

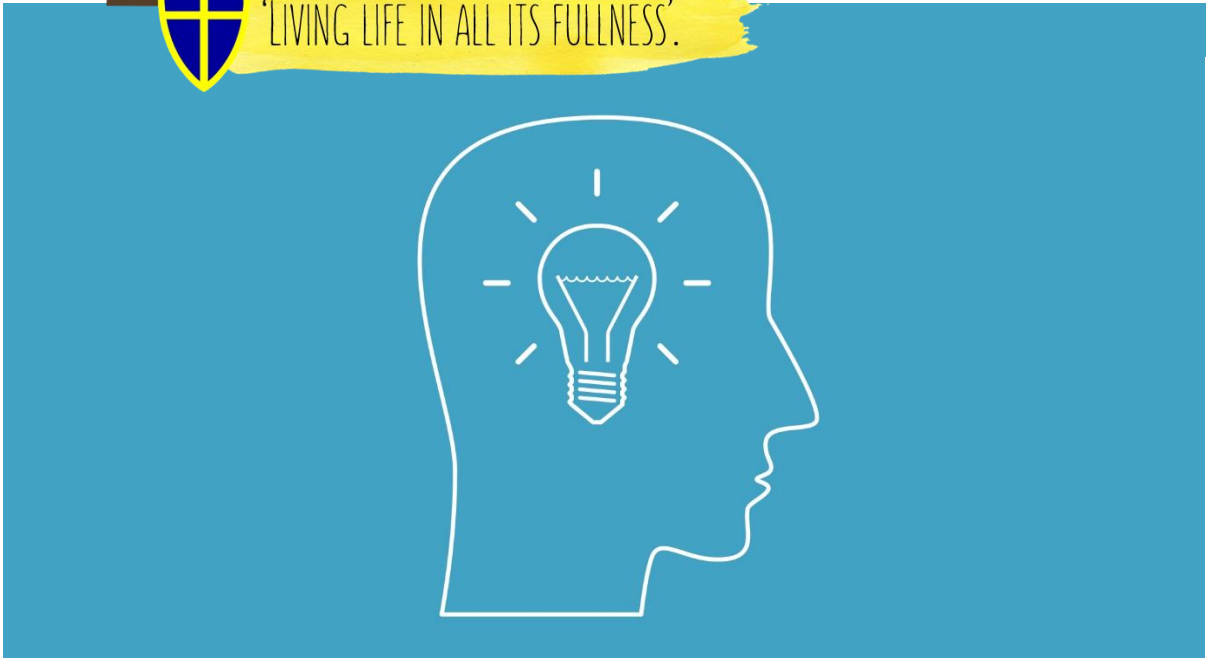


Coventry Blue Coat C of E School 

RE Department



'LIVING LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.'



A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS
YEAR 11 INTO 12 PROGRESSION BOOKLET.

'Wisdom begins with wonder'

Socrates

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WHY CHOOSE AN A LEVEL IN PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGION?

Q: What do Malala Yousufzai, Tinie Tempah, Orlando Bloom, Katy Brand, Jake & Maggie Gyllenhaal, Rashida Jones, Jack Gleeson, Mayim Bialik and Martin Luther King have in common?

A: They all chose Religious Studies

Religious Studies can take you in all sorts of directions in life... only some of which involve becoming a celebrity!

At A Level, Religious Studies works equally well with Arts/Humanities subjects and with Science subjects; it is ideal if you want to become a Doctor or Lawyer, if you want to go into Journalism, Business or Finance, Artificial Intelligence or into any profession which involves pitching ideas, marketing things, working with culture and people.

Religious Studies is as good as any facilitating subject when it comes to university applications. Both Oxford and Cambridge list Religious Studies amongst their preferred subjects.

In 2018 there were 17,265 A Level Religious Studies entries, double the number in 2003. Only Further Maths has grown faster in terms of numbers of A Level entries over the past decade.

Religious Studies develops highly marketable, transferable skills in analysis, evaluation and persuasive writing.

CAREER PATHWAYS:

If you're interested in exploring the different opportunities that RE can provide, or if you'd like to find out more about real life stories and how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals, have a look at these videos:

MY FUTURE. MY CAREER. MY RE.



Arun - My Future. My Career. My RE.

