

## **Step Up to Religious Studies** **A-Level**

### **Year 11: Philosophy and Ethics Transition work.**

We are delighted that you have chosen to study Philosophy and Ethics at A-level and are really looking forward to starting our new class September. We have put together some work for you to help you to prepare for the course and to get you confident for September.

### **What will I study?**

The study of religion, Philosophy and Ethics gives candidates the opportunity to explore these spiritual, moral and cultural questions by encouraging you to reflect upon your own attitudes, and those of others. The course explores questions such as: Why do people believe in God? Is there a God? Is love the foundation of ethics? Is moral behaviour learnt or does it come from within?

### **Exam Board**

EDUQAS-you can access the specifications online

Summary of Assessment Component 1: Islam

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion Component 3: Religion and Ethics

Three Written Exam: All 2 hours

Each exam is 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of qualification

There is no coursework, all exams are sat at the end of the two-year course.

### **What can you do to prepare for the course?**

Even though you haven't been able to finish your Year 11 course this year, you can still practice and develop Religious Studies skills at home. You can read, watch and listen to interesting ideas and think about the opinions expressed

- How far do they match your own views?
- What might someone say if they had a very different opinion?
- Keep up your writing skills by putting your ideas down on paper – try, if you can, to handwrite, just to keep up the practice of handwriting so that your writing isn't completely illegible by the time you go back to school, writing in timed conditions is always a factor that holds students back in exams

Literacy Skills. Reading good quality writing is the best way of improving your own writing.

- You will gain a better understanding of the meanings of new words and the ways in which carefully chosen words and punctuation can add real emphasis to someone's argument.
- Different writers express themselves in different ways, and by reading them you will develop your own 'voice'.
- Reading also helps with more basic skills such as spelling, because if you see a word written down often enough, you will know when it 'looks right' when you write the same word yourself.

Cognitive Skills. Thinking skills can be developed if you try to take a questioning attitude to the things you watch, hear and read.

- Do you agree with what's being said
- If you watch a film where people have different attitudes towards something, which do you agree with most, or least, and why?
- How far do they match your own views?
- What might someone say if they had a very different opinion?
- Keep up your writing skills by putting your ideas down on paper – try, if you can, to handwrite, just to keep up the practice of handwriting so that

your writing isn't completely illegible by the time you go back to school, writing in timed conditions is always a factor that holds students back in exams

| Week | Work: These are the core tasks that you should complete each week to give you a good grounding to start the course.  | Extended Learning: Try this if you are confident with the main learning from each week.  |
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| 1    | <p><b>An introduction to Philosophy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make sure you are organised you should buy three folders, put a set of dividers in each one and label them, 'Philosophy', 'Ethics' and 'Islam'. These are the three units of the course.</li> <li>Pick one of the following articles and answer the following question:<br/> <a href="#">Freewill and Determinism</a><br/> <a href="#">Religious Experience</a><br/> <a href="#">Being Virtuous</a></li> </ol> <p>What is the main argument/point/purpose of the article?<br/>           What are the varying opinions?<br/>           What are the reasons for the varying opinions?<br/>           What is the most interesting thing you have learnt from the article?<br/>           What is your personal opinion on the topic?</p> | <p>If you can get hold of it, watch the film 'The Matrix'. You don't have to make notes while you watch ...just watch, enjoy and consider the question 'how do we know what is real' this will warm you up for Philosophical thinking.</p>   |
| 2    | <p><b>Ethical decision making</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPI25oraVc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPI25oraVc</a></p> <p>This is the first episode of Stephen Fry's series 'Out There', where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world. A really interesting documentary, raises lots of questions and highlights inequality for people in the LGBTQ community globally.</p>  | <p><b>Can we prove the existence of God?</b></p> <p>This is one of the key questions that we look at through the course. Before we look at the key arguments on the specification, you need to do some thinking about the potential evidence that might prove God's existence. Try to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What reasons might people give for their belief in God?</li> </ol> <p>Which of these reasons do you think is the most convincing?</p> |

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|  | <p>Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning:</p> <p>Do you think there is a ‘right’ attitude and a ‘wrong’ attitude towards homosexuality? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?</p> <p>Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don’t agree with them.</p> <p>Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?</p> <p>What do you think are the aims of this television series? Do you think they are good aims? Do you think this first episode is successful in achieving its aims?</p> <p>What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?</p> |  |
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| 3 | <p><b>Application of Philosophy</b></p> <p>Watch this TED talk ‘Philosophy in Prison’<br/> <a href="#">Philosophy in Prison</a></p> <p>How do you know the difference between right and wrong?<br/> Is there a point where a person can never be good again?<br/> Do you think Philosophy lessons should be available in prisons? Why</p> | <p><b>The Teleological (design) Argument:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Watch this</a> to give you an overview of this argument for God’s existence (he speaks very fast so it might help to watch it at half speed)</li> <li>2. Write yourself 8 bullet points to summarise this argument</li> <li>3. Read the ‘Design arguments’ sheet</li> <li>2. Summarise the extract in your own words.</li> </ol> <p>Answer the questions on the sheet in as much detail as possible</p> |
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