

Religious Studies: Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Transition Work: June 2020

Welcome to A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy, Religion and Ethics!

For each subject you will receive a detailed introduction to allow full transition into the college and your new learning.

Please complete the weekly tasks outlined below and attend the meet sessions with the teachers for further guidance and information.

Please keep all work created in a folder to present to me in the first lesson in September.

You would benefit from using a systematic approach to note-taking. Note-taking is an essential part of all higher level study and getting it right is a massive benefit to you! These notes will support your learning and eventually form the basics of your revision material. Read through the linked document below and try, when taking notes for this transition work, to implement this system:

<https://shp.utmb.edu/asa/Forms/cornell%20note%20taking%20system.pdf>

Religious Studies A Level	Google Classroom Code:	Google Meet code:
AQA 7062	ralg54e	Available via GoogleClassroom
Weekly Tasks	Topic	Resources

W/C 1.6.20

Philosophy of Religion:

Does the apparent design of the universe prove that God exists?

Philosophers throughout the ages have attempted to explore the issue of whether it is possible to prove the existence of God. The Design (Teleological Argument) is an attempt to prove through evidence based (*A Posteriori*) means that the evidence of order found in the universe is proof that an all-powerful, intelligent designer (God) must exist.

Ensure that you are using the Cornell Method explained at the top when making notes on any of the material below.

Read the following information as a brief introduction to the nature of the argument and it's key strengths and weaknesses:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zv2fgwx/revision/3>

For a more in-depth account of the argument, read through the following. In particular, focus on the contributions made by different philosophers. An awareness of these is a central part of the study of Philosophy:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/religious-studies/blog/teleological-argument>

Watch the video below which is part of the Crash Course Philosophy series and explores the idea of intelligent design:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuualjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR

Test your knowledge with the ten question quiz available on Google Classroom.

W/C 8.6.20

Philosophy of Religion:

Does the universe need to have a 'first cause'?

The Cosmological Argument is another attempt to prove through evidence based (*A Posteriori*) means that God must exist. It is based on the principle of cause and effect. Nothing can cause itself to come into existence and there cannot be an endless chain of cause and effect with no starting point. It goes on to argue that a First Cause, which itself is Uncaused by any other being (and therefore be all powerful) must exist in order to have brought the universe into existence. Philosophers who support this argument, such as Thomas Aquinas, believe this cause to be God.

Ensure that you are using the Cornell Method explained at the top when making notes on any of the material below.

Read through the following information as a brief introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas' first form of the Cosmological Argument (based on cause):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zv2fgwx/revision/2>

For a more in-depth account of the argument, read through the following. In particular, focus on the contributions made by different philosophers:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/religious-studies/blog/cosmological-argument>

Watch the video below which is part of the Crash Course Philosophy series and explores the idea of the Cosmological Argument:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY&index=10&list=PL8dPuualjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

<p>W/C 15.6.20</p>	<p><u>Ethics:</u></p> <p><u>How do we make moral decisions? An introduction to ethical theories- Utilitarianism</u></p>	<p>At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy. Ethical theories aim to produce systems to help individuals and society to make moral and ethical choices.</p> <p>Read through the following BBC webpage for an introduction to what is meant by Ethics:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/intro_1.shtml</p> <p>The first ethical theory we will be exploring is Utilitarianism. Watch the following two videos which will briefly introduce this theory:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvmz5E75ZIA</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI</p> <p>There is a PDF Document on Google Classrooms called 'Utilitarianism'. If possible, print this so that you can highlight important terms and sections of the text (but, if this is possible, do not worry-just make sure that you read the text carefully). Read the content of this PDF thoroughly and answer the Quick Quiz Questions at the end of the document.</p> <p>Test your knowledge with a ten question quiz available on Google Classroom.</p>
<p>W/C 22.6.20</p>	<p><u>Ethics:</u></p> <p><u>How do we make moral decisions? An introduction to ethical theories- Situation Ethics</u></p>	<p>The second ethical theory we will introduce is Situation Ethics. A brief summary from the BBC website is linked below. Read through and summarise 5 key points about this theory:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/situation_1.shtml</p> <p>There is a PDF Document on Google Classrooms called 'Situation Ethics'. If possible, print this so that you can highlight important terms and sections of the text (but, if this is possible, do not worry-just make sure that you read the text carefully). Read the content of this PDF thoroughly and answer the Quick Quiz Questions at the end of the document.</p>

