



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK

A LEVEL
RELIGIOUS
STUDIES

STUDENT NAME:

20
24

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks (10 in total) that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

The total time expected to complete all of the tasks set is approximately 10 hours.

Please complete these tasks on A4 or A3 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 tasks completed
- have students' full names on each sheet
- multiple sheets 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 in order 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. The content of this course, focuses specifically on Philosophical and Ethical thinking. It is therefore different in style and approach from that studied at GCSE, which focused mainly on religious teaching.

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 however continue to develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies, as well as maintain and further opportunities to express their ideas both verbally and in writing in lessons and for homework.

The Russell Group of Universities describe Religious Studies as a subject which provides 'suitable preparation for entry to university education generally' and is therefore seen as a rigorous and challenging A Level to study.

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 have examinations that are taken 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:

Web link to course information guide from D6A website

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

Web link 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 (This task should take approximately 50-60 minutes)

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	
Ontological argument	
Analytical	
Synthetic	

Task 2: What do you already know? (This task should take you approximately 30-40 minutes)

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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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? (This research task should take you approximately 1 hour)

Find out who each of these key thinkers are. Include what topics they contribute their thinking on. (You may prefer to write this down on your own lined paper)

Use the youtube links above to help you!

St Thomas Aquinas

Dates alive:

Key ideas and related topics:



David Hume

Dates alive:

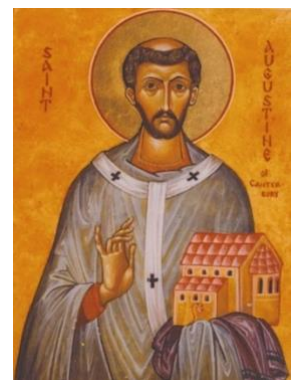
Key ideas and related topics:



Augustine of Hippo

Dates alive:

Key ideas and related topics:



Tasks 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: Video Research Activities

(Each of these tasks should take between 60-90 minutes)

Watch all of the 'Philosophy and Ethics Ninja' videos found in the link below in relation to the following 6 topics - 3 from Philosophy of Religion and 3 from Religion and Ethics:

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

As you watch each of the videos, create a fact file, mind-map or other preferred presentation form on the following topics:

Philosophy of Religion:

Task 4: Miracles (x 2 videos)

Task 5: Religious Experience (x 4 videos)

Task 6: Problem of Evil (1 video)

Religion and Ethics:

Task 7: Divine Command Theory (x 2 videos)

Task 8: Aquinas' Natural Law (x 6 videos)

Task 9: Situation Ethics (x 6 videos)

You will need to include all philosophical and ethical views, scholarly opinions, key words and terms, key teachings, practical examples, applications to the theories, etc. You will most probably need to pause each of the videos in order to fully produce/collate your notes.

You will be asked to present your findings in September to show that you understand the key concepts introduced within each of the videos viewed.

By doing this work, you will establish a good foundation ahead of the course and develop a solid grounding in the key concepts that you will be studying in Year 1 and in turn this will ensure that all work studied in class from September will be more easily embedded into both your knowledge base and understanding, thereby enabling you to develop high-level evaluative skills, that are essential in order to attain the higher grades when it comes to answering exam questions.

Please note: There are additional videos on each of these topics as you scroll further down the page but you do not need to use them unless you want to expand upon your awareness of the topic so as to present an extremely detailed piece of research and to ensure that you feel confident when presenting back your findings in September to your peers.

NB. To access all of the videos, first select 'videos' (where it says 'Home Videos Playlist') and ensure that 'latest' has been highlighted.

Task 10: REFLECTION (This task should take 15-20 minutes)

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 learning in 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.