



Beginning your journey in A-Level Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics

Why study A-level RS?

Do you ever think about why we are here? What purpose religion has in modern society? Or why people always dispute over moral matters? When you study Philosophy and Ethics at A-level you will become more equipped to tackle these big life questions. Through examining various scholarly arguments and formulating judgments, you will gain further insight into the complex nature of our world and human's place within it.

If you enjoyed studying the Year 11 Paper 2 topics: Relationships and Families, Religion and Life and Existence and Revelation and wish to expand on these issues by applying your knowledge further, you will certainly be engaged in A-level Philosophy and Ethics!

What skills do you need to be successful in this subject?

- Ask questions and contribute to debate and class discussions. **This includes formulating your own reasoned opinions.**
- Essay writing. You should want to enhance your evaluation and analysis skills and develop extended written response.
- Listen to other students and the teacher and be ready to challenge and discuss their ideas.
- Think about how you can apply your prior knowledge and create wider synoptic links to other units or areas of study.
- Read news articles and keep up-to-date about contemporary ethical matters.

Pre-enrolment work to bring with you to your first lesson

Use the following titles to write **TWO** evaluative essays or academic articles:

a. *'There is no absolute morality'*

b. *'It is irrational to believe in something that cannot be seen'*

The resources below may help you with your research and written response.

For question a, read the opening chapter of *The Puzzle of Ethics* by Dr Peter Vardy

<https://api.taylorfrancis.com/content/books/mono/download?identifierName=doi&identifierValue=10.4324/9781315502977&type=googlepdf>



These videos may also be of use:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvLRq5e67jQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBdfcR-8hEY>

For question b, read the opening chapter of *The Puzzle of God* by Dr Peter Vardy

<https://api.taylorfrancis.com/content/books/mono/download?identifierName=doi&identifierValue=10.4324/9781315699165&type=googlepdf>

These videos may also be of use:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs_gY1K1AMU&list=PLUHoo4L8qXthO958RfdrAL8XAHvk5xuu9&index=12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmTsS5xFA6k&list=PLUHoo4L8qXthO958RfdrAL8XAHvk5xuu9&index=9>

How to form a philosophical argument:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs&list=PLUHoo4L8qXthO958RfdrAL8XAHvk5xuu9&index=2>

In your work you should:

- Provide detailed explanations of opposing views and contrasting arguments.
- Apply the contributions of named scholars (Philosophers or Theologians).
- Use a range of examples to demonstrate how various arguments can be proven or disproven (these can be contemporary, historical, hypothetical, Biblical)
- Show critique of views raised (reasons why some ideas and arguments may be problematic or disagreeable)
- Come to a conclusion which shows your overall judgment of ideas.