

# A Level Religious Studies

## Curriculum Content

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AUTUMN TERM	AUTUMN TERM
<b>COURSE ELEMENT 1: PHILOSOPHY 1</b>	<b>COURSE ELEMENTS 4 AND 5: 4:PHILOSOPHY 2 AND 5:CHRISTIANITY 2</b>
<p><b>1a) ARGUMENTS FOR GOD:</b>            1. A priori, deductive: Ontological: Anselm, Descartes, Gaunilo, Kant, Aquinas.            2. A posteriori, inductive: Cosmological, from contingency and necessity: Aquinas, Russell, Hume, Coplestone.            3. A posteriori inductive: Design, from analogy: Paley, Hume, Swinburne.            The status of the arguments as proof            The relationship between faith and reason: fides et ratio/fideism/Kierkegaard</p> <p><b>1b) THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING:</b>            The logical problem- Hume/Mackie            The evidential problem - Rowe            Swinburne's Free Will Defence            Hick's Vale of Soul-Making theodicy            Process Theodicy - Griffin</p> <p><b>1c) RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:</b>            Visions – Augustine/Avila/Julian of Norwich/Mysticism – James/Stace/The numinous – Otto 'The Idea of the Holy'. Principles of Credulity and Testimony – Swinburne.            Objections from science and philosophy.</p>	<p><b>4a) RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE</b>, with reference to Aquinas, Tillich, Via Negative, Hare's Bliks, Wittgenstein's Language Game Theory, Logical Positivism, Verification Principle, Flew's Falsification Principle, Hick's Eschatological Verification.</p> <p><b>4b) MIRACLES</b>, with reference to realism, anti-realism, Hume, Wiles, Holland and Swinburne.</p> <p><b>4c) SELF, DEATH AND AFTERLIFE</b>, including substance dualism (Descartes), Hick's replica theory and monism.</p> <p><b>5a) CHRISTIANITY AND GENDER AND SEXUALITY</b>, with reference to the ordination of women as priests and bishops, feminist theology (Hampson and Radford-Reuther), celibacy, marriage, homosexuality and transgender issues.</p> <p><b>5b) CHRISTIANITY AND SECULARISM</b>, with reference to religious responses to challenges from atheism, humanism, McGrath's responses to Dawkins, Fresh Expressions, liberationist strands of Christianity.</p> <p><b>5c) CHRISTIANITY AND PLURALISM</b>, with reference to exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism (Hick)</p> <p><b>5d) CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE</b>, with reference to Christian responses to Darwinism in nineteenth century, contemporary responses to Big Bang, creationism, God of the gaps theory, the theology of John Polkinghorne and responses to genetic engineering.</p>
<b>SPRING TERM: COURSE ELEMENT 2: CHRISTIANITY 1</b>	<b>SPRING TERM: COURSE ELEMENT 6: ETHICS 2</b>
<p>2a) <b>SOURCES OF AUTHORITY:</b> (Bible/Church/Jesus)</p> <p>2b) <b>THE NATURE OF GOD:</b>(creator/trinity/king/personal/process theology/issues arising from anthropomorphism and feminism)</p> <p>2c) <b>SELF, DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE:</b> (soul, resurrection, purgatory, judgement, heaven, hell).</p> <p>2d) <b>RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION</b> (baptism/eucharist/mission)</p> <p>2e) <b>GOOD MORAL CONDUCT</b> (sanctity of life/embryo/euthanasia/war/environment)</p>	<p><b>6a) METAETHICS:</b> Divine Command Theory: Barth/Naturalism: Utilitarianism: Bentham, Kant, Singer/Non-naturalism: Intuitionism: G E Moore</p> <p><b>6b) FREE WILL AND MORALITY:</b> Hard Determinism/ Libertarianism /Compatibilism</p> <p><b>6c) CONSCIENCE:</b> Aquinas/Fletcher/Butler/Freud/Newman/Piaget/Kohlberg</p> <p><b>6d) KANT AND BENTHAM:</b> Categorical imperative and utilitarianism</p>
<b>SUMMER TERM: COURSE ELEMENT 3: ETHICS 1</b>	<b>SUMMER TERM: COURSE ELEMENT 7: DIALOGUES</b>
<p>3a) <b>NATURAL MORAL LAW:</b> Aquinas/Hoose/Finnis</p> <p>3b) <b>SITUATION ETHICS:</b> Fletcher</p> <p>3c) <b>VIRTUE ETHICS:</b> Aristotle</p> <p>3d) and e) <b>APPLICATION OF NORMATIVE THEORIES</b> to issues concerning human and non-human animals.</p>	<p><b>7a) DIALOGUES 1: CHRISTIANITY AND PHILOSOPHY</b></p> <p><b>7b) DIALOGUES 2: CHRISTIANITY AND ETHICS</b></p>

## **SKILLS**

This course aims to help students to:

- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion, philosophy and ethics
- develop an understanding and appreciation of the diversity within the field of religious, philosophical and ethical thought, and the impact these schools of thought have on individuals, communities and societies, past and present
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the examination of varied truth claims espoused by religion, philosophy and ethics
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study
- develop effective memory and recall strategies to support examination preparation
- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world

## **Assessment**

Internal assessment takes place throughout the course, and is always in the form of exam questions. There is also an end of unit exam for each course element e.g. Philosophy 1. For the award of the qualification, this linear AQA A Level from AQA is examined entirely by examination at the end of Year 13. There are two x 3 hour final examination papers:

Paper 1 – Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Paper 2 – Christianity and Dialogues