



# Sixth Form Preparation for Success

## Welcome to Philosophy & Ethics

OCR, Religious Studies, H573

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### Introduction

The following information, tasks, suggested reading and watching have been designed to prepare you for the study of Philosophy & Ethics at A Level. Completing the compulsory tasks and reading or watching around the subject will help you to feel confident about starting your studies in September and ensure even greater success.

### **Part I – Y11 into 12 Philosophy & Ethics Bridging Work To be completed May – Sept**

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected !

#### **a) Investigate places of interest**

1. Take a Tour of The Agora

<http://yougoculture.com/virtual-tour/athens/myth/ancient-agora>

#### The Agora

The Agora played a vital role in the public life of everyday Athenians, as the marketplace was where citizens met to take part in the political and intellectual life of the city. It provided a platform for people to share their views and opinions, and it was here that Socrates questioned the market-goers on their understanding of the meaning of life. He would openly interrogate Athenians to the point of embarrassment, often before a crowd of his youthful supporters.

One of these supporters was so touched by Socrates' teachings that he burnt all of his own poetry, later becoming known as the philosopher Plato. If you want to follow in the footsteps of the philosophers, the Agora is one of the best places to visit, as the place where some of the greatest minds taught and influenced one another.

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You can visit the ruins of this ancient marketplace, strolling through the remnants of white stones, pillar and columns that once formed the impressive buildings that brought together some of the greatest philosophers in history. Much of what has been excavated speaks of Athens' turbulent past, showing the influences of various cultures and religions. The museum showcases some of the smaller artefacts found on the site, as well as providing information on the role of the Agora in ancient Greek society

2. Visit Jeremy Bentham at University College London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mh1UXi0csqc>

On the ground floor of UCL's Student Centre stands a glass case, containing a figure which has been a source of curiosity and perplexity to visitors.

The cabinet contains Bentham's preserved skeleton, dressed in his own clothes, and surmounted by a wax head. Bentham requested that his body be preserved in this way in his will made shortly before his death on 6 June 1832

3. Visit The British Museum

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

Click on Religion and Belief from the menu on the right hand side and explore religion and belief in all culture over time.

## **b) Wider reading**

### **READING FOR PLEASURE**

Below are some popular fiction titles that have a philosophical or ethical slant, they are the sort of thing you can read in the garden on a sunny day and enjoy!! Number 6 is a good one to start with!!

1. The Stranger – Albert Camus
2. Sophie's World – Jostein Gaader
3. 1984 – George Orwell
4. Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
5. The Handmaids Tale – Margaret Atwood
6. Perfect People – Peter James
7. Life of Pi – Yann Martel

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## c) Compulsory tasks

### TASK 1:

Watch the videos below, choosing one to focus on for your task. Write a list of discussion points/ questions it raises. Choose (at least) one of your questions and draft at least three possible answers that might be given.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/kwame\\_anthony\\_appiah\\_is\\_religion\\_good\\_or\\_bad\\_this\\_is\\_a\\_trick\\_question/transcript#t-22290](https://www.ted.com/talks/kwame_anthony_appiah_is_religion_good_or_bad_this_is_a_trick_question/transcript#t-22290) Ted Talk by Kwame Anthony Appiah - Is religion good or bad? (This is a trick question)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/damon\\_horowitz/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz/transcript) Ted Talk by Damon Horowitz – We Need a Moral Operating System

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tom\\_honey\\_on\\_god\\_and\\_the\\_tsunami/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_honey_on_god_and_the_tsunami/transcript) Ted Talk by Tom Honey – Why Would God Create A Tsunami?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8MzPmkNsgU> Debate: Atheist vs Christian (Christopher Hitchens vs William Lane Craig)

### TASK 2:

There are all kinds of resources on line and in books to help you, if you want to start to learn a little more about some of the philosophers you will meet in you're a level course. Use Wikipedia as a starting point and follow some of the links in the articles. You could do some research about: Plato

- Aristotle
- Aquinas
- Bentham
- Mill
- Hume
- Kant

Once you have had a look at a range of these philosophers and ethicists, pick just ONE, present your information about that person in an interesting way. A presentation, diagram, video, cartoon, model, use your imagination!!!

**TASK 3** - Write a summary of each one of these sources:

Read this article on What is Philosophy?

<https://www.philosophynews.com/post/2011/08/25/What-is-Philosophy.aspx>

Watch this video clip on What is Philosophy for?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIYdx6IDDhg>

Read this article from Philosophy Now magazine

[https://philosophynow.org/issues/82/Morality\\_is\\_a\\_Culturally\\_Conditioned\\_Response](https://philosophynow.org/issues/82/Morality_is_a_Culturally_Conditioned_Response)

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## d) Stretch!

Watch this documentary, 'Barra Boy'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhGX1YCsvAM>

1. Do you think the story provides convincing evidence for reincarnation? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think counts as 'convincing evidence' for life after death (e.g. scripture, near death experiences, nothing)? What makes evidence convincing or unconvincing?
3. Read the accounts in the gospels of the resurrection of Jesus (you could use [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) if you don't have a Bible at home)
  - a) Matthew 28:1 – 10
  - b) Mark 16: 1 – 8
  - c) Luke 24: 1 – 10
  - d) John 20: 1 – 18
4. Do you find these stories convincing? Why, or why not?
5. Do you think the stories contradict each other, or are they just told from different points of view, in your opinion? What might account for the differences and the similarities between the stories?

## Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

- a) Click on the link below, this will take you to a copy of the full A'Level specification <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>
- b) **Specification for Autumn** In the Y11 section of EXL on the school website, in the RE folder, there is a 'Get Ahead Section' In here you will find a scheme of work for the Autumn Term. This should guide you to the areas you should focus on in your preparations
- c) **Notes** - In the Y11 section of EXL on the school website, in the RE folder, there is a 'Get Ahead Section' In here you will find philosophy and ethics notes and questions on some of the key topics you'll meet at A-Level. It's the perfect way to hit the ground running at the start of the course There is also a PDF textbook which will help you to read around the subject before September.
- d) **Textbooks** are available in class and you will be given copies, but if you did want to do some pre-reading I suggest either of these 2 books would be helpful
  - o [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Level-Religious-Studies-OCR-ebook/dp/B01M7407GR/ref=sr\\_1\\_14?dchild=1&keywords=ocr+religious+studies&qid=1590413096&s=digital-text&sr=1-14](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Level-Religious-Studies-OCR-ebook/dp/B01M7407GR/ref=sr_1_14?dchild=1&keywords=ocr+religious+studies&qid=1590413096&s=digital-text&sr=1-14)

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- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/OCR-Religious-Studies-Level-Year-ebook/dp/B01M8HIRNO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=ocr+religious+studies&qid=1590413096&s=digital-text&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/OCR-Religious-Studies-Level-Year-ebook/dp/B01M8HIRNO/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ocr+religious+studies&qid=1590413096&s=digital-text&sr=1-1)

e) Youtube – The crash course in philosophy is a really good resources, use the link below and look for videos on some of the topics listen in the Autumn Term Scheme of Work above

<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse/search?query=philosophy>