

Year 12 A level Religious Studies Transition Task

There are 3 aspects to the RS course worth 33% each:

***Religion and Philosophy**

***Religion and Ethics**

***Developments in Christian Thought**

Your compulsory task focuses on Religion and Ethics. If you'd like to do the optional task too, we'd recommend you choose books from the other two papers

How to be successful in RS?

You need to be able to apply your RS knowledge by writing **good essays** and critically evaluating ideas. This involves 1) writing precise, evidenced and detailed explanations of ideas and 2) knowing strengths and weaknesses well enough that you can analyse how convincing they are and reach a logically justified judgement. English Language/Lit, History and Sociology and other essay based A level subjects will all support you with the skills needed. The expectations for homework will be at least 5 hours a week, in addition to this there will be a reliance on independent reading of at least one hour a week from both teachers.

Compulsory Task:

Instructions:

Write a short statement (no more than 300 words) indicating your motivations for studying RS and your expectations of A level RS so that your teachers can learn some more about you before starting in September.

Consider the following:

- Reasons you have opted for RS.
- Your experience of RS at KS3/4 and your expectations of A level RS
- What you are looking forward to about A level study

Next, choose one the following three tasks based on the course areas.

Task 1 – Philosophy of Religion

You should submit to your teacher your notes, answers to tasks and the final extended answer

1. Research the following philosophical arguments for God:

- Teleological
- Cosmological
- Ontological

Complete the following tasks:

1. Summarise each argument in no more than 150 words.
2. Analyse the arguments by researching the strengths and weaknesses of each.
3. Write a 500–700-word response to the following statement 'Rational arguments can provide greater proof for God than faith alone' (AO2)

Task 2 – Religion & Ethics

You should submit to your teacher your notes, answers to tasks and the final extended answer

1. Read through the chapter from 'Ethical Studies', make notes on each section
2. Complete boxed tasks on pages 6-9 in full sentences. Make sure you give REASONS to justify your own views and wherever possible give examples or other evidence to back up what you say.
3. Complete the Ethics Dilemma task (separate attachment).
4. Use your notes and examples from the tasks to write a 300-500 word answer to 'Explain the difference between teleological and deontological ethics' (AO1)
5. Use your notes and examples from the tasks to write a 500-700 word answer to 'Should we take a teleological or deontological approach to ethical questions?' (AO2)

Task 3 – Developments in Christian Thought

Navigate to the following site: <https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/ocr-religious-studies/ocr-christianity/augustines-teachings-on-human-nature/>

This focuses on one of the first units you will be taught in this theological component. Your task focuses on improving your ability to pull information from your reading.

Instructions:

1. Read through the information and make notes on what Augustine believes regarding:
 - "Massa Damnata"
 - "Cupiditas & Caritas"
 - "Education in Evil"
 - "Exclusivism & predestination"
2. Answer one of the essay style questions at the bottom in 500-700 words you may opt for either easy, medium, or hard.

TIPS for writing about your chosen task above:

1. In all assessments complete the 2 assessment objectives as this is how you will be assessed in the box below in your exams.

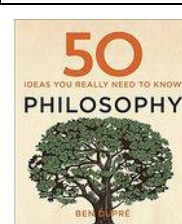
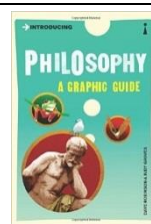
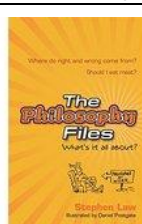
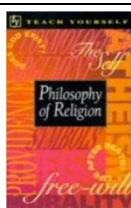
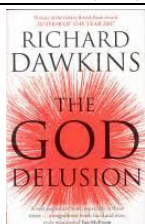
A01 – **Knowledge and Understanding** – Examples might include *"What I understand by this ethical idea is..."* and *"A quote from x source suggests '...' However, a quote from another sources states '...'"*
Examples and evidence are good to use here for top marks.

A02 - **Critical evaluation** - Examples might include *"The strength of deontological ethics is..."*, *"A weakness of the teleological ethics is...."*, *"I find this more convincing because...."*, *"However this fails to address the issue of...."*

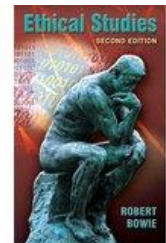
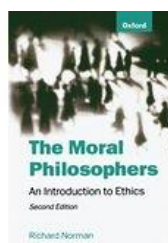
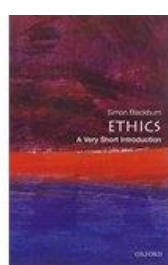
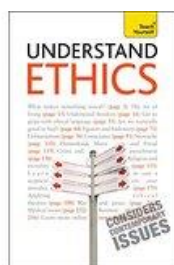
2. The answer needs to be clear and coherent with effective use of specialist vocabulary, so explain those key words clearly.
3. Use your **connectives** when a Philosopher/Ethicist argues an idea, please do NOT use believe, use alternatives like: suggests, stipulates, proposes, maintains, etc.

Optional Task 1: Choose **1-2 books** from the RS course below. Provide a summary of each book and your own view on its contents. (At least 500 words on each one). All the books below will help with reading for the course. Some of the copies below are available cheaply second hand (costs supplied here may have changed), others are available in the school library and in local libraries. SUBTOTAL 1000 words.

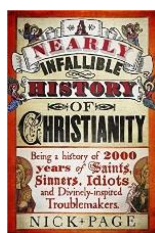
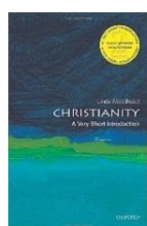
Books on Philosophy	Author	Cost
The God Delusion	Richard Dawkins	£2.14
Teach Yourself Philosophy of Religion	Mel Thompson	£2.69
The Philosophy Files	Stephen Law	£1.88
Philosophy A Graphic Guide	Dave Johnson and Judy Groves	£2.54
50 Philosophy Ideas	Ben Dupre	£5.14



Books on Ethics	Author	Cost
Teach Yourself Ethics	Mel Thompson	£6.82
A very short introduction to Ethics or Being Good....	Simon Blackburn	£2.81
The Moral Philosophers: An Introduction to Ethics	Richard Norman	£4.08
Puzzle of Ethics	Peter Vardy	£2.28
Ethical Studies	Robert Bowie	£2.81



Books on Development in Christianity	Author	Cost
Christianity – A Very Short Introduction	Linda Woodhead	£2.81
History of Christianity	Nick Page	£7.51
Teach Yourself Christianity	John Young	£2.81
The Story of the Book	Terence Copley	£2.79
The Shack	William Young	£1.87



Using a map of the world and pictures of key philosophers, plot the development of Philosophy from Plato to the modern day.	Watch the <i>Hey Duggee</i> episode called ' <i>The Philosophy Badge</i> ' and create a short summary explaining what Philosophy is.	Write a newspaper article outlining why philosophical study is still relevant in the modern world.
Create a timeline of the history of Philosophy from Plato to the modern day.	<u>Optional Tasks 2:</u>	Research an <i>a priori</i> argument of your choice, and outline the sequence of the argument and explain the strengths of it as a logical argument.
Choose any philosopher and write an essay explaining their argument and your evaluation of it – what are its strengths and weaknesses?	Listen to a Philosophy podcast.	Create a model that explains/represents what Philosophy is and its merits.