Arun is a junior doctor and every day he meets people of different faiths, cultures and lifestyles. The knowledge and skills he learned in RE help him to provide the right care plan for each of his patients. No other subject provides the same opportunity to find out about different communities from around the world, helping you understand different cultures and have empathy for people from all walks of life.

Studying RE at GCSE and A Level provides you with important life skills, and offers opportunities in further education and a wide variety of careers. Visit the **MY FUTURE. MY CAREER. MY RE.** website to find more real stories about how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals, along with free resources for schools.



Sena - My Future. My Career. My RE.

Sena is a law student at Oxford Brookes University, and she's found that a lot of the skills she learned while studying RE at school have been really valuable: learning to debate, seeing other people's points of view, even making the case for a point of view that she disagrees with. There was the opportunity to immerse herself in other cultures, gain a deeper understanding of the world and learn how to consider different perspectives.

Studying RE at GCSE and A Level provides you with important life skills, and offers opportunities in further education and a wide variety of careers. Visit the **MY FUTURE. MY CAREER. MY RE.** website to find more real stories about how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals, along with free resources for schools.



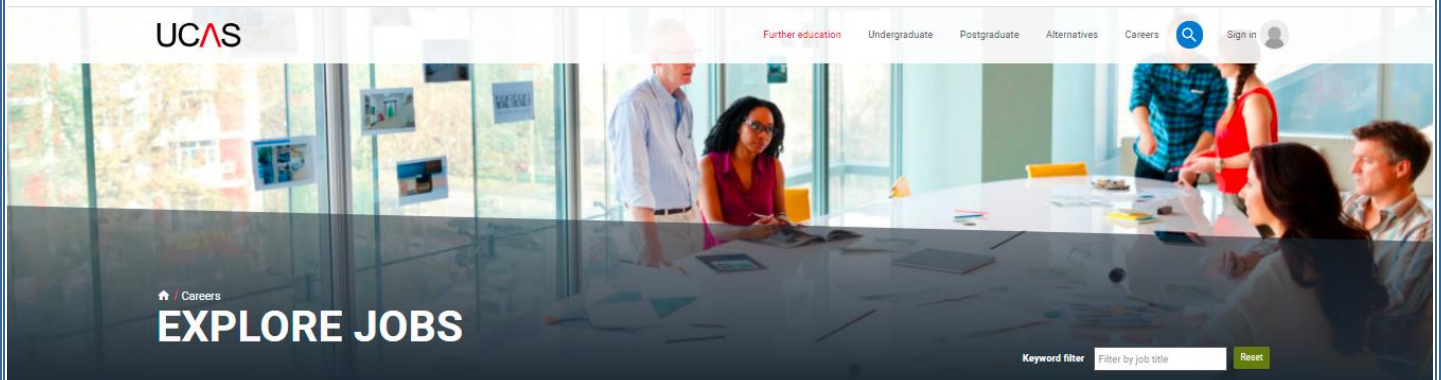
Shermeen - My Future. My Career. My RE.

Shermeen is studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Warwick University, but she believes that studying RS at GCSE and A Level has helped her in her degree course. RS taught her to explore tough academic questions, how to construct complex arguments, and how to examine differing points of view and gain a new perspective on human behaviour.

Studying RE at GCSE and A Level provides you with important life skills, and offers opportunities in further education and a wide variety of careers. Visit the **MY FUTURE. MY CAREER. MY RE.** website to find more real stories about how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals, along with free resources for schools.

If you want to learn more about different skills related to RE, or different careers, pathways and opportunities, please go to:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs?f=/job-subjects/religious-studies>



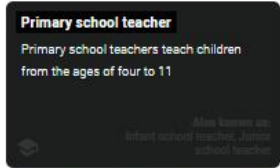


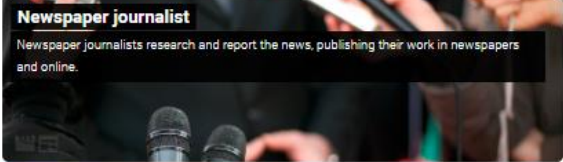
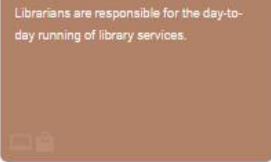


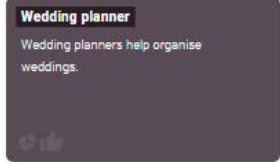


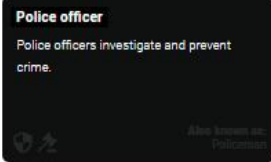






Select a job family **Religious studies** Select a skill

Religious studies

Knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These include counselling and social services, marketing, sales and advertising, catering and hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism, retail sales and customer services, education and training, medicine and nursing, and service sector roles.

Careers using religious studies

 <p>Hypnotherapist Hypnotherapists use hypnotism to help clients achieve positive changes in their lives.</p>	 <p>Hospital doctor A hospital doctor diagnoses and treats illness and disease in patients admitted to hospital.</p>	 <p>Primary school teacher Primary school teachers teach children from the ages of four to 11.</p>		
 <p>Religious leader Religious leaders offer support to followers of their religion through spiritual and moral guidance.</p>	 <p>Air cabin crew Air cabin crew look after and keep airplane passengers safe.</p>	 <p>Newspaper journalist Newspaper journalists research and report the news, publishing their work in newspapers and online.</p>		
 <p>Librarian Librarians are responsible for the day-to-day running of library services.</p>	 <p>Construction project manager Construction project managers deal with the day-to-day running of a construction project.</p>	 <p>Museum curator Museum curators look after and manage exhibitions.</p>		
 <p>Wedding planner Wedding planners help organise weddings.</p>	 <p>Nursery worker Nursery workers look after small children.</p>	 <p>General practitioner General practitioners (GPs) are doctors who provide medical services to people in their practice.</p>	 <p>Police officer Police officers investigate and prevent crime.</p>	 <p>Aid worker Aid workers provide support, food, resources, and infrastructure to people in need.</p>
 <p>Human resources manager Human resources managers deal with recruitment, training and retention of staff.</p>	 <p>Youth and community worker Youth and community workers provide support for young people.</p>	 <p>Secondary school teacher</p>		

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE A LEVEL COURSE

- A Level Religious Studies is made up of three components- **Christianity, Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics**.
- Each one of these three components are equally weighted at 33% each.
- There are three exams (one for each component) at the end of year two, and each of these are two hours long.
- There is no coursework in this subject.
- We follow the Eduqas exam board.

ESSAY GUIDANCE

While studying the course, we will practice our essay writing skills, improving our ability to put forward a written argument. We write two different types of essay at A Level, a descriptive one (we call that AO1) and an evaluation one (we call that AO2). For now, we begin with using the TRADEC skills you are used to, to practice our evaluation essays.

T – Thesis

Put forward your point of view on the statement. Do you agree/disagree?

R – Reasons

Using paragraphs, give 2 or 3 reasons why you hold your opinion. Remember to support the points you make with evidence. Can you use Scripture? Can you research and see what a scholar has said?

A – Agree

In this paragraph, be specific about a person or a group who might agree with the points you've said. For example, do Catholic Christians agree with you? Why? Does Dawkins agree with you? Why? This can be a hard section of your essay, if you cannot think of anyone specifically, don't worry.

D – Disagree

Give 2 or 3 reasons why someone might disagree with the reasons you have given for your point of view. Use paragraphs to lay these out and give evidence for their point of view. Why do they disagree?

E – Evaluate

In this paragraph, you want to find holes in the reasons given in the 'disagree' section. You don't agree with their point of view, why is that? What have they said that you think is a weak argument? Where does their evidence fall short?

C - Conclude

Summarise your point of view and the BEST reason you have for it. Why is your point of view so much better than any other? You really need to sell it to us.

GENERAL RE ACTIVITIES

Bridging Activities to get you thinking **critically** and **ethically**.

Suggested Reading List

Brief Introductory Reading:

Blackburn, S. Think, OUP 2001

Craig, E. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002

Law, S. The Philosophy Files, Orion 2002; The Outer Limits, Orion 2003; The Philosophy Gym, Hodder
Headline 2003

Nagel, T. What Does It All Mean?, OUP 1987 (reprinted 2004)

Warburton, N. Philosophy: The Basics (5th ed.), Routledge 2012

Philosophy:

Gaarder, J. (1995) Sophie's World, London: Phoenix House

Davies, B. (1993) An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Annas, J. (1998) An Introduction to Plato's Republic, Oxford: Oxford University Press, (particularly
Chapters 9-10)

Ethics:

Vardy, P. (1999) The Puzzle of Ethics, SCM Press

Norman, R. (1998) The Moral Philosophers, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Religious Thought:

McGrath, A. (2015) Christianity: An Introduction, Blackwell Publishing.

Reading List Tasks:

For each of the texts you read, summarise the key points in one of the following ways:

- Write a review of the book, outlining which were the most useful sections and whether you enjoyed the book/ why/ why not.
- List any key terms from the text in a vocabulary list, researching their meanings (if not clear from the text) and recording these.
- Create a picture mind-map of the key ideas. Use doodles and images to illustrate these. For a guide to mind-mapping, see this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g>

Video Resources and Tasks:

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 Ted Talk by Kwame Anthony Appiah - Is religion good or bad? (This is a trick question)

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 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)

Films/ TV:

Watch The Matrix (film). Note down your thoughts on the themes of truth, perception and reality.

Watch Lost (TV series). What moral and ethical points does this raise?

Watch Sliding Doors (film). Do you think your life is pre-destined (set out for you) or can you control your own fate?

Audio Resources:

Listen to The Moral Maze on BBC Radio 4. (Available programmes vary over time)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>

Note down the key points of argument. Create a flow chart of the main points of discussion.

Listen to this episode of In Our Time. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01mwx64>

Based on these arguments, is it possible to argue that God necessarily exists?

Listen to this episode of Thinking Allowed. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b099ypqf> How should we help people who are dying?

Listen to this podcast from Philosophy Now.

https://philosophynow.org/podcasts/Free_Will_and_the_Brain To what extent can we exercise free will? List 10 examples of choices you have made in the last seven days. For each one, consider what factors influenced your choice (habit, parents, media, friends, consideration of consequences, etc).

Written/ Reflection Tasks:

1. Consider your definitions of the following terms:

- Truth
- Reality
- Good
- Evil
- Moral
- God
- Time

For each concept, try to argue against your own definition. Can you see any flaws in your ideas? How might they be criticised? What conclusions can you reach about *how* we define these concepts?

2. List *five* facts that you *know* to be true. For each one, explain *how* you know it to be true. Are any of your “facts” uncertain? What would have to happen to prove them irrefutably (without question)?

3. Create a picture collage, poem, song, mind map or vision board which illustrates the idea of “God”. Explain your choices of words, images and concepts. If you can, explain where these have originated.

4. Create a fact file of the philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Include pictures, key facts and a brief outline of their philosophical ideas.

5. Choose a story from the news that includes one of the following themes:

- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Capital punishment
- Humans’ treatment of animals

Write a response to the story, considering several different points of view. To help with this, you could consider the points of view of:

- An atheist (someone who fervently believes there is no God)
- An agnostic (someone unsure about religion and faith in God)
- A committed Christian
- A dying man
- A child

6. Consider what you already know about the Bible. How far do you think it can be used in the following situations? Give reasons for your point of view.
 - a. To help people understand how the world came into being.
 - b. To teach people right from wrong.
 - c. To instruct what a person should do about Euthanasia.
 - d. To teach people the meaning and purpose of life.
 - e. To inspire people in hard times.
 - f. To teach us about what God is like.

PHILOSOPHY TASK

Watch this debate between William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0XRQd9YOUM>

The video is called:

**William Lane Craig vs. Christopher Hitchens
| "Does God Exist?" | Biola University**

If you watch from 12 minutes you will see William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens being introduced. William Lane Craig is a Christian and Christopher Hitchens was a New Atheist.



Structure of the talk

The lecture is quite long and so you may wish to watch this in stages. They talk for 20 minutes each and then have a right of reply each.

- William Lane Craig starts at 13 minutes
- Christopher Hitchens starts at 33minutes and 30 seconds
- Williams Lane Craig replies to Christopher Hitchens from 54 minutes and 15 seconds
- Christopher Hitchens replies to William Lane Craig from 1hr and 7 minutes

From one hour 20 minutes there is a cross examination that you may wish to watch.

