comprehensive moral guide 							
Christian moral action*							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duty to God and duty to the State 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonhoeffer's teaching on the relationship of Church and State including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obedience, leadership and doing God's will and justification of civil disobedience 							
Church as community and source of spiritual discipline							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonhoeffer's role in the Confessing Church and his own religious community at Finkenwalde 							

Summer Tasks

Instructions

- Complete every task to the best of your ability
- Any questions, please email Mrs Cain or Ms Wheaton
- Complete all tasks in the space provided in this workbook. Unless otherwise specified.
- Bring this booklet to your first day of sixth form – **September 2020**
- You will need this booklet, fully completed in order to attend your first Philosophy and Ethics lesson.

Resources you will need to bring to the lesson:

You will need a folder for each branch of the course:

- Philosophy
- Ethics
- Developments in Christian thought
- You will need writing paper and other stationary.

TASK 1

- Over the course of the A Level you will come across a LOT of names of philosophers. To have a short guide to each one will be priceless.
- Your task is to research the following names and make a **Who's Who Guide To Philosophy**. This can then be printed out and put at the front of your folder next year.
- **For each name you should include the following:**
 - Name –
 - Dates –
 - Famous books/ Writings –
 - A summary of the theory they are famous for (in brackets below) –
 - A picture (optional)
- **Plato (analogy of the cave)(concept of forms)**
- **Aristotle (causes and prime mover)**
- Anselm (first ontological argument) (second ontological argument)
- Rene Descartes (ontological argument)
- **Aquinas (cosmological argument)**
- **David Hume (critique of Aquinas' cosmological argument)**
- Aquinas (Teleological Argument)
- William Paley (Argument from design, teleological argument)
- David Hume (challenge to the teleological argument)
- Charles Darwin (Darwinism as a challenge to the teleological argument)
- **Immanuel Kant (The moral argument)**
- **Sigmund Freud (A Challenge to the Kant's moral argument)**
- **Cardinal John Newman (God as a source of morality)**
- Epicurus (the *Logical* Problem of Evil)
- JL Mackie (the inconsistent triad)
- Augustine of Hippo (soul deciding theodicy)
- Irenaeus of Lyons (soul making theodicy)
- **John Polkinghorne (Religious Cosmology)**
- **Stephen Hawking (Scientific cosmology)**
- **Paul Davies (The Goldilocks Enigma)**
- **Jeremy Bentham - Utilitarianism**
- **John Stuart Mill - Utilitarianism**

TASK 2

- Over the course of the A Level you will come across a lot of philosophical / ethical theories. Your task is to research the following Key terms and make a **Glossary of key words**. This can then be printed out and put at the front of your folder next year.
- For each key term try to write no more than 20-30 words:
- Absolutist Ethics,
- Relativist Ethics,
- Situation Ethics,
- Natural Law,
- Kantian Ethics,
- Divine Command Theory,
- Rule Utilitarianism,
- Act Utilitarianism,
- Deontological approach to ethics,
- Teleological approach to ethics,
- Decalogue,
- Imago Dei,
- Concept of Personhood,
- Euthanasia,
- Business Ethics.
- Analogy
- apophatic way,
- A Posteriori,
- A priori,
- cataphatic way,
- categorical imperative,
- contingent existence,
- determinism,
- Formal cause,
- Plato's Forms
- Final cause
- Hedonic calculus

Task 3

What would you do in each of the following situations - give reasons for your answers.

A Question of Ethics- What Would You Do?

Consider the following scenarios:

1. You witness a car crash. The wreckage is burning, but you may be able to save one of the two passengers. To your horror, you realise that one is your father and the other is a famous cancer specialist on the brink of breakthrough. Who do you save?
1. Your mother comes home with an appalling hat and asks you what you think. She's clearly delighted with her purchase. Do you tell the truth?
1. You're close to a breakthrough with a new medical treatment, but to complete your work you must carry out some particularly slow and painful experiments on animals. What do you do?
1. Your ship goes down and you're lost in the sea with two others, in a life raft. You have no food. Without a supply of food, there's no hope of rescue before you starve to death. Two would survive by eating the third: otherwise, all three will die. What do you do?
1. The parents of a car crash victim allow their son's body to be used for transplants, but only if the parts go to white patients. Do you accept their condition?
1. One night in a concentration camp, a boy is raped and some of his uniform taken away by the rapist. Prisoners who are incorrectly dressed are shot at dawn by the guards. Should he accept his fate or steal from someone else?
1. Siamese twins are born, attached at the abdomen and sharing several major organs. If nothing is done, both will die. If the twins are separated, one will die and one will live. What should be done?
1. A railway drawbridge operator is closing the bridge for the express train that's about to arrive when he sees his son trapped in the machinery. To close the bridge will kill his son, but save the train. To open the bridge will save his son, but the train will not be able to stop in time. What should he do?
1. An unattractive man offers to give a million pounds to the charity of your choice if you spend one night with him. What do you do?

