

URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL & WIMBLEDON COLLEGE



'The unexamined life is not worth living' Socrates



"There's more to the truth than just the facts" (Author Unknown)

Year 11 into Year 12 Religious Studies Transition pack

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Taught at Ursuline High

Examination Board: OCR – A Level

The Religious Studies A level course gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about:

- Why are we here?
- How should we behave?
- What happens to us when we die?
- How do religious beliefs explain and explore their beliefs

Religious Studies involves some major academic disciplines such as Theology, Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. Consequently, you will study some of the following themes:

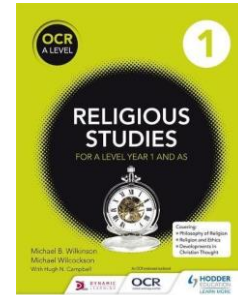
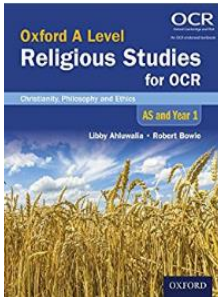
- **Theology (Development in Christian Thoughts)** – the nature of God; Christology; Revelation and debates about interpreting the bible; some analysis of biblical texts; religious belief in contemporary pluralist and secular society; religion and Feminist debates; exploring the writing of key scholars.
- **Moral Philosophy** – the major ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics; ethical theories from religious perspective, such as Natural Law and Situation Ethics; application of ethical theories to issues in Medical Ethics, Sexual Ethics and Business Ethics; what do we mean by Free Will, Conscience, Right, Wrong.
- **Philosophy of Religion** – possible arguments for/against the existence of God; the ‘problem of suffering’; analysis of Religious Experience and Miracles; the challenge to religious belief of science and sociology; analysis of religious language.

In common with all the new A level qualifications the full A level qualification is the result of a two year course. It is assessed by ‘terminal’ exams in the summer of Year 12 and final A level exams in summer of Year 13. Exams will be a set of **three 2 hour exams**.

- **AO1: Knowledge & Understanding Weighting 40%**
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including: religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching; influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies; cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice; approaches to the study of religion and belief.
- **AO2: Analysis, Evaluation & Application Weighting 60%**
Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

SUMMER A TASK – ETHICS

All students will be provided with copies following textbooks:



1. Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: AS and Year 1 Student Book: Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics: AS and Year 1
2. Wilkinson, B., Wilcockson & Wilkinson, M. (2016). *Religious Studies for A level Year 1 and AS*. London, Hodder Education.

TASK ONE (week 1-3)

- Spend one hour exploring the information below from YouTube and the internet.
- Make notes as you listen and read through them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_UfYY7aWKo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lQqKHVhJ0g>

<https://aquinasonline.com/natural-law/>

[http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/revision/natural law aspects of theory.pdf](http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/revision/natural%20law%20aspects%20of%20theory.pdf)

- Spend another hour answering the following questions

Question 1: Explain Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law.

Your explanation should include the following: Definition of Natural Law; origin of Natural Law (refer to Stoics and Aristotle); divine law, eternal law and natural law; primary and secondary precepts; interior and exterior acts; Real and apparent good; Principle of Double effects.

Make sure that your explanation is coherent. Imagine you are explaining this to someone who has not read anything about Natural Law.

Question 2: “Natural Law has no serious weakness”. Discuss

In your discussion consider reasons why some scholars may agree and others disagree with the statement. Use relevant evidence and reach a justified conclusion.

SUMMER A TASK – Ethics

TASK TWO (WEEK 3-5)

TASK 1: Watch the following YouTube videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRHBwxC8b8I&index=33&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_UfYY7aWko&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8blys6JoEDw&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=35> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI&index=36&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrvtOWEXDIQ&index=38&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IsloHmKvWA&index=45&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

Make notes on anything you don't understand or your comments then ask the teacher for further explanations.

TASK 2: Research the issue of euthanasia, looking at the legal issues and real life cases.

