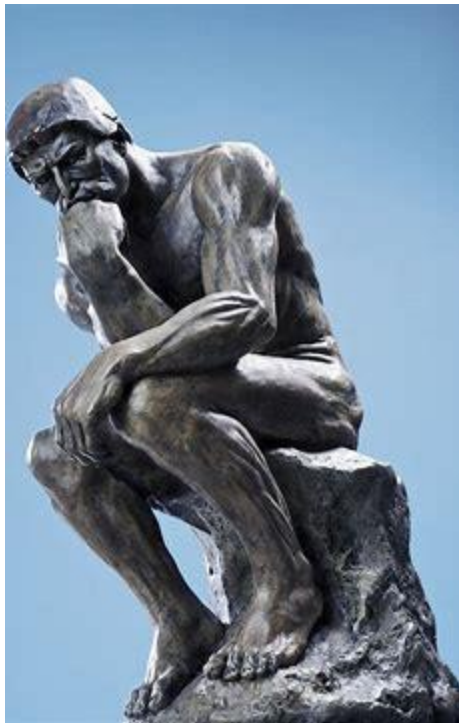


# Religious Studies

## Y11 into Y12 preparation

### pack



Name

# Course outline

**Over the 2 years we study**

**33% Philosophy, 33% Ethics and 33% Christianity**

**100% Exam**

**The philosophy content includes;** Arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, religious experiences and whether they can give us any knowledge of God, philosophy of religious language, miracles and whether they are valid, philosophy of the Self, death and the afterlife.

**The Ethics content includes;** Ethical theories of Natural Moral Law, Virtue Ethics and Situation Ethics, Their application to: Issues of human life and death including embryo research; cloning; 'designer' babies, abortion, voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide, capital punishment, Issues of non-human life and death, use of animals as food; intensive farming, use of animals in scientific procedures; cloning, blood sports, animals as a source of organs for transplants. Meta ethics: the meaning of right and wrong, Divine Command Theory Utilitarianism, Intuitionism, The strengths and weaknesses of these ideas, The extent of moral responsibility: libertarianism, hard determinism, compatibilism, The value of conscience as a moral guide, Comparison of the key ideas of Bentham and Kant about moral decision making.

**The Christianity content includes;** Sources of wisdom and authority, nature of God, beliefs about the Self, death and afterlife, Good conduct and key moral principles, Expressions of religious identity, Christianity, gender and sexuality, Christianity and science, Christianity and the challenge of secularisation, Christianity, migration and religious pluralism

# TASK 1: Video Resources and Tasks:

Watch the videos below, choosing one to focus on for your task. Write a list of discussion points/questions it raises. Choose (at least) one of your questions and draft at least three possible answers that might be given.

- [https://www.ted.com/talks/kwame\\_anthony\\_appiah\\_is\\_religion\\_good\\_or\\_bad\\_this\\_is\\_a\\_trick\\_question/transcript#t-22290](https://www.ted.com/talks/kwame_anthony_appiah_is_religion_good_or_bad_this_is_a_trick_question/transcript#t-22290) Ted Talk by Kwame Anthony Appiah -- Is Religion Good or Bad? (This is a trick question)
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/damon\\_horowitz/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz/transcript) Ted Talk by Damon Horowitz – We Need a Moral Operating System
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/tom\\_honey\\_on\\_god\\_and\\_the\\_tsunami/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_honey_on_god_and_the_tsunami/transcript) Ted Talk by Tom Honey – Why Would God Create A Tsunami?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8MzPmkNsgU> Debate: Atheist vs Christian (Christopher Hitchens vs William Lane Craig)

# Answers

## Task 2:Audio Resources:

- Listen to ‘The Moral Maze’ on BBC Radio 4. (Available programmes vary over time) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>
  - Note down the key points of argument. Create a flow chart of the main points of discussion.
- 
- Listen to this podcast from ‘Philosophy Now’.  
[https://philosophynow.org/podcasts/Free\\_Will\\_and\\_the\\_Brain](https://philosophynow.org/podcasts/Free_Will_and_the_Brain) To what extent can we exercise free will? List ten examples of choices you have made in the last seven days. For each one, consider what factors influenced your choice (habit, parents, media, friends, consideration of consequences, etc).

Listen to this episode of 'In Our Time'.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01mwx64>

Based on these arguments, is it possible to argue that God necessarily exists?

Listen to this episode of 'Thinking Allowed'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b099ypqf> How should we help people who are dying?

# Task 3- Thought Experiments:

<http://www.philosophyexperiments.com/fatman/>

<http://moralmachine.mit.edu/>

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/9-philosophical-thought-experiments-that-will-keep-you-1340952809>

Carry out some of the above activities.

Write a written reflection of the moral questions that each one raises, and how you might respond to these.

Try to list your own “moral code” or “rules for life”. Include 5-10 elements.

Can you imagine any exceptions to your own “rules”?

# Answers



# Task 5 – Essay questions

A. Write your own response to the following question:

“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:

“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 analyse 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

# Answers

# Answers