

Welcome to A-Level Philosophy, Religion and Ethics @UptonHall



“Wisdom begins with wonder”

Socrates

General Information about the course:

Component 1: World Faith	Component 2: Philosophy	Component 3: Ethics
33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
There is a choice of 6 world faiths. We choose Christianity.	Philosophy of religion is different to standard philosophy. Look at the different in the Open Learning section.	Ethics is associated with character and how we make moral decisions. Its far broader than the 'ethics' unit at GCSE.

Overview - Component 1

Christianity

You will begin the course looking at the figure of Jesus: who he was, the story of his birth, his life, his death and Resurrection. We then move on to teachings about Jesus and God in general such as the Trinity. We look at the Bible and its use by Christians as, amongst other things, a source of moral teaching. We investigate key moral principles associated with Christianity as well as the importance of Baptism and how festivals such as Easter and Christmas are celebrated around the world.

In year 2 we look at modern developments in Christianity around wealth, migration and feminist theology. We consider how Christians have worked together through the ecumenical movement and how religious experience and the Church in Latin America has shaped the worldwide Christian faith. We also consider whether Britain can be classed as a Christian country and the challenges to religious belief today.

You do not need to be a Christian or believe in God but must be able to develop an understanding of Christian beliefs and teachings and address the challenges to them.

Overview - Component 2

Philosophy of Religion

Students will begin by looking at the challenges to belief in God, especially evil and suffering. We consider different arguments for the existence of God from design, causation and language. We also look at religious experience and how it may support or challenge belief in God.

You do not need to be a Christian or believe in God; we expect an inquisitive mind and a desire to learn, discuss and reflect above anything else.

You will then be expected to study the challenges of Freud, Jung and Dawkins to modern belief in God and evaluate each of these approaches. You will study evidence for and against miracles as well as the use of philosophical language through the work of Wittgenstein, AJ Ayer, Swinburne and Aquinas.

Overview - Component 3

Ethics

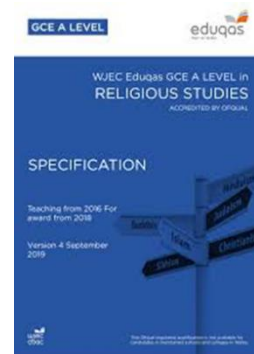
Ethics is about human character and behaviour. We start by looking at some ethical theories like natural law (St Thomas Aquinas), utilitarianism (Bentham & Mill), situation ethics (Joseph Fletcher), virtue theory (Aristotle) and apply these to modern ethical dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, sexual relationships and animal welfare.

In year 2 we look at modern developments in natural law. We also consider to what extent we are free and if any of our behaviour is predetermined, referring to theology, psychology, science and philosophy. We also look at the language of ethics and what we mean when we use statements such as 'murder is wrong' and 'telling the truth is always good.'

Which exam board are we with?

We are with Eduqas! You can go to the homepage here to find out more:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-as-a-level/#tab_keydocuments



What does the exam look like?

Yr13 - Typical Exam Timetable

Component 1 – Christianity

Tuesday 2nd June (am)

2 Hours

Component 2 – Philosophy of Religion

Tuesday 9th June 2020 (am)

2 Hours

Component 3 – Ethics

Monday 15th June 2020 (pm)

2 Hours

How to use this activity book:

Studying RS at A-level is completely different to GCSE. There is so much more depth and breadth to this subject than you might at first realise!

The following pages provide you with a range of activities that you can be carrying out between now and starting year 12. Work through these activities at your leisure and explore the wide-range of topics that RS as a subject has to offer.

At the end of this activity booklet, you will find blank templates on which to record the work you do!

