



A-Level Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Bridging Unit



Why study A Level Religion, Philosophy and Ethics?

Studying this subject will develop you as a person, the way you think and the implications of your beliefs and values. It will also enable you to delve into the mindset of others and appreciate the outcomes of applying diverse thinking to the modern world.

Post-18, A level Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing empathy. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of University degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. Humanities, English and Psychology.

Religious Studies can lead to a range of challenging and rewarding jobs, using either direct knowledge gained from the subject or from the skills gained. Possible jobs include: Lecturing, teaching, law, medicine, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker.

The purpose of the bridging unit

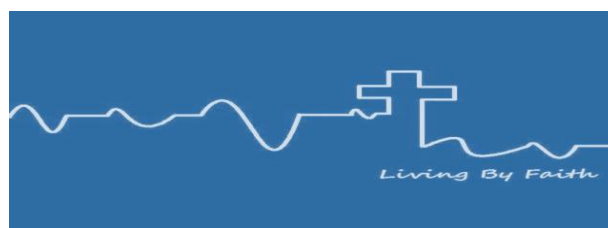


This bridging work will introduce you to some of the key terms, themes and the questioning approach of this subject. You will need to answer questions using both research skills and your own ability to reflect on personal understanding of the world. You should not only begin to look at course content but develop an enquiring mind. Since there are three distinct areas of religion, philosophy and ethics within this course, keep the written work you produce distinct also, so that each may separately be submitted in September to your teacher of that specific discipline.

Contents

A-Level Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at a glance

1. **Religion** focuses on Christianity alone, its foundational beliefs and practices and the extent these are reflected in the faith today.
Philosophy looks at the 'big questions' of life: existence of God, challenges to religious belief, religious experience and language
2. **Ethics** focuses on the variety of different starting points for deciding what is right and wrong and the implications of these on modern situations. It also considers the extent to which we are in fact free to make a choice.





Each discipline (of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) has its own 2- hour paper in which there is an element of choice as to which essay questions may be answered.



Component 1: Christianity (33%)

Tasks:

1. Read the following: [Redaction Criticism: Exploring Theological Edits of the Gospels \(barteherman.com\)](http://barteherman.com)
2. What is redaction criticism?
3. What is form criticism?
4. How can redaction criticism be applied to the Gospels? (Describe each in turn)
5. Why is redaction criticism thought useful?



Component 2: Philosophy (33%)

Tasks:

1. Describe Paley's watch analogy in detail. How does he argue for the existence of God?
2. Describe the first 3 ways of Aquinas' arguments for the existence of God.
3. What is the ontological argument from Anselm and how does he show God exists?
4. Describe the Irenaeus theodicy – what does this show about the problem of evil?
5. Explain the cosmological argument and how it tries to defend the existence of God.



Component 3: Ethics (33%)

Tasks:

1. Describe the Divine Command Theory. Where does it say we get our morality from?
2. Research The Euthyphro Dilemma – how does this critique the Divine Command Theory?
3. What is Ethical Egoism – reference Max Stirner.
4. What is Natural Law Theory from Aquinas? What are his 5 Precepts? How can abortion and euthanasia be applied to these?



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5. What is the role of virtues and how do I get them according to Aristotle? (Virtue Theory is the name of his theory).



Where can I find out more information?

- *Eduqas, our examination board:* <https://www.eduqas.co.uk>
- *BBC Bitesize:* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z782fq8>
- Peter Vardy series of books:
 - The Puzzle of Ethics ISBN-10: 9780006281443
 - The Puzzle of God ISBN-10: 0006281435
 - The Puzzle of Christianity ISBN-13: 9780008204242