Having watched the videos Write a response to the following question:

“Should people believe in God?”

In your answer you should:

- Demonstrate understanding of several different viewpoints
- Give clear reasons for each perspective
- Include evidence to support the points you’ve made
- Give examples to justify your answer
- Reach a clear and justified conclusion

PRACTICE PHILOSOPHY ESSAY QUESTIONS

Use the TRADEC layout to create an essay arguing your point of view on the following topics.

1. 'People have to suffer to learn what goodness is' (30 marks)

This weblink might help you to create an argument on this.

<https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/problem-of-evil--suffering.html>

2. 'The vast amount of evidence of design in our universe shows that God must exist' (30 marks)

This weblink might help you to create an argument on this.

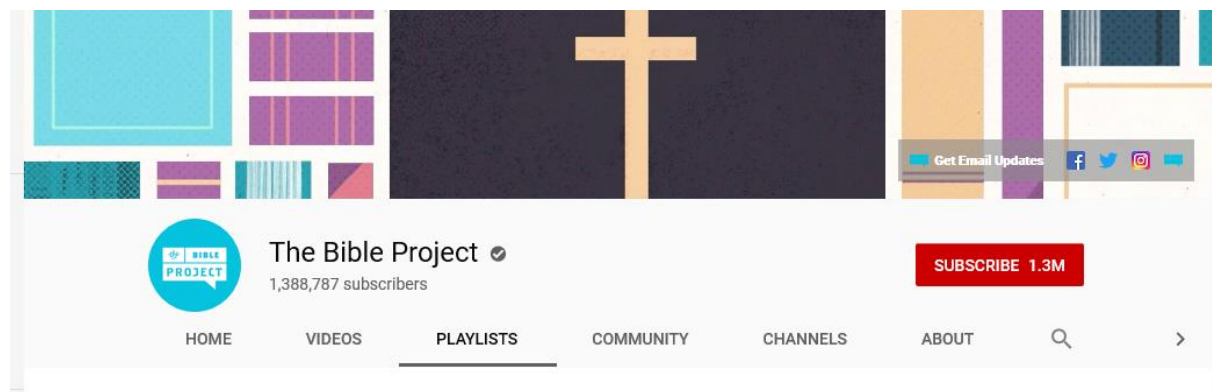
<https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/design-argument.html>

RELIGION TASK

Our studied religion is Christianity and a good background knowledge of the Bible is important and therefore this is what your task is based on.

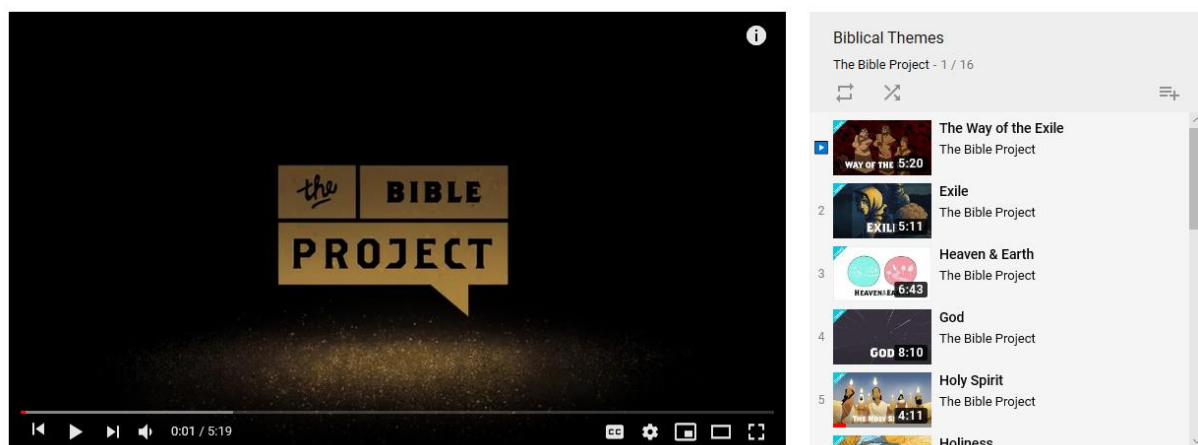
The Bible Project Series on YouTube will help you with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/playlists>



I would recommend the Biblical Themes playlist which is about 1 hour 30 minutes long if you watch every video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpa0gcPyo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNec-HZjVHooeb4BSDSeHhEoh>



Using these videos and your own additional research you need to find out about the following Biblical stories, events or characters.

