



RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS: BRIDGING ACTIVITY

Year 12 can be a giant leap from GCSE and the work demands are greater. To give you the best start possible here is some work to get you a bit of a head start. This works alongside the wider reading list which has a variety of suggestions for you to access with reading, films and podcasts.

Subject Content for this course can be found here...

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062/subject-content>

Task 1: Create a fact file about the following philosophers. Include dates, pictures and a background of their views, major works, ethical theories, what their theories say and key aspects of their theories.

No more than a side of A4, each well presented. Add a picture of the philosopher.

- Peter Singer
- St Thomas Aquinas
- Jeremy Bentham
- Plato
- Aristotle
- Immanuel Kant
- Joseph Fletcher

Task2: Book to read- (pages will be provided)

“The pig that wants to be eaten” by Julian Baggini

What does it say about Divine Command and how children then behave?

What does it tell us about Good God?

What does ‘Do as I say, not as I do’ say about moral behaviour?

What does the ‘Pleasure Principle’ and ‘the Experience Machine’ say about utilitarianism?

Task 3: Talks to watch

<https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=philosophy>

Summarise what you think of 2 of these talks.

Task 4: Essay Questions

A. Write your own response to the following question, no more than 500 words:

“How should we decide the right thing to do?”

In your answer you should:

- Include a range of different opinions
- Conduct your own research to find possible answers from different fields of thinking (philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, etc)
- Justify your answer with a range of reasons
- Include examples to illustrate your point
- Reach a justified conclusion
- Include a bibliography to demonstrate your own research

OR

B. Write a response to the following question, no more than 500 words:

“Should people believe in God?”

In your answer you should:

- Demonstrate understanding of several different viewpoints
- Show evidence of having discussed the question with at least three other people, and included an analysis of their comments, including similarities and differences
- Give clear reasons for each perspective
- Give examples to justify your answer
- Reach a clear and justified conclusion
- Include a bibliography, if required

Task 5: Debates to listen to

Radio 4's 'The Moral Maze'

This show covers some interesting ethical debates, some of which may well be relevant to our studies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>

Radio 4's 'In Our Time'

Modern day philosophers debate established philosophical arguments. (If you go on to study Theology or Philosophy you might be taught by some of these professors. You could also talk to them about their theories at an Institute lecture.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr>