

Holiday homework for students going into year 12 studying A level (OCR) Religious Studies:

Year 12 Holiday homework Part One : Looking at Development in Christian thought

In year 12 Religious studies is broken down into three sections

- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics
- Development of Christian Thought

Task 1

- a) Your first task is to look through the RS handbook and familiarise yourself with the course. At the back of the handbook there are keywords that you would need to define. (This is a big document that will go with us the entire A Level, but here are some basic questions attached to each of the units that might give you an idea)
- b) Choose two questions from each section and write down your initial thoughts.

Philosophy	Ethics	Christian Thought
1. Is the material world experienced by our senses all there is or is there more to life?	6. Do we all have an inbuilt nature that helps us decide right from wrong?	11. Why do we all do bad things when we know it's wrong?
2. What was there before the Big Bang?	7. Should there be universal rules that always apply to life?	12. What is heaven and hell (and how is it important even for those who don't believe in an afterlife?)
3. What can science actually prove?	8. Should the needs of the majority outweigh the needs of the few?	13. What exactly did Jesus teach that changed the world and was his message unique?
4. Why can people still believe in a God when there's so much evil?	9. Is happiness and love the ultimate goal with decision-making?	14. Is it ever right to go against the government, if the religion teaches it? (e.g. would it be right in Nazi Germany?)
5. Has science made any questions on the meaning of life pointless? Why/why not?	10. If there is no God, how can we decide if something is good or right?	15. Is religion fundamentally sexist?

Task 2 – Looking at DCT Topics

For the first of the Development of Christian Thought units you will need to know about 3 key philosophers (St Augustine, Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau).

The task below will prepare you with information that you will need to know for the course.

Use the link below to find out key facts about each philosopher

www.philosophybasics.com

For each philosopher write a brief synopsis (brief summary)

- Philosopher's Background
- Adult life
- Work
- One book that they have written

NB: Please ensure you look up the meaning of any new words

Task 3

Watch the following videos about the above 3 philosophers and make additional notes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZHdjRqiHH4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpJdPXnx7-> St Augustine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i4jb5XBX5s> T. Hobbs

<https://www.theschooloflife.com/thebookoflife/the-great-philosophers-jean-jacques-rousseau/>

J.Rousseau

Year 12 Holiday homework Part Two: Looking at Philosophy

Task 1: Background Research

1) Complete some background research and make notes about **Plato** e.g.

- Who was Plato (where was he from/ when was he alive/ what did he do?)
- What he known for
- What were his beliefs about 'knowledge'? i.e. where did he think that a person's knowledge came from?
- What is the 'Allegory of the Cave'?

2) Complete some background research and make notes about **Aristotle** e.g.

- Who was Aristotle (where was he from/ when was he alive/ what did he do?)
- What he known for
- What were his beliefs about knowledge?

3) Complete some background research and make notes about Descartes e.g.

- Who was Descartes (where was he from/when was he alive/ what did he do?)
- What he known for?
- What were his beliefs about reality?

Task 2:

Watch the YouTube clip and use the internet research Hilary Putnam's '**Brains in Vats**' Theory.

1. Briefly describe the theory
2. What philosophical questions/ issues does it raise?
3. Do you like/ agree with the theory? Justify your response

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zO0sSJB1TrI>

Task 3:

If possible, I would like you to watch the film 'The Matrix' (available on amazon prime video)

1. Explain the philosophical issues/ questions that the film raises
2. Make links - do the issues/ questions raised in this film link to any of the philosophers from tasks 1 and 2? Identify the philosophers and briefly explain how they link.

Task 4:

Do you believe that you exist? Write an argument of no more than 400 words that attempts to prove that you do exist.

Year 12 Transitions Part Three: Looking at Ethics

Task 1: Background Research

Looking at a classic Ethical dilemma is the Trolley Problem
What would you choose and why?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>

Task 2:

Look up “utilitarianism” – what would a utilitarian say?

Look up “deontology” – what would a deontologist say?

Task 3:

If possible, I would like you to start watching *The Good Place* – Series 1 (available on Netflix)

3. Explain the philosophical and theological issues/ questions that the series raises.
4. Make links - do the issues/ questions raised in this series link to any of the philosophers from the previous questions we've looked at? Identify the key thinkers and briefly explain how they link.