1. The Story of the Fall?

What happens?

How does this story link with Christian ideas about Jesus?

2. The story of Exile

Where, when and why were the Israelites exiled to?

What does the prophet Jeremiah teach about exile in Babylon?

What is the link with Jesus?

3. The Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah

Who was Isaiah?

What is the background to Isaiah's writings?

What does Isaiah write about the suffering servant?

What is the link with Jesus?

4. The Prophets (there is a Bible project video called prophets)

What do prophets do? Who are they?

What do they teach about the covenant?

What is the Day of the Lord? What is the link with Jesus?

5. The Messiah

What does the Old Testament teach about the Messiah?

Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

What Jewish expectations of the Messiah does Jesus not fulfil?

6. Jesus

What are the main events in Jesus' life?

What does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?

What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the Son of Man?

What is the day of the Lord?

PRACTICE CHRISTIANITY ESSAY QUESTIONS

Use the TRADEC layout to create an essay arguing your point of view on the following topics. You may recognise some of these topics from your GCSE. Lots of the topics we look at, at A Level are similar to the GCSE ones.

If I were you, I'd plan my answer first, for about 5 minutes, thinking about these things...

- Work backwards. What is your conclusion? Do you agree or disagree, and what is your main reason?
- Then think of other reasons to support your point of view. Give specific examples. Can you use a Bible verse (i.e. Easter celebrates the death of Jesus which is found in the Gospel..).
- What reasons might someone have for disagreeing with you. Can you think of two? Can you back up their point of view with an example?
- Why is their point of view rubbish?

Essay Questions

1. 'The stories of Jesus' birth show no evidence that Jesus was God' (30 marks)
2. 'The doctrine of the Trinity is essential to understanding God' (30 marks)
3. 'People should be baptised as infants according to Christianity' (30 marks)

ETHICS TASK

Thought Experiments:

<http://www.philosophyexperiments.com/fatman/>

<http://moralmachine.mit.edu/>

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/9-philosophical-thought-experiments-that-will-keep-you-1340952809>

1. Carry out some of the above activities.
2. Write a written reflection of the moral questions that each one raises, and how you might respond to these.
3. Try to list your own “moral code” or “rules for life”. Try and write around 5-10.
4. Can you imagine any exceptions to your own “rules”?
5. Write your own response to the following question:

“How should we decide the right thing to do?”

In your answer you should:

- Include a range of different opinions
- Justify your answer with a range of reasons
- Include examples to illustrate your point
- Reach a justified conclusion

PRACTICE ETHICS ESSAY QUESTIONS

Use the TRADEC layout to create an essay arguing your point of view on the following topics. These may be more challenging as they might be entirely new to you. Please use the internet to research the topics before writing. There are lots of resources available online.

To aid your research and learning, this website has lots of lessons, resources and revision. Use the options on the left to find the relevant topic to your question:

<https://www.quodvultdeus.com/a-level-ethics.html>

1. 'Situation Ethics promotes immoral behaviour' Evaluate this view (30)

This links to the topic of situation ethics.

2. 'Virtue Theory is useful when faced with a moral dilemma' (30)

This links to the topic of virtue theory.

3. 'Natural Law is an excellent system for making moral decisions today' (30)

This links to the topic of natural law.

4. 'Utilitarianism is too weak to work in contemporary society' Evaluate this view (30)

This links to the topic of utilitarianism.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUGGESTED READING LIST (FOR FUN!)

