



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK:

A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

20

23

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

Please complete these tasks on A4 paper and bring them with you to your first lesson in September.

The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- have students full names on each sheet
- multiple sheet should be connected together

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks including the optional ones to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

Welcome to Religious Studies

Subject outline

Students often choose to study Religious Studies A Level because they have enjoyed and been successful at Religious Studies GCSE. To do well in this A level you will need to have an interest in the world we live in today and how it has changed and continues to change in terms of beliefs, ideas and practices.

Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. Religious Studies students typically relish expressing their ideas both verbally and in writing.

Religious Studies at A Level consists of three units:

Philosophy of Religion:

- The existence/non-existence of God
- The nature and influence of religious experience, and the problems of evil and suffering
- Religious beliefs about the nature of God
- Religious language: how religious language has changed over time?
- Psychology of religion

Religion & Ethics:

- Normative ethical theories: religious approaches to ethical decision-making
- Normative ethical theories: deontological and teleological
- Application of ethical theories to modern issues like abortion and euthanasia
- Meta-ethics
- Free will and determinism

Study of Religion: Islam

- Beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life, the world & ultimate reality
- The origins and development of Islam
- The diversity of ethics and practice
- Significant social and historical developments in Islamic thought
- The relationship between religion and society

Assessment

All 3 units are examinations and are completed at the end of Year 2:

Paper 1 - Philosophy of religion- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 2 - Religion and ethics- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 3 – Study of Religion – Islam - 2 hours, 33.3%

EQUIPMENT

In preparation for learning, in addition to the basic equipment list, students should bring the following items to every lesson:

- Religious Studies Folder and booklets
- Black or Blue pen & a Purple pen
- File dividers and plastic wallet

Careers & Higher Education

A Level Religious Studies can assist entry to a diverse range of university courses, such as English Literature, History, Psychology and Law. Prospective medical and Bio-Science students find the study of ethics very useful and budding lawyers enjoy the chance to develop their skills in presenting arguments. The wide-ranging skills and knowledge the course provides allows students to move on to a host of further studies and career paths. Areas of work that some students have gone into in the past are law, teaching, journalism, policing and social work as well as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

Links to key information:

Weblink to course information guide from D6A website

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/RS.pdf>

Weblink to specification

Eduqas – Islam, Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/i4tjifbc/eduqas-a-level-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e-011020.pdf>

Useful websites

The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy - <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Philosophy Bites provides an extensive series of excellent podcasts on a variety of topics in Philosophy and Ethics - <http://www.philosophybites.com/>

Useful YouTube channels for Philosophy and ethics

Philosophy and ethics ninja:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNUJUJtYwZTSkymLPry08cw?app=desktop>

The Cogito:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheCogito>

Summer work tasks

Please complete the following tasks:

Task 1: Please define the following terms

Keyword	Definition
Akhirah	
Ashura	
Dhikr	
Fard	
Fiqh	
Rasul	
Risalah	
Shari'ah	
Shirk	
Tawhid	

Keyword	Definition
A priori	
A posteriori	
Contingent beings	
Cosmological argument	
Deductive arguments	
Empiricism	
Ex nihilo	
Inductive arguments	

Infinite regression	
Kalam argument	
Necessary beings	
Teleological argument	

Task 2: What do you already know?

1. What is meant by the term Jahiliyya?
2. Why was Mecca an important city before the time of the Prophet?
3. In which year did the Night of Power take place?
4. What was the Hijrah?
5. Why is Medina important to Muslims?
6. Give three reasons as to why Muhammad is a perfect example to Muslims
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7. List 3 ways in which the Qur'an is treated
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 -
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8. What is meant by the idea that the Qur'an is infallible and inerrant?
9. Why is the Qur'an superior to all previous revelations?
10. Why is the Qur'an considered miraculous?
11. How many Surah's are in the Qur'an?
12. Who oversaw the compilation of the Qur'an?

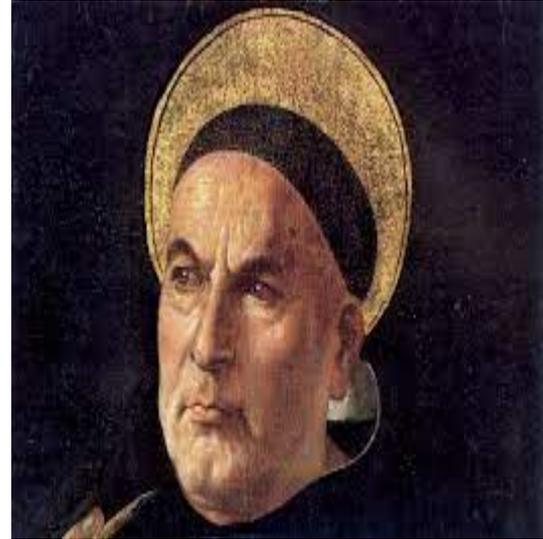
Task 3: Who are they?

Find out who each of these key thinkers are. Use the youtube links above to help you!

St Thomas Aquinas

Dates alive:

Key ideas:



David Hume

Dates alive:

Key ideas:



Task 4: REFLECTION

What university courses could Religious Studies A level support you in applying for?

What are some things that you would like to know more about in Religious Studies?

What are some of things that you really enjoyed in your Religious Studies GCSE?

What are some of things that you would like to improve, during your study of Religious Studies?

What can you do with this course?

A Level Religious Studies can assist entry to a diverse range of careers. Areas of work that some students have gone into in the past are: law, teaching, journalism, policing and social work.

Reading list

Philosophy and ethics Ninja

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNUJUJtYwZTSKymLPry08cw?app=desktop>

Watch all of the videos for Aquinas' cosmological and design arguments and Hume's criticisms of these.