

Information on Religious Studies A Level and AS level – Philosophy, Ethics and Theology



There are a few tasks we would like students to engage in before arriving as Year 12 students in September.

There is an additional task at the end of you have not studied GCSE Religious Studies (even if you have done the GCSE you might want to have a look at it anyway – especially the curious mystery of the Turin Shroud!)

1. We would like you to immerse yourself in the world of Ancient Greece. Research the life and key philosophical ideas of Socrates, being ready to feedback to the class. This should take the form of one side of A4 bullet pointed notes. You need to look at:
 - The context into which he was born. Who were the most important pre-Socratics? What were their key ideas?
 - Key moments in his life and how they reflect what was happening in Athens at the time.
 - His influence on Philosophy, particularly the Socratic method.



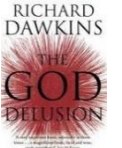
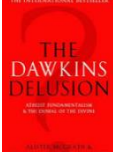
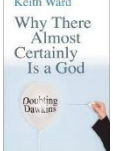
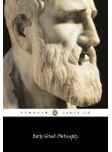
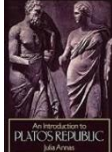
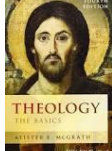

2. Watch the following video clip of the academic Peter Vardy discussing the philosophy of religion. Note down ideas you find interesting and questions that arise from your viewing. Type 'Julian Baggini interviews Peter Vardy' into youtube or type in this link.

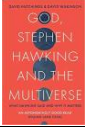
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dZ6Xkk0SQ4>

3. Read at least one of the books below in the Reading List Task.

Reading list Task

Choose one table (set of books or individual book) read it/them and write a report of about a side. Be prepared to share your opinions of the book in Year 12 lessons. (The last one is if you really like science, especially physics!)

Title	Author	Approx cost on worldofbooks.com
The God Delusion 	Richard Dawkins	£3.49
The Dawkins Delusion 	Alister McGrath	£4.99
Why There Almost Certainly is a God 	Keith Ward	£2.99
Early Greek Philosophy 	Jonathon Barnes	£7.99
An Introduction To Plato's Republic 	Julia Annas	£10.19
Theology: The Basics 	Alister McGrath	£3.30
God, Freedom and Evil 	Alvin Plantinga	£7.71
Practical Ethics 	Peter Singer	£3.75

God, Stephen Hawking, and the Multiverse		David Hutchings and David Wilkinson	£7.49
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4) For those students who did not take GCSE Religious Studies

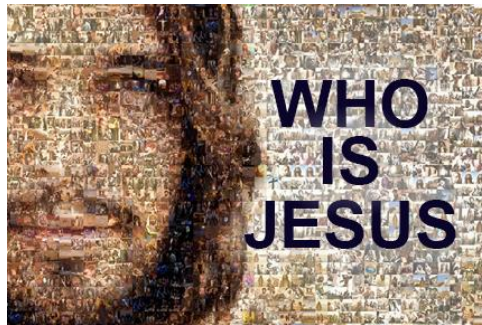
Introduction

It is great that you have chosen to do A Level Religious Studies even though you have not taken the GCSE in Religious Studies. It will not be a problem for you, but there will clearly be a few gaps in your understanding about some aspects of the course.

To help begin to fill in these gaps we would like you to complete a few tasks. The A Level course is based on western philosophy (including ethics) which originated before, but developed through, the rise and spread of Christianity, so Christianity has had a major influence on it. The theology (Developments in Christian Thought, aka DCT) section is based on Christian theology.

So we have devised a task for you to do, to give a taste of what might follow – you could also read the ‘Theology The Basics’ book above.

Task



Follow this link and watch the film about Jesus (the main section to watch is between 6:25mins to 47:19mins). It is an introduction to the person of Jesus, designed to help those who don't know very much about him. – it's quite a few years old now, but still useful information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLQM_07qPIs&t=2878s

Note down the main events that happened to Jesus in his lifetime, and what he did, as well as what other people claimed about Jesus and what he claimed for himself, and anything else that interests you. An A4 side of notes will suffice.

Additional interesting (optional) task.

See what you can find out about **the Turin Shroud**, and why it is a real mystery whatever viewpoint you hold (faith/science/comboination/historical).

This documentary is a good place to start!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zws3DiEVJTs>