The Philosophy Files – Stephen Law
The Philosophy Gym – Stephen Law
The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
The Book of Joy
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
The Sage Train (comparison of philosophers, and how ideas are relevant) – Nicky Hansell
The Left Hand of God
I am Malala
Does my head look big in this?
The History of Religion
The Story of God - Karen Armstrong
My Sister's Keeper – Jodi Picoult
Sophie's World (a history of the great philosophers)– Jostein Gaarder
The Solitaire Mystery – Jostein Gaarder
Time Riders (A group of children travel time fixing the world – link to Genesis) Alex Scarrow
Life of Pi
The Little Prince
You Kant make it up
A Monster Calls (death and bereavement)
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (a lot of parallels to Christianity)– CS Lewis
Screw tape letters – CS Lewis
Midnight's Children (inter-faith religions)
The Book Thief (Hiding and helping Jewish people during the Holocaust)
The Lord of the Rings (Problem of Evil, Conflict between death and immortality)
The Promise – Eva Schloss
A Rumour of War (personal experience of war, bravery and sacrifice) – Philip Caputo
Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
The Story of God – Robert Winston
God is not great – Chris Hitchens
An atheists History of Belief – Matt Kneal
Discovering God – Rodney Stark
The Dice Man - George Cockcroft

RE AT THE MOVIES

U

Comparison of traditional Disney vs modern – e.g Snow White and Frozen – Gender roles

The Miracle Maker*

The Life of Jesus

The Prince of Egypt*

The Life of Moses

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Prejudice

PG

Life of Pi

Journey of internal discovery

He Named me Malala*

Equality, Forgiveness, Human Rights

Mama Mia

Marriage and Families

Hidden Figures

Gender Roles, Equality

Remember the Titans

Racism

The Hiding Place

Christian faith during the Holocaust

Gandhi

Peace and Conflict

Evan Almighty*

Noah's Ark

The Chronicles of Narnia*

Christian symbolism

Superman*

Christian symbolism

The Truman Show*

Free Will Nature of God

A Walk to Remember

Atonement

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Prejudice

Blade runner

What does it mean to be human?

12

Million Dollar Baby

Euthanasia; Problem of suffering

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Marriage and Families

Bend it Like Beckham

Sikhism, Racism, Sexuality, Families

The Help

Equality, Human Rights, Gender

Bruce Almighty*

Nature of God

Invictus

Equality, Human Rights, Apartheid

Minority Report

Crime and Punishment

Dirty Dancing

Abortion

I Robot

Free Will

Freedom Writers

Tolerance

Selma*

Equality, Martin Luther King

Hotel Rwanda*

Genocide, Peace and Conflict

12A

The Adjustment Bureau*

Free Will, Nature of God

Inception

Free Will, Determinism

Angels and Demons

Christian symbolism

The DaVinci Code

Christian symbolism

The Two Popes

The Vatican

15

Noughts and Crosses
Hacksaw Ridge*
A Time to Kill
The Shawshank Redemption*
Let Him Have It
The Railway Man
A Short Stay in Switzerland*
East is East*
The Matrix*
Four Weddings and a Funeral
Dead Man Walking
Slumdog Millionaire
Kingdom of Heaven

Equality
Peace and Conflict
Social injustice
Crime and Punishment
Crime and Punishment
Peace and Conflict
Euthanasia, Problem of Suffering
Islam, Catholicism
Free Will, Determinism
Weddings, Death
Capital Punishment
Self-reflection, Justice
The Crusades

TV Shows

The Story of God
The Good Place
God Friended me
Vicar of Dibley
The Crown (season 3, episode 3)
Dr Who
Britain's Gay Footballers
The Big Questions
Muslims like us

Comparison of faiths
The Afterlife
Conversion
Women in the Church
Problem of Suffering
Philosophy and Ethics
Sexuality, Equality
Moral, ethical philosophical issues
Life as a British Muslim

RE in Music

Blinded by your Grace
Family Portrait
The Grave
Unfaithful
Fall From Grace
Holy War
Enola Gay
World Peace
God
Let's Talk about Sex
Stole
Blackbird
Same Love
Hallelujah
Anthem
Zombie

Stormzy
Pink
Don McLean
Rhianna
The Lunar Pilots
Alicia Keys
OMD
Rhianna
John Lennon
Salt 'n Pepa
Kelly Rowland
The Beatles
Macklemore
Leonard Cohen
Leonard Cohen
The Cranberries

Nature of God, Salvation
Divorce
Effects of War
Relationships
Effects of War
Holy War
Nuclear War
Pacifism
Faith
Sexual Relationships
Problem of Suffering
Response to death of MLK
Sexuality
Faith and Love
Faith and Hope in Darkness
Problem of suffering

If you would like to get in touch, have any questions or need further support, please contact Miss Clemo or

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