

Religious Studies

Year 11-12

Bridging Project



Welcome to Religious Studies at A Level!

This pack contains activities and resources to prepare you to start your A level in RS. It is aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE throughout the rest of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

When you arrive to your first lesson in September you should bring your completed project with you.

You should also bring a folder, lined paper or a notepad, dividers and plastic wallets.

This course is split into 3 components:

1. Study of a Religion (Christianity)
2. Ethics
3. Philosophy

The resources include:

- Tasks for each of the three components.
- Including key words, research, podcasts, reviews, questions and videos.
- There is also some suggested films to watch and books you could read.

1. Study of a Religion: Christianity

The religion we will be looking at is Christianity. This will be split into 4 themes; Religious Figures and Sacred Texts; Religious Concepts; Religious Life and Religious Practices. Explain the meanings of the key terms/concepts below and explain Christian beliefs about each.

Incarnation	
Resurrection	
Atonement	
Salvation	
Original Sin	
Omnipotent	
Omniscient	
Omnipresent	
The Trinity	

1. Holy Spirit

- What is the Holy Spirit?
- Why is the Holy Spirit a powerful concept?

Christian beliefs about Jesus



4. Jesus as saviour

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What is atonement?
- How would Christians describe Jesus?

2. Jesus as fully human and divine

- What does incarnate mean?
- How does this idea link to the Trinity?

5. Jesus as eternal

- What was the resurrection?
- Why is the resurrection important to Christians?

3. Jesus as teacher and guide

- What do both the parables tell you about Jesus?

The word 'Christ' in Greek means 'Messiah'. In Hebrew, Messiah means 'Anointed' or 'Chosen One' and refers to a leader who had been prophesised to come in the Jewish Scriptures.

Literacy misspellings on the

Beliefs about Jesus as Trinity.



Even athiests (people who do not belive in God) accept that there was a man named Jesus who lived in Palestine in the first 30 or so years of the first century AD, who was crucified by the Romans around the year 33 AD. Athiests accept this because of the documentary evidence that this man existed. It is also known that he was a Jewish rabbi or teacher and had many followers.



What is not nown is weather this man was actually the Son of God or the second person of the Trinity witch is what his followers claimed. Obviously this can never be known or proved to be either true or false. Christians believe that he was actually part of God and it is this single beleif that makes someone either a Christian or not.

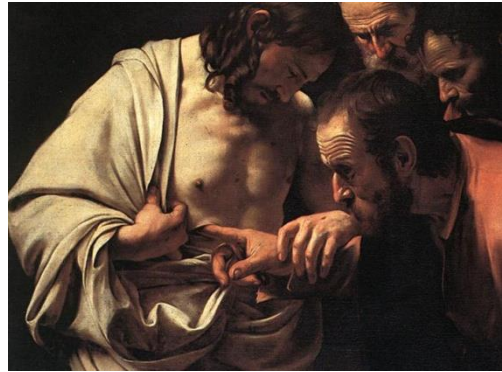
Some Christians believe that Jesus's mother, Mary, was a virgin when she gave birth to him and that he was farthered by the Holy Spirit. All Christians believe that he was a miracle worker who healed the sick and those who suffered. They also claim that he had the power to forgive sins and cast out deamons.

It is not really doubted that the central message of this Jesus was that people should love one another and be kind to each other. He saw this as the single most important thing along with the need to love God. He said that to "Love God and love your nehybour as yourself" was the greatest comandment.

Jesus taught in parables - a story that seems to be just a story but actually contains a hidden, deeper meaning. So for example in the Parable of the Lost Son, Jesus used a story about two sons and how

they used their father's money to teach people that God will forgive people if they turn to him.

Jesus was crucified on a cross next to two thieves with the sign "This is the King of the Jews" written above his head. Christians believe that 3 days after this event he came back from death in an event known as the resurrection. He appeared several times to his disciples before appearing to `rise` before them in an event known as "The



Ascension". There were no reported sightings of him after this.

The Holy Spirit

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit (the 3rd person of the Trinity) is the continuing presence of Jesus in the world. The Spirit is seen as an invisible force of good that can direct things to be the way that God wishes for his people. The Spirit is often symbolised by a dove - the sign of peace. The Spirit is seen as a force which can give gifts - love, joy and peace - are perhaps the best known but the Spirit can also move Christians to `speak in tongues` an event which happens in many Pentecostal churches all over the world.

The Spirit was given to the disciples at Pentecost when there was a rushing wind that broke through the shutters of the window and appeared as tongues of fire burning on the heads of the disciples in the room. The fire did not harm them and burnt without heat.

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/OHMryr1ZlxQ>

Now summarise in your own understanding this 'God grammar' that you have watched.

Reinforce your understanding of the Trinity by drawing the diagram from the video.

Make notes around the illustration you need to draw.

2. Ethics

Situation Ethics

- Watch the following YouTube clip
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmjmusfufPU&list=PLfwH1Scbhqg_hKlgoyfN3_b8xwK1loFyNZ
- Summarise what is meant by the 'Middle Way'
- Research what life was like in the 60s - why might society have craved a change in ethical thinking?

Natural Law

- Watch the following Crash Course Philosophy (it is still Ethics!) clip
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_UfYY7aWKo
- Design a 10 question quiz (with answer sheet) about the concepts explored within the video

Applied Ethics

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPI25oraVc> This is the first episode of Stephen Fry's series 'Out There', where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world.
- Questions to think about and/or write about - try to support your answers with reasoning:
 1. Do you think there is a 'right' attitude and a 'wrong' attitude towards homosexuality? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?
 2. Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don't agree with them. Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?
 3. What do you think are the aims of this television series? Do you think they are good aims? Do you think this first episode is successful in achieving its aims?
 4. What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?

3. Philosophy

The Cosmological Argument

You should watch the videos below and answer the questions that follow.

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

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

1. What does the argument set out to prove?

2. What does a posteriori mean?

3. What does inductive mean?

4. What conclusion does it want us to accept?

5. What does cosmos mean?

6. What is the argument based on and what does it mean?

7. What is the first cause? What three characteristics must it have?

8. Who came up with the cosmological argument? What was his 'job'?

9. What are Aquinas' Five Ways?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

10. What is the cosmological argument?

11. What is the BIG problem with the argument?

12. What is the Kalam Cosmological Argument?

13. What Leibniz argue the universe needs?

14. What are three criticisms of the Cosmological argument?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

The Problem of Evil

Using the following resource, explain what Mackie's theory about The Problem of Evil is and propose a minimum of two arguments to support his argument and two arguments to oppose his argument. Use key philosophers where possible, such as Hume.

<https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/mackie.html>

The Design Argument

Watch the video - The Design argument part 2:

<https://youtu.be/9NGj6Zk9Wj0> and answer the following questions on the argument for design.

1. Who was William Paley? When was he about?
2. What was his theory about the rock?
3. What was his theory about the pocket watch?
4. What are the points he makes about the watch needing an intelligent designer? What are the 5 points he makes?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
5. What does Paley compare by? Give an example what he uses.
6. Paley says every manifestation that is seen in the watch can be seen in what?

7. Design must have had a designer and so therefore must have been a person, so what does he come up with in his theory for the argument of design of the world? How does he summarise this as a logical argument?

8. What does Anthropic mean?

9. Who is Fred Robert Tennant?

10. Who does Dyson mean by accident of physics?

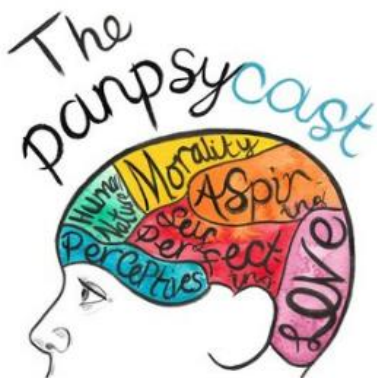
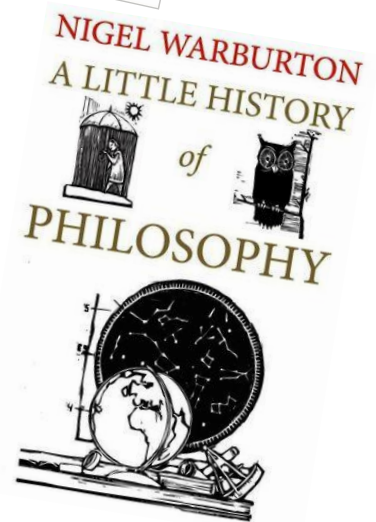
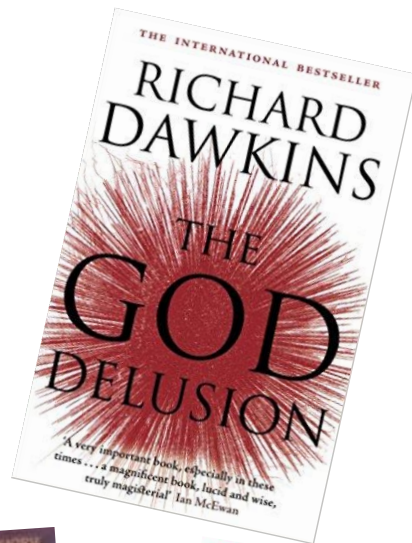
11. What did Stephen Hawkins write about fine tuning?

12. Paul Davies, also known as the Goldilock theory, why was he known by this? What does it mean?

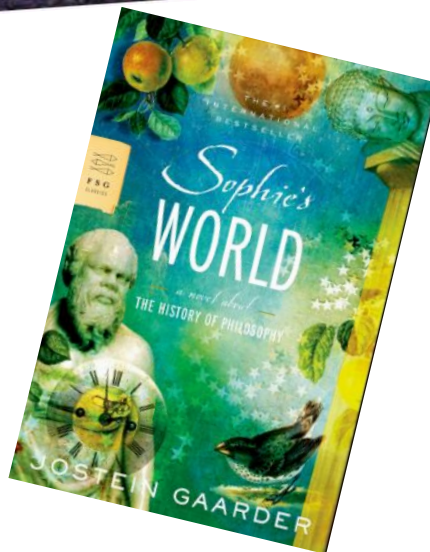
13. Who was David Hume and what was remarkable about his education?

14. What were the 4 analogies Hume came up with?

Suggested books to read, films to watch, podcasts to listen to and games to play...



<http://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/>



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