

A-Level Religious Studies and Theology Independent Study

Note: these are only some ideas – please feel free to add your own and to adapt any of the below

Key Terminology/Word Lists: Create a poster or mind-map linking the Key terminology of a topic. Do any keywords have more than one definition? If so add and explain. Add additional terms from your notes.

Recommended Reads: Read at least 3 of the books on the Religious Studies reading list and write a short review. ****List at the end of this document**

Create a Mind-map a key topic from one of the 3 Papers. E.g. Natural Law, Utilitarianism; **Ethics**, The Cosmological Argument, Religious Experience; **Philosophy**, Death and the After-life, The Person of Jesus; **Developments in Christian Thought**. **Ensure that the Mind-map evaluates each topic; AO2 skills, as well as Explain each topic; AO1 skills**

Research at least 2 of the key ethicists, theologians and philosophers on your course. Consider the cultural context and impact of their theories: **E.g. Aristotle, John Henry Newman, St Aquinas, St Augustine, Plato, John Stuart Mill, Joseph Fletcher, Martin Luther, Rene Descartes, David Hume, William Paley, Bertrand Russell, John Hick, Daphne Hampson, Rosemary Radford Reuther John Calvin, Richard Dawkins, Jeremy Bentham, Antony Flew, JL Mackie, Karl Barth, Joseph Butler**

Watch any ethics-related programmes, films, short videos from Carnegie Council (for ethics in international affairs) (<https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/education/008>) and write a short review or evaluation of the topic.

Watch any of the philosophy related debates on TED (<https://www.ted.com/search?q=Philosophy>) and write a short review or evaluation of the topic.

Watch one of the Philosophy and Ethics related clips on The School of Life (Western Philosophy) and write a review/evaluation.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwxNMb28XmpeypJMhfNBJ4RAfKrtmAN3P>

Visit the University of Chester website and take part in one of the online webinars.

<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/subject-activities-schools-and-colleges/theology-and-religious-studies/trs-chester-level-webinars>

Visit the Cambridge University Faculty of Divinity website and take part in an online talk, taster lecture or Question and Answer Session. You might also arrange a time to visit the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge. <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/>

Competition; Compete in a Theology and Religion essay writing competition E.g. the ATCRE philosophy competition, the Keble college essay competition in Theology and Religion; Oxford, or the Philosophy essay prize; Cambridge)

Past Questions: View past questions from the OCR Religious Studies website. Create a plan using the structure that you have been given and then write it out.

RS Websites: Pick one of the websites listed to aid your understanding of a topic or scholar



Recommended Reads



<p>The Puzzle of God, Peter Vardy. [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>A clear, well-written guide to philosophical thinking about God.</p> <p>(Links to DCT & Philosophy)</p>	<p>The Puzzle of Ethics, Peter Vardy. [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>Introduction to the subject of ethics, posing vital contemporary questions.</p> <p>(Links to Ethics)</p>	<p>The Puzzle of Christianity, Peter Vardy. [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>This gives a good overview of the major elements of Christianity.</p> <p>(Links to DCT)</p>
<p>Introducing Philosophy: A Graphic Guide, Dave Robinson and Judy Groves. [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>Perfect graphic guide introducing significant philosophers in the West.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>	<p>Introducing Ethics: A Graphic Guide, Dave Robinson and Chris Garrett. [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>Perfect graphic guide introducing moral philosophers and ethical dilemmas.</p> <p>(Links to Ethics)</p>	<p>The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten and 99 Other Thought Experiments, Julian Baggini. [Non-Fiction].</p> <p>This book has a wide selection of classic philosophical and ethical problems; each of them is explained briefly.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>
<p>Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy, Simon Blackburn [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>Here at last is a coherent, unimposing introduction to the challenging and fascinating landscape of Western philosophy.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>	<p>The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>A controversial read. The world's most prominent atheist - asserts the irrationality of belief in God, and the grievous harm religion has inflicted on society, from the Crusades to 9/11.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy and DCT)</p>	<p>God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything, Christopher Hitchens [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>A controversial read. Hitchens documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy and DCT)</p>

<p>Ethics in the Real World: 86 Brief Essays on Things that Matter, Peter Singer [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>(Links to Ethics)</p>	<p>Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed by Men, Caroline Criado Perez [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>(Links to DCT - Gender & Society)</p>	<p>Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind, V.S. Ramachandran [Non-Fiction]</p> <p>(Links to Ethics - Conscience and Philosophy - Soul, Mind and Body)</p>
<p>Sophie's World, Jostein Gaarder [Fiction]</p> <p>A Novel about the History of Philosophy. Sophie's World has fired the imagination of readers all over the world, with more than twenty million copies in print.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>	<p>The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry [Fiction]</p> <p>Despite its style as a children's book, The Little Prince makes observations about life and human nature.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>	<p>The Devil and Miss Prym, Paulo Coelho [Fiction]</p> <p>A story searching for the answer to a question that torments the lead character: Are human beings, in essence, good or evil?</p> <p>(Links to Ethics - Conscience, Meta-Ethics)</p>
<p>The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho [Fiction]</p> <p>A bestselling allegorical novel about a traveller who discovers the meaning(s) of life.</p> <p>(Links to Philosophy)</p>	<p>Me Before You, Jojo Moyes [Fiction]</p> <p>A heartbreaking story about love, disability and euthanasia.</p> <p>(Links to Ethics -Euthanasia)</p>	<p>My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Piccoult [Fiction]</p> <p>Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are if that quest makes you like yourself less?</p> <p>(Links to Ethics - Autonomy)</p>
<p>Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family, Garrard Conley [Memoir]</p> <p>Son of a Baptist pastor Garrard, struggles with his sexuality and his Christian parents send him to a conversion therapy programme to “cure” him.</p> <p>(Links to Ethics - Sexual Ethics)</p>	<p>Five Kinds of Silence, Shelagh Stephenson. [Fiction - Play]</p> <p>Billy controls his wife and two adult daughters to the extent that they can't leave the room without asking permission. He is violent, disturbed and sexually controlling. One day his family shoots him dead...</p> <p>(Links to Ethics - Sexual Ethics and DCT - Gender & Society and Gender & Theology)</p>	<p>Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown [Fiction]</p> <p>As Langdon and gifted French cryptologist Sophie Neveu sort through the bizarre riddles, they are stunned to discover a trail of clues hidden in the works of Leonardo da Vinci—clues visible for all to see and yet ingeniously disguised by the painter.</p> <p>(Links to DCT & Philosophy)</p>