Task 4 : Some Youtube videos to watch and make notes on

Plato

<https://youtu.be/VDiyQub6vpw>

Aristotle

<https://youtu.be/nsgAsw4XGvU>

David Hume

https://youtu.be/HS52H_CqZLE

Immanuel Kant

<https://youtu.be/nsgAsw4XGvU>

Thomas Aquinas

<https://youtu.be/GJvoFf2wCBU>

Rene Descartes

<https://youtu.be/CAjWUrwwxs4>

Richard Dawkins

<https://youtu.be/bdvoe0j4Hjw>

What is Philosophy?

https://youtu.be/1A_CAkYt3GY

What is Ethics?

https://youtu.be/3_t4obUc51A

Christian thought Introduction

<https://youtu.be/TG55ErfdaeY>

Philosophy Books

General Books on Philosophy

Author

1. The Philosophy Files

Stephen Law

2. The God Delusion

Richard Dawkins

3. Teach Yourself Philosophy of Religion

Mel Thompson

4. Philosophy A Graphic Guide

Dave Johnson and Judy Groves

5. 50 Philosophy Ideas

Ben Dupre

Recommended books by OCR

6. The autobiography of Saint Teresa

Saint Teresa

7. Consciousness; an introduction

Susan Blackmore

8. The Blind Watchmaker

Richard Dawkins

9. Principles of Philosophy

Rene Descartes

10. Idea of the Holy

Rudolf Otto

11. An Introduction to Plato's Republic

Julia Annas

12. The Concept of the Mind (Penguin)

Ryle Gilbert

13. God, Freedom and Evil

Alvin Plantinga

14. Intro. to the Philosophy of Religion

Brian Davies

15. The Question of God

Michael Palmer

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ancient-soul/>

www.teachphilosophy101.org

www.reddit.com/r/philosophy

www.philosophybites.com

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

Ethics Books

General Books on Ethics

Author

1. Puzzle of Ethics
Peter Vardy
2. Ethical Studies
Robert Bowie
3. A very short introduction to Ethics
Simon Blackburn
4. The Moral Philosophers: An Introduction to Ethics
Richard Norman
5. Teach Yourself Ethics
Mel Thompson

Recommended books by OCR

6. Catechism of the Catholic Church
Geoffrey Chapman
 7. Situation Ethics – The New Morality
Joseph Fletcher
 8. Causing Death and Saving Lives (Penguin)
John Glover
 9. Practical Ethics
Peter Singer
 10. Business Ethics
Andrew Crane
 11. Utilitarianism
John Stuart Mill
 12. Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
The Catholic Church
 13. Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong
Louis Pojman
 14. The Four Loves
C.S Lewis
 15. Physics (Oxford World's Classics)
Aristotle
 16. An introduction to the morals and principles of legislation
Jeremy Bentham
 17. Rethinking Life and Death:
Peter Singer
 18. Ethical Theory
Russ Shafer-Endau
 19. SCM Study Guide to Ethics
Neil Messer
- <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas-moral-political/>
<http://www.ftse.com/products/downloads/F4G-Index-Inclusion-Rules.pdf> and www.peped.org
Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy
FTSE4Good

Developments in Christian Thought

General Books on Developments in Christian Thought

Author

1. The Shack

William Young

2. The Story of the Book

Terence Copley

3. Christianity – A Very Short Introduction

Linda Woodhead

4. Teach Yourself Christianity

John Young

5. History of Christianity

Nick Page

Recommended books by OCR

6. Confessions

Saint Augustine

7. Catechism of the Catholic Church

Catholic Church

8. Christian Theology

Alistair McGrath

9. Institutes of the Christian Religion

John Calvin

10. Shadow of the Galilean

Gerd Theissen

11. City of God

St. Augustine

12. A Theology, The Basics

Alistair McGrath

13. SCM Study Guide to Ethics

Neil Messer

14. Death and Eternal Life

John Hick

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas-moral-political/>

<http://www.ftse.com/products/downloads/F4G-Index-Inclusion-Rules.pdf>

www.sacred-texts.com/chr/barmen.htm

www.religioustolerance.org

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

FTSE4Good

Barmen Declaration

OPTIONAL READING – might help you to come to terms with the language used.

The complete philosophy files by Stephen Law illustrated by Daniel Postgate

1. Kindle edition currently £4.35

2. Paperback currently £7.99 isbn 1444003348

God matters by Peter Vardy

1. Kindle edition currently £8.74

2. Paperback currently £9.20 isbn 0334043921

Ethics matters by Peter and Charlotte Vardy

1. Kindle edition currently £7.87

2. Paperback currently £9.99 isbn 0334043913

OPTIONAL VIEWING – might get you thinking about the issues.

The Cider House Rules	Million Dollar Baby
The Island	My Sister's Keeper
Brave New World	Gattaca
The Matrix	Children of Men
The Truman Show	Inception
Minority report	Vera Drake
Rabbit-proof fence	1984