

A Level Religious **Studies**

Transition work going into Year 12



OCR Religious Studies

Philosophy, Ethics and Development in
Christian Thought.

Welcome to A Level Religious Studies!

This document has been created with you in mind to support you as you transition from Year 11 to Year 12. You will find key information about the course, how you will be assessed, and what you will be studying. Once you have read through all relevant information, you will find the transition tasks that you will need to complete over the summer. These tasks are planned so that each pupil is prepared for the start of the course and will support you as you begin to undertake your A Levels.

If you need any further support with any of the tasks, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Witchard, Mrs. O'Riley, or Mr. White.

Information about the course

As a department, we use the exam board OCR. It is a two-year course and during this time you will study three major components: Philosophy, Ethics and Development in Christian Thought. Whilst undertaking the course, you will be able to develop your knowledge and understanding as well as your analytical and evaluation skills, particularly through independent study and essay writing.

The pupils who have been most successful are those students who spend time reading around the topic they are studying. This means that not only would they use the A Level textbook but would read original texts/writing of key scholars. There is a wide library of books you can borrow from your teachers. This can be found in the RS office.

Assessment information

As you are aware, you will be assessed at the end of year 13 and sit three examinations. Each exam will focus on each component of study, each lasting two hours. In the exam you will have four essay questions, and you will answer three of them.

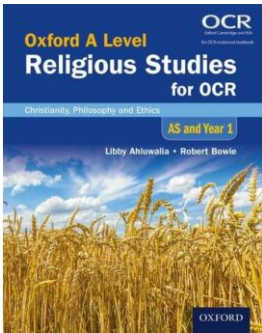
Each essay will be marked out of 40 and you will be assessed on two major skills, AO1 and AO2

AO1 = demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief (16/40)

AO2 = analysis and evaluate aspects of and approaches to religion and belief including their significance, influences and study (24/40)

Textbook

All students are expected to have a copy of the Oxford A Level Religious Studies OCR book by Libby Ahluwalia and Robert Bowie. The one textbook has all the information for all three areas of study. If you know any Year 13s, approach them to see if they will sell their copy to you.



Essay writing

You will be expected to spend time before your lesson pre-reading selected materials, so you are fully prepared for the lesson. Pupils who are most successful are the ones who spend time not only reading the materials but making notes and resources that can be used to consolidate learning, so this can be discussed in the classroom.

Essays will follow the same essay structure you use at GCSE but will require greater depth and detail.

P – point – Make a point in relation to the question – argument driven... ‘some people agree would agree because X’

A – analyse – give evidence and explanation and unpick the info around that point

C – criticise – engage with the point (not the title, but the point of the paragraph) – ‘a strength of this point is’ ‘a weakness of this point is’

E – evaluate – draw the paragraph together using the wording of the question

2a. OCR's A Level in Religious Studies (H573)

Please see below the breakdown of the course and what you will study in year 12 and 13.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Philosophy of religion Learners will study: • ancient philosophical influences • the nature of the soul, mind and body • arguments about the existence or non-existence of God • the nature and impact of religious experience • the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil • ideas about the nature of God • issues in religious language.	Philosophy of religion (01) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Religion and ethics Learners will study: • normative ethical theories • the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance • ethical language and thought • debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience • sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.	Religion and ethics (02) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Developments in religious thought Learners will study: • religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world • sources of religious wisdom and authority • practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition • significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought • key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of one religion chosen from Christianity (03), Islam (04), Judaism (05), Buddhism (06) or Hinduism (07).	Developments in religious thought (03–07) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level

Transition work for year 12

Please have the work below completed for when you begin year 12. Your teachers will expect you to come ready to the lesson with this, as this will help you to access the course as soon as you begin your studies.

Task 1 – Work for Philosophy

When you start the course, you begin by looking at Ancient Philosophers. Use the following websites as a starting place to source information to create a fact-file on both Plato and Aristotle.

These links will give you a good starting point when thinking about who these influential philosophers were and some of their key beliefs.

<https://www.britannica.com/>

[Plato & Aristotle: ancient philosophical influences – A Level Philosophy & Religious Studies](#)

The links below will take you directly to the original texts written by Plato

[Plato - Allegory of the Cave translation TYPESET.indd](#)

[The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Republic, by Plato](#)

The links below will take you directly to some of the original texts from Aristotle

[Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book 1](#)

[Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book 12](#)

Your work should be neatly presented and demonstrate care and time. You should aim to write two sides on both philosophers.

Extension: you may choose to look at one of their many arguments linked to the existence of God. What knowledge do they prefer?

Task 2 – Work for Ethics

Please read the document and answer the following questions using the subheadings to separate your answers.

[Natural Law and Euthanasia Transition Work.docx](#)

Telos – pages 1- 4

1. What is meant by telos?
2. What is the telos of humans?
3. Has the universe as a whole been designed with a telos?

4 tiers of Law - page 5

4. What are the 4 tiers of law?

Primary and Secondary Precepts - pages 5 - 10

5. What are the 5 primary precepts?
6. What are secondary Precepts?
7. Does human nature have an orientation towards the good? (Provide both points of view)
8. Can a judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong be based on its success or failure in achieving its telos? (Provide both points of view)

Doctrine of Double Effect - pages 10-12

9. What is the doctrine of double effect?

Strengths and Weaknesses of Natural Law – pages 12 – 16

10. What are the strengths of natural law?
11. What are the weaknesses of natural law? (Aim for 3 of each)

Euthanasia - pages 16 – 19

12. What is the difference between active and passive euthanasia?
13. What is voluntary euthanasia?
14. Give one reason why someone would support it and one reason why someone would reject voluntary euthanasia.
15. What is non-voluntary euthanasia?
16. Give one reason why someone would support it and one reason why someone would reject non-voluntary euthanasia.

Natural Law and Euthanasia – pages 19-22

17. Give 3 reasons why Natural Law rejects the use of euthanasia.

St Paul's Catholic School and Sixth Form



Transition Work for Sixth Form

"Let your light shine before others." – Matthew 5:16
Sixth Form, the St Paul's way — with Christ at the heart of it all.

OCR Religious Studies at St Paul's Catholic School and Sixth Form

The purpose of completing the task below will help to prepare you for the start of Year 12, so that you are more familiar with content from the specification. This will enable you to access the materials more quickly, so that your knowledge in Year 12 is secured quickly

After completing the task, you will be able to....

- Identify key Ancient Philosophers, Plato and Aristotle
- Explain their view on how knowledge can and should be obtained
- Begin to compare both Aristotle and Plato, considering their similarities and differences
- Identify key elements of Natural Law
- Gain deeper knowledge and understanding of Euthanasia.
- Be able to apply key beliefs of Natural Law to Euthanasia and draw conclusions how these beliefs are incompatible.

Due date: Monday 31st August 2026

Task 1

Research of both Plato, Aristotle and their influences to be able to identify clearly how they approached methods to gain wisdom.

Task 2

Read the document on Natural Law and Euthanasia

Task 3

Complete all tasks on Natural Law and Euthanasia.

Specification: OCR

Links to websites: [AS and A Level - Religious Studies - H173, H573](#)

[Philosophy A Level](#)

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Task

2

[Natural Law and Euthanasia Transition Work.docx](#)

Please read the above document carefully. Your next task refers directly to this document where you will need to complete comprehension questions.

It would be beneficial when reading this document, to 'chunk' the information, highlight and annotate each section to demonstrate understanding.

St Paul's Catholic School and Sixth Form



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Task

3

Using the document attached in Task 2, complete the questions below.
You need to write each subheading and complete each question.

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