



# Religion, Ethics and Philosophy

## A Level

### Summer Independent Learning

Bring all completed tasks to your first day in college in September.

# Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

1. Read the information on the hyperlink

[https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16\\_15/pdf/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction.pdf](https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16_15/pdf/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction.pdf)

2. Complete the activities – remember to keep checking your answers until you get them all right.

[https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16\\_15/eng/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction/01-which-arguments.html](https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16_15/eng/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction/01-which-arguments.html)

3. a. Use the information and the right answers to the activity to complete the table below.

Deductive arguments	Inductive arguments	Fits both	Fits neither
e.g. The premises provide absolute proof for conclusions			

3. b. Use the information to define a priori and a posteriori premises.

4. Watch the following videos about the Cosmological Argument.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+cosmological+argument&&view=detail&mid=A95B459BB8DC69EE4C3FA95B459BB8DC69EE4C3F&rvsmid=7FC0C81206E4DCB916C07FC0C81206E4DCB916C0&fsscr=0&FORM=VDRVRV>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY> (just arguments 1-3)

- Is the cosmological inductive or deductive?
- Is the cosmological argument based on a priori or a posteriori premises?
- How does the cosmological argument attempt to prove the existence of God?
- Do you find the arguments convincing?

# Introduction to Ethics

1. Watch the video below and complete the following tasks.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAIU&list=PLa\\_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAIU&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe)

- a. Write a definition of ethics.
- b. Write a definition of meta-ethics.
- c. What is moral realism?
- d. What are the problems with moral realism?
- e. What is moral anti-realism?
- f. What are the problems with moral anti realism?
- g. What are moral relativism and moral absolutism?
- h. What do you think makes an action moral?

## Thinking like an A' level RS student

If you like to have a debate or think about deep questions, then this subject is definitely for you. Below are some statements that we would like you to think about in preparation for your exams next year.

**-God must exist because the world is too complex to have just come about on its own.** Evaluate this view.

**-Life is meaningless without the idea of heaven or hell.** Evaluate this view.

**-Religion is man-made.** Evaluate this view.

**In order to answer each of these questions**, you need to consider both sides of the argument. Why would some people agree with the statement and why may some disagree? When you have thought of as many points as possible then you should end your mini essay with a conclusion. (The conclusion should really highlight what you think).

### Example:

Some may argue...

On the other hand...

An alternative view,

In contrast to this...

It could be said...

In conclusion...

**Note:** You will be expected to bring your 3 mini essays with you to college on the first day in September.

## Exploring further...

We **strongly recommend** that you complete the following tasks as they will help you develop your knowledge and understanding of the many topics covered during the Religion, Ethics and Philosophy A Level course.

Choose a minimum of 3 tasks and write a one paragraph summary and/or review of it- so that we can discuss them in September.

	<p><b>The Panpyscast</b> Aimed at A Level RS and Philosophy students. Thought-provoking and witty. Useful episodes include, 1, 2, 32 or 42 or any that you find interesting!</p>	<p><b>Philosophy Bites, Ethics Bites and Philosophy the Classics podcasts</b> Brilliant introductions to key texts and ideas in philosophy and ethics <a href="#">Trolleys-killing-and-the-doctrine-double-effect?</a></p>	<p><b>History of Philosophy without any gaps</b> This is a podcast that tells the story of philosophy but without the focus on the Western tradition. <a href="#">Introduction to the ideas of Aquinas</a></p>
	<p><b>The Good Place</b> Comedy on Netflix exploring the afterlife and ethics (it is very funny!) Some clip are available on YouTube.</p> 	<p><b>Religion for Breakfast</b> YouTube series of short, 6 minute videos on a huge range of religious topics and movements.</p>	<p><b>The Root of all Evil? 2-part</b> documentary series from Richard Dawkins that outlines the main arguments of the New Atheists regarding the dangers of religion</p>
	<p><a href="#">Article on Jurgen Moltmann</a> An influential theologian looks back on his life and ideas.</p>	<p><a href="#">Challenging Learning Journal - articles</a> Journals aimed at A levels students e.g. <a href="#">Autumn 2020</a> has articles on Jesus, faith in a pandemic and religion and science.</p>	<p><a href="#">Current and archived news articles on religion</a>  <a href="#">BBC ethics</a>  Keep up to date with religion in the news.</p>