The Government have decided to review the idea of legalising voluntary euthanasia in the UK. Write a letter to the Parliament to persuade them to make euthanasia legal in the UK or to keep it illegal. Your letter must include: **Your viewpoint on why euthanasia is moral or immoral and why you believe it, real life example cases to support your idea and the benefits you believe keeping euthanasia illegal/legal would have for the future.**

Key terms to include:

- ✓ sanctity of life
- ✓ quality of life
- ✓ voluntary euthanasia
- ✓ non-voluntary euthanasia

RESOURCE FOR PREPARATION FOR A LEVEL RS

A starting point for A level – reading, listening and watching

Summer reading/listening suggestions

Here is a list of things that you might want to think about having a look at over the summer as a way into the course. This list is not exhaustive, definitive or a must-read list, just some ideas that may help give you a flavour of the course. Anything else you find that interests you would be equally good as a way in!

The Panpsycast podcast - especially Ethical Theories and Plato. Made for A level students on relevant topics.

Unbelievable podcasts, Premier Christian radio - genuinely balanced debates mostly between Christians and non-Christians, high profile scholars.

Websites:

'IthinkthereforeIteach' – really good blog by an RS teacher.

'PhilosopherKings' another RS A level

Take a look on BBC iplayer – there are always relevant programmes on there.

Unbelievable 'The Big Conversation' – similar to the radio show but you can watch the debate too! Really high profile and interesting scholars:

<https://www.thebigconversation.show/>

Reading:

- Jostein Gaarder - 'Sophie's World' (also a good book by the same author for Christmas (!) called 'A Christmas Mystery' – try reading it throughout advent if that takes your fancy, one chapter per day!
- Julian Baggini - 'Without God is everything permitted? 20 big questions in Ethics.' In some places called '*Ethics – 20 questions*'
- Julian Baggini – 'The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten: And 99 Other Thought Experiments'
- For Theology/DCT, anything by Alister McGrath! 'Introduction to Christian Theology' is very good
- Stephen Law – 'The Philosophy Files'
- Neil Messer - 'Christian Ethics'

This really is a starting point – if there is anything else in the bookstores that takes your fancy, give it a go and let us know what you find!

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Task one

1. Please read the pdf novel below
2. There is no written task to accompany this however your second EMB in September will be based on this reading.

<https://linuxbbq.org/PDF/sophies-world.pdf>

Task two

TASK: Create a glossary of the following terms: inductive, synthetic, a priori, a posteriori, deductive, analytic, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omniscient, eternal

TASK: Watch the following YouTube videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAkYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs&index=2&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wrCpLJ1XAw&index=3&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmTsS5xFA6k&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=9>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY&index=10&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AzNEG1GB-k&index=13&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

TASK: Does God exist? Using the teleological and cosmological arguments explain whether or not God exists. Does the design or order of the universe prove that God exists or does it still leave room for doubt? Write a 500 word essay to explain your point of view; you must refer to the cosmological and teleological arguments in your response.

TASK: Read the following article -

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/natural_hazards/tsunamis_rev2.shtml

Do events like this mean that God cannot exist? Or does it just mean that God can exist but cannot be omnibenevolent, omniscient or omnipotent? Explain your opinion in less than 300 words.

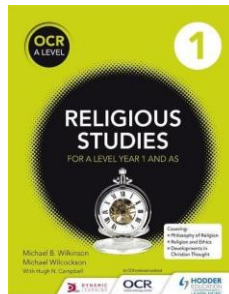
DEVELOPMENT IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHTS

Task two: - Development in Christian Thoughts (Theology)

Read the handout on Theology (St. Augustine).

1. Give a summary of St. Augustine's life. Is his life any different from teenagers and young adults today?
2. Explain what influences the following groups had in Augustine's life: Manicheism, Platonism.
3. Explain Augustine's conversion to Christianity, life as a bishop and his dispute with the Palegians.

Theology readings are taken from the following book:



- Wilkinson, B., Wilcockson & Wilkinson, M. (2016). *Religious Studies for A level Year 1 and AS*. London, Hodder Education.

The extract is on MS Teams as pdf