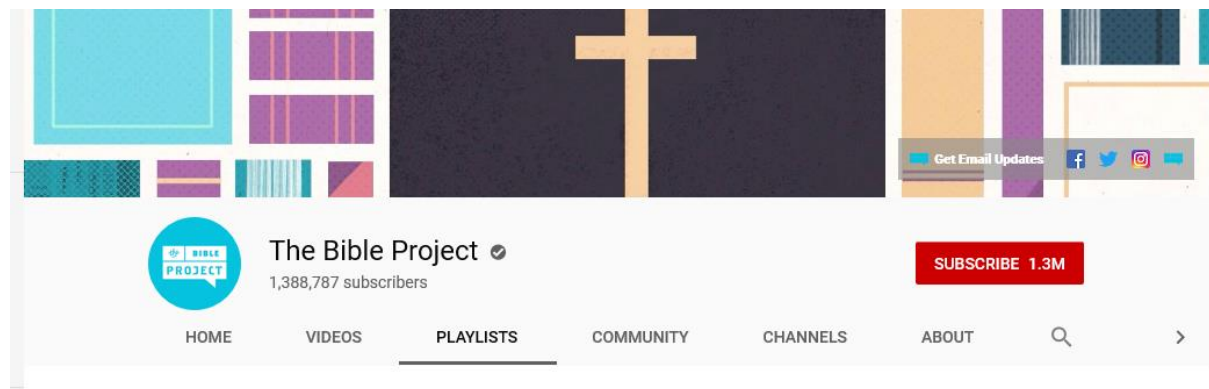
Enjoy!! Your RS teachers look forward to welcoming you into their classrooms in September.

1. Religion Task

Our studied religion is Christianity and a good background knowledge of the Bible is important and therefore this is what your task is based on!

The Bible Project Series on YouTube will help you with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/playlists>



We can also recommend the Biblical Themes playlist which is about 1 hour 30 minutes long if you watch every video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpaOgcPyo&list=PLHOSzn1yYNec-HZjVHooeb4BSDSeHhEoh>



Using these videos and your own additional research you need to find out about the following Biblical stories, events or characters.

Use the templates at the back of this booklet to record your findings!

1. The Story of the Fall?

What happens?

How does this story link with Christian ideas about Jesus?

2. The story of Exile

Where, when and why were the Israelites exiled to?

What does the prophet Jeremiah teach about exile in Babylon?

What is the link with Jesus?

3. The Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah

Who was Isaiah?

What is the background to Isaiah's writings?

What does Isaiah write about the suffering servant?

What is the link with Jesus?

4. The Prophets (there is a Bible project video called prophets)

What do prophets do? Who are they?

What do they teach about the covenant?

What is the Day of the Lord? What is the link with Jesus?

5. The Messiah

What does the Old Testament teach about the Messiah?

Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

What Jewish expectations of the Messiah does Jesus not fulfil?

6. Jesus

What are the main events in Jesus' life?

What does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?

What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the Son of Man?

What is the day of the Lord?

2. Philosophy Task

Watch this debate between William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tYm41hb48o>

The video is called:

Does God Exist? William Lane Craig vs. Christopher Hitchens - Full Debate [HD]

If you watch from 11 minutes 30 seconds you will see William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens being introduced. William Lane Craig is a Christian and Christopher Hitchens was a New Atheist.



Structure of the talk

The lecture is quite long and so you may wish to watch this in stages. They talk for 20 minutes each and then reply to each other.

- William Lane Craig starts at 13 minutes
- Christopher Hitchens starts at 33minutes and 30 seconds
- Williams Lane Craig replies to Christopher Hitchens from 54 minutes and 15 seconds
- Christopher Hitchens replies to William Lane Craig from 1hr and 7 minutes

From one hour 20 minutes there is a cross examination that you may also wish to watch.

Make notes on this debate - recording both sides of the argument and the justification for each argument!

3. Ethics Task



Should I?

What is Ethics?

Ethics or moral philosophy is a branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct.



Ethics is one of three components that you would study for RS Alevel and below are some recommendations to get you started:

Podcasts

Podcasts are a great way to dip in and out of different ethical theories at your leisure. One of the best parts of Alevel is the freedom you have to explore beyond what you learn in the classroom. In fact, the more breadth in knowledge you have, the better your grades! Some of the essays you will be expected to write at Alevel for Ethics require you to make links and comparisons between the ethical theories and scholars you learn about in class, with the other aspects of ethics you have discovered through your wider reading.

Links to podcasts:

- Kant's Categorical Imperative: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0952z13>
- Every day ethics - this is a bbc platform dedicated to exploring ethics in the news/current affairs.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrsmh/episodes/downloads>
- The University of Oxford also has a range of ethical topics for debate.
<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/practical-ethics-bites>
- Melvyn Bragg also has a podcast series on BBC called "In our Time" - he explores lots of aspects of ethics, history and philosophy. Have a scroll through and see if anything takes your interest:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/downloads>

Whatever podcasts you listen to - keep a record of it, such as the title of the podcasts you listened to and make notes on the ethical theory and the scholars who are speaking in each podcast. Keep these safe and they will be invaluable when it comes to revising later on and using them to bring in additional scholars in your essays!

Notes Template:

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary