

Philosophy and Ethics

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



Gryphon School Summer Transition Tasks



Course information

The full course title is 'OCR A Level Religious Studies (H573)' it is comprised of three separate units:

- **H573/01 Philosophy of Religion**
- **H573/02 Religious Ethics**
- **H573/03 Developments in Christian thought**

How the course is assessed

The exam for each component represents 33.3% of the total marks for the A Level. These exams will take the form of an externally assessed written papers lasting **2 hours each** and testing both AO1 and AO2.

Each paper will contain **four essay questions, with the student choosing three out of the four to answer**

In class, you will receive short (c.40 min) essay-style assessments as well as being set slightly longer research essays. Each will be marked according to the following criteria:

AO1 Demonstrate Knowledge and Understanding

- Select and demonstrate clearly relevant knowledge and understanding through the use of evidence, examples and correct language and terminology appropriate to the course of study. In addition, for synoptic assessment, A Level candidates should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the connections between different elements of their course of study.

AO2 Analysis, Evaluation and Application

- Critically evaluate and justify a point of view through the use of evidence and reasoned argument. In addition, for synoptic assessment, A Level candidates should relate elements of their course of study to their broader context and to aspects of human experience.

All feedback for essays will be given using a detailed essay feedback form which students **MUST** attached to each essay before handing in. Students will also have individual tutorial sessions throughout the year.

Copy of the syllabus

A full PDF copy of the syllabus for can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

Resources

Text Books:

Whilst we already provide course notes, many students like to buy textbooks to supplement their learning. We would recommend that students do not buy a set of textbooks as many of the core textbooks are quite expensive. However, we do recommend buying one of the revision guides listed below.

Revision guides:

- **Peped** There are a number of useful revision guides available at:
<http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/shop/> Look for the ones marked as OCR New Spec

- **My Revision notes:**

- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revision-Notes-Level-Religious-Studies/dp/1510418040>
- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revision-Notes-Level-Religious-Studies/dp/1510418059>
- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revision-Notes-Level-Religious-Studies/dp/1510418067>

- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Level-Religious-Studies-Revision/dp/0198423756>

Web resources:

<http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/> is a fantastic resource with lots of extra reading materials around the subject

[A Level Philosophy & Religious Studies \(alevelphilosophyandreligion.com\)](http://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com) – An excellent set of notes for the whole course.

Wider reading:

Peter Vardy has produced a number of books which give a good insight into key topics and are easy to read. The Puzzle of ethics, The puzzle of God and the Puzzle of Christianity may be of particular use.

Philosophy & Ethics Summer Tasks

Religious Ethics

Ethics is the part of philosophy that deals with good and evil. Ethics tries to answer questions like:

- What actions are good? What actions are evil?
- How can we tell the difference?
- Are good and evil the same for everyone?
- How do our actions affect others?

We will be considering 4 main ethical theories in year 12:

1. Utilitarianism (Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill and Peter Singer)
2. Situation Ethics (Joseph Fletcher)
3. Kantian Ethics (Immanuel Kant)
4. Natural Moral Law (Thomas Aquinas)

Compulsory Tasks – handed to your teacher FIRST LESSON BACK:

1. Research the **FOUR** main theories above and produce:
 - a. A summary of each.
 - b. A brief biography of the people related to each theory (in brackets above)
2. Read and summarise one news article on Euthanasia.
You should include the main issue(s) raised in the article, and explain the arguments **FOR** and **AGAINST** the issue(s) mentioned.
3. Create a brief fact file about 1 business. (e.g. Apple) That includes a brief summary of what kind of business they are, where they work, employees etc.)

Extra tasks (optional):

Find the YouTube channel 'Crash Course'. Under the playlists heading you will find one entitled 'Philosophy'. The following videos are particularly useful for the course:

- Natural Law Theory: Crash Course Philosophy #34
- Kant & Categorical Imperatives: Crash Course #35
- Utilitarianism: Crash Course Philosophy #36

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy is simply “thinking about thinking”, an intellectual journey of life.

In Year 12 we study Ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle. We then look at arguments for and against the existence of God. This involves the study of many philosophers including Kant, Descartes, Dawkins and Aquinas.

We start off looking at the Ancient Greek influences on Philosophy of Religion.

Compulsory Tasks – handed to your teacher FIRST LESSON BACK:

1. **Research Plato and Aristotle; create an A4 summary about them, who they were, what they believed, and what their contribution to philosophy is.**
2. **Read and summarise the main points made in Plato’s Allegory of the Cave**
 - a. **You might use this site as a starting point:**
<https://orionphilosophy.com/allegory-of-the-cave-summary-plato/>
there are also a number of video versions of the allegory available.
 - b. **What do you think about this idea? Is it convincing?**
3. **Read and summarise the main points made by Aristotle about the 4 causes:**
 - a. [Aristotle's Four Causes - Religious Studies: OCR A Level \(senecalearning.com\)](https://www.senecalearning.com/ocr-a-level/religious-studies/ocr-a-level-religious-studies-4-causes/)

Christian Developments in thought

In Christian developments in thought we will link the philosophical and ethical issues to Christianity and explore some of the issues surrounding Christian thought.

Compulsory Task – handed to your teacher FIRST LESSON BACK:

Based on your own views and using online sources to research different views write an extended answer to the following question:

‘The Bible is not a helpful guide for how to live in the modern day’

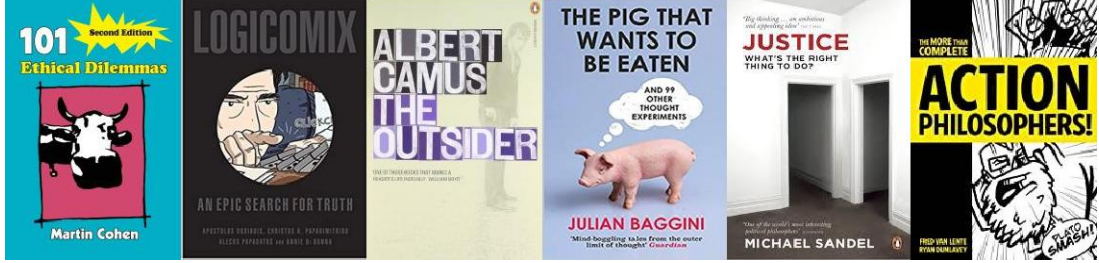
In your answer you should include a range of views, including your own, justified with reasons and examples. You should have an introduction and conclusion. Try to use evidence to support your answer and justify each point you make.

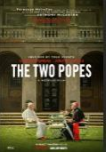
Philosophy & Ethics additional preparation tasks

These tasks are entirely optional as extension questions or to explore a topic of interest.

1. Write a persuasive speech in response to one of these statements:
 - a. Religion is no longer relevant in the UK
 - b. Abortion should be made Illegal
 - c. Euthanasia is no different to murder
 - d. There is no such thing as an ethical business
 - e. It is justifiable to kill if it saves other people's lives
 - f. Humans are inherently selfish
 - g. A belief in life after death is irrational
 - h. We do not need to be concerned about damage to the environment unless it impacts humans
 - i. Religion is inherently sexist
 - j. There is no act that is completely immoral

2. Check out one of the following philosophy/RE related media (note – always check the synopsis/blurb before watching/reading to check you are happy with the content)

	
	www.theguardian.com/world/philosophy www.ethicssage.com/ www.stephenlaw.blogspot.com/ www.philosophynow.org/ www.blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/ www.aphilosopher.drmcl.com/
	

	www.philosophybites.com/ www.partiallyexaminedlife.com www.thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/	www.philosophy247.org/ www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/ www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05
	    	     

Help and Guidance:

If you need any guidance on this prior to the Summer Holidays please contact Mrs Pittard on:

lep@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk