

***A Level Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Induction:
Summer Challenge Sheet***

Welcome to Philosophy, Ethics and Religion A Level! These tasks are designed to start you thinking about some of the themes and approaches we will explore in the course. Don't worry if some things are a little confusing or difficult. The main thing is that you give the tasks a go!

Philosophy:

1) Research this famous picture. It is called "The School of Athens" by Raphael and it depicts a number of thinkers. The two central figures are Plato and Aristotle. What is the artist trying to convey about these thinkers (especially Plato and Aristotle) in the way they are painted? (Aim for 1/2 a side of A4)

Podcast discussion: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00j7txt>

Good background article: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/renaissance-art-europe-ap/a/raphael-school-of-athens>



2) Produce 'fact files' on Plato and Aristotle (1 side of A4 on each). Outline:

- Some background information and something general about their philosophical ideas
- How they differ from one another (e.g. Rationalist Vs. Empiricist)
- One 'big' idea from each:- Plato's Cave Analogy - Aristotle's Four Causes



Ethics:

1) Start a collection of newspaper cuttings that illustrate moral choices and dilemmas – focus particularly on medical (euthanasia) and business ethics. Try to identify/collect at least 4 stories.

2) Use the internet to research the following terms:

- Absolute Ethics
- Relative Ethics
- Deontological Ethics
- Teleological Ethics

Write a short definition of each of these (and maybe an example)



Buddhism:

- 1) Research the life of Siddhartha Gautama including: his birth and upbringing, the four passing sights, renunciation, asceticism, enlightenment and his teaching career. Write an a4 page explaining each of those aspects of the Buddha's life.
- 2) Make a glossary of the following key terms: Buddha, dharma, sangha, jhana, karma, nirvana, samatha, samsara, sangha, skandhas, vipassana

Discovery Sources

If you want more information on some of the themes you will study in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion why not take a look at some of these over the summer...

Waterfield, Eyre and Dean. (2020) *OCR A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion*. Hodder Education. ISBN: 9781510479937

Waterfield, Eyre and Dean. (2020) *OCR A Level Religious Studies: Religion and Ethics*. Hodder Education. ISBN: 9781510479951

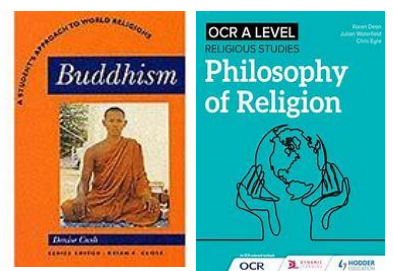
For Buddhism:

Cush, D. (1993) 'A student's approach to world religions: Buddhism'

Harvey, P. (2012) 'An introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices'

Other useful sources:

- Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast: An excellent philosophy podcast that has episodes on each topic within the Philosophy and Ethics courses, in addition to a range of other interesting philosophical ideas - <https://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast>
- A Level Philosophy & Religious Studies: Website with summaries of the Philosophy and Ethics topics, including counter arguments and dismissals <https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/>



Philosophy:

- 1) 'The Puzzle of God' (1999) by Peter Vardy. This text contains key chapters on a range of Philosophy units, particularly helpful for the Nature of God.
- 2) 'Sophie's World' (1995) by J. Gaarder. This is a story about a young girl who questions key philosophical concepts and figures in western philosophy.
- 3) 'An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion' (1993) by B. Davies. This text is more challenging but is a great place to go for wider reading.
- 4) 'An Introduction to Plato's Republic' (1998) by J. Annas. Chapters 9 and 10 useful for the study of Plato.

Ethics:

- 1) 'The Puzzle of Ethics' (1999) by Peter Vardy. This text contains useful chapters on a range of Ethical theories, with some chapters on the application of these theories to issues such as euthanasia and abortion.
- 2) 'Ethical Studies: Second Edition' (2004) by R. Bowie. This is a very useful text for the A level Ethics course and contains key chapters on a range of ethical theories, with evaluation sections.
- 3) 'The Moral Philosophers' (2015) by A. Grath. A challenging text but useful for discussions about some key ethical thinkers.

Buddhism:

- 1) 'Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction' (2013) by Damien Keown
- 2) 'An introduction to Buddhism' (2001) by Geshe Kelsang Gyatso
- 3) 'The essence of Buddhism' (2014) by Traleg Kyabgon

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Philosophy – hfwvok

Ethics - ttvieej

Buddhism – jb544iw