W/C 29.6.20	<p><u>Study of Religion (Christianity):</u></p> <p><u>A (very) brief history of Christianity!</u></p>	<p>For A Level Religious Studies we have to study one of the 6 major world religions. We choose to study Christianity and consider its history, sources of wisdom, ethical teachings, beliefs about life & death as well as its relationship with modern social issues and other world religions.</p> <p>One of the most fundamental aspects of Christian faith is the belief in Jesus as the Son of God and one of the three parts of the trinity. Watch the following brief clip which considers what we know about the person of Jesus:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-j-is-for-jesus/zdgv47h</p> <p>Watch the clip below. This is from the Crash Course History Series and explores what happened in the very earliest days of the formation of the Christian Church:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG55ErfdaeY</p> <p>Read through the attached article from BBC Teach:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/why-didnt-christianity-die-out-in-the-1st-century/z7vn7nb</p> <p>Create a timeline to show the development of Christianity beginning with the time before the birth of Jesus (The Jewish Faith, as explored in the (Old Testament). Include some of the key aspects of the life of Jesus as shown in the New Testament and the development of the Early Church (e.g. Emperor Constantine).</p> <p>Test yourself with the ten question quiz available on Google Classroom.</p>
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<p>W/C 6.7.20</p>	<p><u>Study of Religion (Christianity):</u></p> <p><u>The diversity of modern Christian.</u></p>	<p>Following the acceptance of Christianity by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Christian faith was able to spread throughout the incredibly powerful and vast Roman Empire. However, over time there were major disagreements regarding key issues of theology and faith leading to division and the formation of Christian denominations.</p> <p>Two major examples of these divisions are:</p> <p>1054: The Great Schism-The Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church divide.</p> <p>1519: The Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther in Europe.</p> <p>Watch the following two videos from the Crash Course History and European History. They present an excellent introduction to the Protestant Reformation:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eO0pPrGi6o&safe=active</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o8oIELbNxE&safe=active</p> <p>Read through the information on the webpage linked below, including the click through link to the denominations tree diagram:</p> <p>http://request.org.uk/life/church/denominations/</p> <p>Read through chapter 7 from 'The Puzzle of Christianity' by Peter Vardy. There is a PDF of the pages that you need on Google Classroom. Write a summary of 12 key points that you think are important from this Chapter. I would strongly encourage you to read the Chapter twice. This is quite complicated, higher level material and it may be challenging to read and comprehend!</p>
<p>Meet: Date & Time</p>	<p>Teacher Delivering</p>	<p>Resources</p>

<p>Session 1: Thursday 4th June @1.00pm</p>	<p>S. Crawford</p>	<p><u>How to be a Philosopher: An Introduction to Arguments for the Existence of God</u> <i>Key Questions to consider:</i> <i>What is meant by the philosophical method?</i> <i>Does the appearance of design and cause in the world prove that God must exist?</i> <i>Why is the contribution of philosophers, such as St. Thomas Aquinas, so important for this discussion?</i></p>
<p>Session 2: Thursday 18th June @ 1.00pm</p>	<p>S. Crawford</p>	<p><u>Determining what is Right and Wrong: An Introduction to Ethical Theory</u> <i>Key Questions to consider:</i> <i>What should motivate our ethical decision making?</i> <i>Does what is good for the majority outweigh the needs to the few?</i> <i>How do we determine what is good and bad? Is all goodness/happiness equal?</i></p>
<p>Session 3: Thursday 2nd July @ 1.00pm</p>	<p>S. Crawford</p>	<p><u>A Brief History of Christianity.</u> <i>Key Questions to consider:</i> <i>What happened to Christianity after the death & resurrection of Jesus?</i> <i>Why did the Christian faith continue?</i> <i>Why is there such diversity in belief amongst modern Christians (denominations)?</i></p>

Course Specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-7062-SP-2016.PDF>

Chester University Religious Studies Department Lecture Series: Access to Live Webinars

Chester University's Religious Studies department are making a series of lectures linked to the A Level Specification available to all students. There is a PDF on Google Classrooms that includes the link to watch the live streaming of the Webinars. Each of these will take place at 12pm on the dates listed below. These are led by University Lecturers and will be an excellent introduction to some interesting and relevant A Level Themes.

Tuesday May 5th – [Christianity, Animals and the Climate Crisis](#)

Tuesday May 19th – [The Person of Jesus](#)

Tuesday May 26th – [The Problem of Evil After the Holocaust](#)

Tuesday June 9th – [Can God Suffer and does it help?](#)

Tuesday June 30th - [Is Christianity irredeemably sexist?](#)

Tuesday July 7th - [Why are we still talking about secularization?](#)

Tuesday July 14th - [Can we deny God meaningfully?](#)

Tuesday July 21st - [Arguments for the Existence of God](#)

Additional Materials

Books:

The Pig that Wants to be Eaten, Julian Baggini

50 Philosophy Ideas you Must Know, Ben Dupre

Think, Simon Blackburn

The Blind Watchmaker, Richard Dawkins

The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins

The Brothers Karamazov, Fyodor Dostoevsky

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

The Puzzle of..., Peter Vardy (Series including Christianity/Ethics)

Candide, Voltaire

The Book of the Dead Philosophers, Simon Critchley

Pooh and the Philosophers, John Tyerman Williams

Sophie's World, Jostein Gaarder

Websites:

www.thephilosophyman.com

www.philosophersmag.com

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

<http://bpa.ac.uk/answers/resources/index.php>

www.peped.org

TV and Film:

The Good Place (Netflix)

The Story of God (Netflix)

Unorthodox (Netflix)

Round the World in 80 Faiths (BBC)

The Two Popes (2019-Netflix)

The Matrix (1999)

Twelve Angry Men (1957)

The Truman Show

TED Talks (available online):

Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?

Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions

Richard Dawkins – militant atheism

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists

Damon Horowitz – Philosophy in prison

