

# Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE): Summer Work

## Task 1: Philosophy of Religion

### Does the apparent design of the universe prove that God exists?

Philosophers throughout the ages have attempted to explore the issue of whether it is possible to prove the existence of God. The Design (Teleological Argument) is an attempt to prove through evidence based (*A Posteriori*) means that the evidence of order found in the universe is proof that an all-powerful, intelligent designer (God) must exist.

**Ensure that you are using the Cornell Method explained at the top when making notes on any of the material below.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtW9lyE04OQ>

Read the following information as a brief introduction to the nature of the argument and it's key strengths and weaknesses:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zv2fgwx/revision/3>

For a more in-depth account of the argument, read through the following. In particular, focus on the contributions made by different philosophers. An awareness of these is a central part of the study of Philosophy:

<https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/the-teleological-design-argument/>

Watch the video below which is part of the Crash Course Philosophy series and explores the idea of intelligent design:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v\\_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR)

## Task 2: Study of Religion (Christianity)

### A (very) brief history of Christianity!

For A Level Religious Studies we have to study one of the 6 major world religions. We choose to study Christianity and consider its history, sources of wisdom, ethical teachings, beliefs about life & death as well as its relationship with modern social issues and other world religions.

One of the most fundamental aspects of Christian faith is the belief in Jesus as the Son of God and one of the three parts of the trinity. Watch the following brief clip which considers what we know about the person of Jesus:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-j-is-for-jesus/zdgv47h>

Watch the clip below. This is from the Crash Course History Series and explores what happened in the very earliest days of the formation of the Christian Church:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG55ErfdaeY>

Read through the attached article from BBC Teach:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/why-didnt-christianity-die-out-in-the-1st-century/z7vn7nb>

Create a timeline to show the development of Christianity beginning with the time before the birth of Jesus (The Jewish Faith, as explored in the (Old Testament). Include some of the key aspects of the life of Jesus as shown in the New Testament and the development of the Early Church (e.g. Emperor Constantine).

## **Task 3: Introduction to Ethics**

### **Two examples of ethical theories**

At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives. Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy. Ethical theories aim to produce systems to help individuals and society to make moral and ethical choices.

Read through the following BBC webpage for an introduction to what is meant by Ethics:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/intro\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/intro_1.shtml)

The first ethical theory we will be exploring is Utilitarianism. Watch the following two videos which will briefly introduce this theory:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvmz5E75ZIA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI>

There is a PDF Document called 'Utilitarianism'. If possible, print this so that you can highlight important terms and sections of the text (but, if this is possible, do not worry-just make sure that you read the text carefully). Read the content of this PDF thoroughly and answer the Quick Quiz Questions at the end of the document.

The second ethical theory we will introduce is Situation Ethics. A brief summary from the BBC website is linked below. Read through and summarise 5 key points about this theory:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/situation\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/situation_1.shtml)

There is a PDF Document called 'Situation Ethics'. If possible, print this so that you can highlight important terms and sections of the text (but, if this is possible, do not worry-just make sure that you read the text carefully). Read the content

of this PDF thoroughly and answer the Quick Quiz Questions at the end of the document.

## Extra Resources:

### Textbooks:

Frye J- *AQA A Level Religious Studies Book 1* (Hodder, 2017)

Frye J- *AQA A Level Religious Studies Book 2* (Hodder, 2017)

### Websites:

[www.thephilosophyman.com](http://www.thephilosophyman.com)

[www.philosophersmag.com](http://www.philosophersmag.com)

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

<http://bpa.ac.uk/answers/resources/index.php>

[www.peped.org](http://www.peped.org)

### TV and Film:

The Good Place (Netflix)

The Story of God (Netflix)

Unorthodox (Netflix)

Round the World in 80 Faiths (BBC)

The Two Popes (2019-Netflix)

The Matrix (1999)

Twelve Angry Men (1957)

The Truman Show (1998)

### TED Talks (available online):

Elizabeth Loftus - how reliable is your memory?

Dan Gilbert - why we make bad decisions

Richard Dawkins - militant atheism

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - We should all be feminists

Damon Horowitz - Philosophy in prison

### Wider Reading:

Ayer A — *Language, Truth and Logic*

Baggini J-*The Pig that Wants to be Eaten*

Blackburn S-*Think*

Dupre B-*50 Philosophy Ideas you Must Know*

Chryssides G-*Christianity Today: An Introduction*

Cook D — *The Moral Maze*

Davies B — *An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion*

Dawkin R-*The Blind Watchmaker*

Dawkins R — *The God Delusion*

Fletcher J — *Situation Ethics*

Gaarder J - *Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy*

Lee H-*To Kill a Mockingbird*

McGrath A E — *Dawkins' God*

Singer P — *A Companion to Ethics*

Vardy P — *The Puzzle of Evil*

Vardy P — *The Puzzle of God*

Vardy P- *The Puzzle of Christianity*