

Religious Studies: Philosophy; Ethics; and Theology.

Induction Lesson Notes: Religious Studies – The Why and How?

- **Well done on the GCSE examinations.**
- **Introducing Students: Student interests and motivations: Around the class.**
- **Why do students wish to study Philosophy, Ethics, and Theology (Religious Studies)?**
- **Introducing us (Team RS)**
 - A) Connections with other subjects: Art; Business Studies; Drama; Economics; English Language; English Literature; Geography; History; Music; Philosophy; Politics, Psychology; Science; Sociology.
 - B) Three teachers for this subject.
 - C) Care and commitment.
 - D) Part of a wonderful school.
- **The Course. See below.**
 - A) Three examination papers of two hours each.
 - B) Students answer three questions from four.
 - C) Answers are extended versions of G.C.S.E. debate questions, of around 4 pages
- **Religion and Ethics Case Study: Situation Ethics.**
- **Thank you for coming. Hopefully, see you in September. Good luck with your examinations.**

The Full Advanced Level Religious Studies Course: Religious Studies – The What?

Paper 1 Philosophy of Religion	Paper 2 Religion and Ethics	Paper 3 Developments in Christian Thought
Plato and Aristotle Soul, Mind and Body Teleological, Cosmological and Ontological Arguments for God and criticisms The Problem of Evil Religious Experience Religious Language The Nature of God	Situation Ethics Natural Moral Law Euthanasia Utilitarianism Kantian Ethics Business Ethics Conscience Meta Ethics Sexual Ethics	Feminist Theology Liberation Theology Theology of Religions (Christianity and Different Religions) Secularism The Person of Jesus Christian Moral Action: Bonhoeffer Christian Moral Principles Knowledge of God Augustine Death and the After Life

We will begin studying Paper 3 in the Spring of 2027.

Resources

The department provides comprehensive resources for students.

A very clear and helpful revision guide giving an overview of all three papers is here:

[Oxford A Level Religious Studies, Revision Guide](#) . Author: Libby Ahluwalia. Publisher: Oxford.

More detailed explorations of the three examination papers are to be found in these three books:

[OCR A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion](#)

[OCR A Level Religious Studies: Religion and Ethics](#)

[OCR A Level Religious Studies: Developments in Christian Thought](#) Authors: Julian Waterfield, Chris Eyre, Karen Dean. Publisher: Hodder.

Bridging Unit Tasks: These tasks connect to the first topics we will study in September.

Task 1: Paper 1 Focus: Philosophy of Religion: Checking Extended Writing (Literacy)

Students should write two extended pieces of writing answering one of the two questions below. Answers should be a handwritten and an extended version of a G.C.S.E. question on three sides of A4 paper, with: an introduction; a conclusion; two or three paragraphs for the question statement; and two or three paragraphs against the question statement.

“This life is all there is. There is no “Life After Death and no “spiritual soul”.” Discuss.

OR

“God does not exist.” Discuss.

Task 2: Paper 1 Focus: Philosophy of Religion: Brief Research

- A) Write ½ a page summarising the life and influence of the philosopher Socrates.
- B) Write ½ a page telling the Story or Allegory of The Cave told by the philosopher Plato.

Task 3: Paper 2 Focus: Religion and Ethics: Research and Presentation

Students should create a PowerPoint presentation of 6 slides on the Ethical Theory of “Situation Ethics”, proposed by Joseph Fletcher. In the presentation students should: clearly explain what the theory is; give examples of how the theory could be used in moral issues today; state positives of the theory; state criticisms of the theory.