



A Level Philosophy, Ethics and Theology Year 11 to 12 Transition Work

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“Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be critical and evaluate what you believe in.”

ARISTOTLE

Welcome, year 11! This is your transition work for A level Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism! This very ancient yet contemporary subject is all about questioning the assumptions we make about what we know and believe about ourselves, each other and the world around us, in order to help us comprehend it. A philosopher: Socrates said, ***“The unexamined life is not worth living”*** and by taking Philosophy you are choosing to ‘live the examined life’. And ask the big questions.

This pack will introduce you to some core philosophical, ethical, and theological concepts that will aid your understanding of the subject at sixth form. There is no need to complete this all at once however, completing it will be beneficial. You can complete the tasks in this booklet in the spaces provided.

TASK 1: WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Using the following link (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY) answer the questions below using the space provided. **Watch the video once fully without making notes and then a second time to be able to write things down that you found.**

1. Try and summarise the main ideas of the video in no more than 3 sentences:

2. Write down 5 things you have learnt about Philosophy

[illegible]

Open up the link below and choose one of the videos from the interview series titled **'Why study theology?'** and answer the **2 questions**. <https://www.closetotruth.com/series/why-study-theology>

1) The interview clip I have chosen is: _____

2) The main argument from this clip why to study theology was _____

TASK 2: KEY PHILOSOPHICAL VOCABULARY:

Key Vocab	Meaning
Ethics	
A Priori	
A Posteriori	
Predicate	
Totem	
wish fulfilment	
Cosmological	
Ontological	
Teleological	
Logical Positivism	

TASK 3: EVALUATIVE RESPONSE

Philosophy and Ethics at A level will require you to make judgements about issues. You need to create a for/against case for **one** of the following issues:

- Does God exist?
- Is there an afterlife?
- Was Jesus really the Son of God?
- Do all people go to heaven when they die?
- Should abortion be made illegal?
- Should euthanasia be made legal?

This will require you to write at least three paragraphs (the same as we do at GCSE) using the acronym S.O.A.C. Try to include evidence or scholars to support the points you make.

- SOME
- OTHER
- ANOTHER
- CONCLUSION

Each paragraph should have the following:

POINT: Some/Others/Another might agree/disagree

EVIDENCE: Evidence to support this

EXPLAIN: This means...

EVALUATE: This is a strong or weak argument...

I've written a sample paragraph below – I'm interested in you ARGUING your case with evidence!

(Point) Some people agree that all people go to heaven when they die due to the belief that God is benevolent, all loving. **(Evidence)** In the Bible it states that 'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.' **(Explain)** This clearly shows that because God is benevolent His love would mean that someone could never go to hell when they die. Furthermore, many people would question why God would punish someone forever if He is meant to be all-loving.

(Evaluation) This could be considered a weak argument as many people would argue that not all people go to heaven as some people, like Hitler, would not deserve to go there. Heaven is a place for the sinless and therefore would not make sense if Hitler went there. Additionally, many Christians would argue that faith is really important, why should all people go to heaven, they need to believe in Jesus to be able to go there which is a fundamental belief.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

TASK 4: KEY SCHOLARS

In Philosophy, Ethics and Theology you will be introduced to many scholars to support arguments you make in your essays. Choose **one** or **two** of the scholars below and create some sort of leaflet on your chosen scholar. This needs to be one page of A4 typed or hand-written work. Scholars to choose from include:

- Plato
- Aristotle
- St Augustine
- St Thomas Aquinas
- Richard Swinburne
- Mary Daly
- Joseph Fletcher
- Jeremy Bentham

SUCCESS CRITERIA: For your chosen scholar(s) you must outline the following:

- When were they alive?
- What key books did they write?
- What key issues did they write about?
- Are there any key quotes?
- Do you find their work convincing?

FURTHER READING:

BOOKS: Wider reading and study are essential to achieve higher grades. Below is a list of books and websites to help you to do this.

Course textbooks (We recommend that you purchase/borrow a copy of these)	Other recommended reading
• WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies for A Level & AS - Philosophy of Religion Revised ISBN: 9781036004927 - £26 • WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies for A Level & AS - Religion and Ethics Revised ISBN: 9781036004934 - £26 • WJEC/Eduqas A Level Religious Studies Key Thinkers: Philosophy ISBN: 9781913963019 - £21 • WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies for A Level Year 1 & AS – Buddhism ISBN: 9781908682970 - £22 • WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies for A Level Year 2 & A2 - Buddhism ISBN: 9781911208495 - £25	<u>General</u> What is this thing called Philosophy? – Duncan Pritchard Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy – Simon Blackburn Philosophy for beginners – Richard Osborne <u>Epistemology</u> Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction – Jennifer Nagel Epistemology: The Theory of Knowledge – Gerald Jones <u>Metaphysics of God</u> A Thinkers Guide to God – Peter Vardy Philosophy of Religion – Gerald Jones

Websites

- [AS/A Level Religious Studies](#) – WEJEC home site
- [PEPED | The Home of Autonomous Learning](#) - a great site with articles and key texts relevant for each topic
- <http://www.alevelphilosophy.co.uk/> Lots of helpful notes and resources

Podcasts

- Moral maze – Radio 4
- Beyond belief – Radio 4
- In our time: Philosophy – Radio 4
- The Philosophers Arms – Radio 4
- A History of Ideas – Radio 4
- Philosophy Bites – Edmonds and Warburton
- The Partially Examined Life Philosophy Podcast - Mark Linsenmayer
- Philosophy Now Radio Show

You Tube:

Crash course philosophy videos -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>