

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND THEOLOGY) TERM BY TERM CURRICULUM

[Specification link - OCR Religious Studies A-level, Specification H573 – 01, 02, 03](#)



YEAR 12

TERM	Teacher 1 Philosophy of Religion Paper (33% of final grade) Development in Christian Thought (33% of final grade)	Teacher 2 Religion and Ethics Paper (33% of final grade) Development in Christian Thought (33% of final grade)
1	Ancient Philosophical Influences: • Philosophical views of Plato – understanding of reality, the cave and the forms • Philosophical views of Aristotle – understanding of reality, four causes, Prime Mover • Comparison of Plato and Aristotle – reason vs senses, the Form of the Good vs Prime Mover Soul, Mind and Body: • Soul, mind and body in the thinking of Plato and Aristotle • Substance Dualism • Materialism • Issues related to ideas about soul, mind and body	Introduction to Ethics • Ethical Dilemmas and Ethical Key terms • Theories of Ethics – Deontological/ Teleological • Importance of Ethics, ethical life, person and community. Natural Law • Introduction to Aristotle and Aquinas • Four Tiers of Law/ Natural Law • Principle of double effect • Objections to theories of natural law
2	The Existence of God - Arguments Based on Observation: • Teleological Argument • Cosmological Argument • Challenges to the arguments from observation The Existence of God - Arguments Based on Reason: • The Ontological argument • Issues related to arguments from reason	Utilitarianism • Introduction • Jeremy Bentham and classical Utilitarianism • John Stuart Mill and classical Utilitarianism • Teleology and relativism • Peter Singer and preference Utilitarianism • Objections to Utilitarianism Kantian Ethics • Duty and Hypothetical Imperatives • Kant's Moral argument and the Summum Bonum • The Categorical Imperative • The Universalizability test Objections to Kantian Ethics

3	Religious Experience: • Nature and influence of religious experience – mystical and conversion experiences • Different understandings of religious experience • Issues related to religious experience – is validity supported, are corporate experiences more valid, are experiences a basis for belief in God? The Problem of Evil: • Presentations of the problem of evil • Augustinian Theodicy– justification of God’s action/ inaction • Irenaean/ John Hick’s theodicy – justification of God’s action/inaction • Discussion of issues relating to the problem of evil	Situation Ethics • Introduction to Situation Ethics and Joseph Fletcher • Fletcher on conscience • The four working principles • The six propositions and Agapism • Objections to Situation ethics
4	Development in Christian Thought Paper (33% of final grade) 3 x 40 mark questions in a 2 hour exam. Delivered via 3 x 70 minute lessons per week Augustine’s Teaching on Human Nature: • Human Relationships pre- and post- Fall • Original Sin and its effects on the will and human societies God’s grace Death and the Afterlife: • Christian teaching on heaven • Christian teaching on hell • Christian teaching on purgatory • Christian teaching on election	Euthanasia • Introduction to Euthanasia, Key terms • Definitions and case studies • The Law and Euthanasia • Sanctity of life principle • Quality of life principle • Voluntary/Non-Voluntary Euthanasia • Application of Ethical theories Business Ethics • History in Britain • Corporate social responsibility • Application of ethical theories • Whistle-blowing • Good ethics is good business • Globalisation
5	Knowledge of God’s Existence: • Natural knowledge of God’s existence: As an innate human sense of the divine • Natural knowledge of God’s existence: As seen in the order of creation • Revealed knowledge of God’s existence: through faith and God’s grace Revealed knowledge of God in Jesus Christ	Development in Christian Thought Paper (33% of final grade) 3 x 40 mark questions in a 2 hour exam. Delivered via 3 x 70 minute lessons per week Christian Moral Principles: The diversity of Christian moral reasoning and practices and sources of ethics

6	The Person of Jesus Christ: • Jesus Christ's authority as the Son of God • Jesus Christ's authority as a teacher of wisdom • Jesus Christ's authority as a liberator	Christian Moral Action - Dietrich Bonhoeffer: • The teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on duty to God and duty to state • The teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on the Church as community and source of spiritual discipline • The teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on the cost of discipleship
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YEAR 13

TERM	Teacher 1 Philosophy of Religion Paper (33% of final grade) Development in Christian Thought (33% of final grade)	Teacher 2 Religion and ethics (33% of final grade) Philosophy of Religion Paper (33% of final grade)
1	Development in Christian Thought (33% of final grade) Religious pluralism and theology: • The teaching of contemporary Christian theology of religion on exclusivism • The teaching of contemporary Christian theology of religion on inclusivism The teaching of contemporary Christian theology of religion on pluralism	Meta – Ethics • Hume's Guillotine and Naturalism • Intuitionism • Intuitionism and Phenomenology • Emotivism • Alternate Viewpoints and comparison. Conscience – Aquinas and Freud • Thomas Aquinas – Conscience and Natural Law • Criticisms of Aquinas • Freud on conscience • Criticisms of Freud • Comparison of Aquinas and Freud

2	Religious Pluralism and Society: • The development of multi-faith societies • Christian responses to, including responses of Christian communities to interfaith dialogue • The scriptural reasoning movement Gender and Society: • The effects of changing views of gender and gender roles on Christian thought and practice including, Christian teaching on the roles of men and women in the family and society • The effects of changing views of gender and gender roles on Christian thought and practice including, Christian responses to contemporary secular views about the roles of men and women in the family and society	Consolidation of material so far - Year 12 Recap • Introduction to Ethics • Natural Law • Utilitarianism • Kantian Ethics • Situation Ethics • Business Ethics • Euthanasia Sexual Ethics • Christian teaching on marriage • Premarital and extra-marital sex • Christian teachings on homosexuality • Impact of secularism Application of ethical theories The Nature/Attributes of God: • Understanding of the attributes: omnipotence, omnibenevolence, and omniscience, and issues related to understanding of the attributes God, eternity and free will, assessing the views of Boethius, St. Anselm, Richard Swinburne, Alvin Plantinga. Reflecting on Free Will, Timelessness and God's Attributes.
3	Gender and Theology: • The reinterpretation of God by feminist theologians including the teaching of Rosemary Radford Ruether and Mary Daly on gender and its implications for the Christian idea of God The Challenge of Secularism: • The rise of secularism and secularisation and the view that God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment • The rise of secularism and secularisation and the view that Christianity should play no part in public life	Religious language: Apophatic and Cataphatic use. • Cognitive and non-cognitive sentences • The Via Negativa • The Via Positiva • Reconciling the perspectives Religious Language: Analogy & Symbol • Analogy

4	Liberation Theology and Marx: • The relationship of liberation theology and Marx including Marx's teaching on alienation and exploitation • The relationship of liberation theology and Marx including liberation theology's use of Marx to analyse social sin	Religious Language: Twentieth century perspectives • Logical Positivism – AJ Ayer and The Vienna Circle • Verification theory: Ayer's principle on the use of religious language; Swinburne's solution and sentences about God • Wittgenstein's views on language games and forms of life: Religious significance; sacred texts; cognitive/non-cognitive; analogy or Language Games; Wittgensteinian Fideism • Popper and the falsification debate • Falsification symposium: Flew and University debate; Hare and blik; Mitchell and the Partisan; Hick and eschatological verification
5	REVISION	
6	FINAL EXAMS	