

# The Friary Sixth Form



## Religious Studies Bridging Pack 2024

# Course Expectations



## Welcome to Religious Studies at A Level!

Now that you've decided to study Religious Studies at A level, you'll need to do a bit of preparation. This pack contains activities and resources to prepare you to start your A level in September. It is aimed to be used after you complete your GCSEs 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, dividers and plastic wallets. By the end of the course you will need one folder for each component.

### **This course is split into 3 components:**

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

### **The resources include:**

- A task for each of the three components.
- Including key words, research, podcasts, reviews, questions and videos.
- There are also some suggested tasks to complete and books you could read.

If you need any further information or have any questions please contact Mrs Gabbitass:

[kgabbitass@friaryschool.co.uk](mailto:kgabbitass@friaryschool.co.uk)

# Course Overview



Ethics	Philosophy	Christianity
<p><b>Theme 1 – Ethical Thought – How do people make decisions?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divine Command Theory</li> <li>• Virtue Theory</li> <li>• Ethical Egoism</li> <li>• Naturalism</li> <li>• Intuitionism</li> <li>• Emotivism</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 2 – Deontological Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion</li> <li>• Euthanasia</li> <li>• Capital Punishment</li> <li>• Immigration</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 3 – Teleological Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homosexual Relationships</li> <li>• Polyamorous Relationships</li> <li>• Animal Experimentation</li> <li>• Nuclear Weapons</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 4 – Determinism and Freewill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have freewill?</li> <li>• Is everything we do already determined?</li> <li>• Original sin</li> <li>• The absolute power of God</li> <li>• The corrupted nature of humans</li> <li>• Link between God and evil</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theme 1 – Arguments for the existence of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does God exist?</li> <li>• Teleological argument</li> <li>• Cosmological argument</li> <li>• Ontological argument</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 2 – Challenges to religious belief – evil &amp; suffering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The problem of evil and suffering</li> <li>• Why would a loving God allow evil?</li> <li>• Religious responses to the problem of evil</li> <li>• Religious belief as a product of the human mind</li> <li>• Atheism – rejection of religion</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 3 – Religious Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of religious experience</li> <li>• Mystical experience</li> <li>• The influence of religious experience on religious practice and faith</li> <li>• Miracles</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 4 – Religious Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems of religious language</li> <li>• Is religious language meaningless?</li> <li>• Religious language as symbolic</li> <li>• Religious language as mythical</li> <li>• Religious language as a language game</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theme 1 – Religious figures and sacred texts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus: his birth</li> <li>• Jesus: his resurrection</li> <li>• The Bible as a source of wisdom</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 2 – Religious Concepts and Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of God</li> <li>• The Trinity</li> <li>• Atonement</li> <li>• Faith and works</li> <li>• The community of believers</li> <li>• Key moral principles</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 3 – Significant social and historical developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitudes towards wealth</li> <li>• Migration and Christianity in the UK</li> <li>• Equality, discrimination and the changing role of men and women</li> <li>• Secularisation</li> <li>• Challenges from science</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 4 – Religious practices that shape religious identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism</li> <li>• Eucharist</li> <li>• Christmas</li> <li>• Easter</li> <li>• Religious Experience</li> <li>• Poverty and Injustice</li> </ul>

# Tasks



## 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. Use the internet to research the meanings of the key terms/concepts below.

Incarnation	
Resurrection	
Atonement	
Salvation	
Original Sin	
Omnipotent	
Omniscient	
Omnipresent	
The Trinity	

## 2. Philosophy

The first topic you will study in Philosophy is The Cosmological Argument. You should watch the videos below and answer the questions that follow.

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

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

1. What does the argument set out to prove?

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2. What does a posteriori mean?

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3. What does inductive mean?

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4. What conclusion does it want us to accept?

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5. What does cosmos mean?

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

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

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

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9. What are Aquinas' Five Ways?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

10. What is the cosmological argument?

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11. What is the BIG problem with the argument?

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12. What is the Kalam Cosmological Argument?

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# Glossary

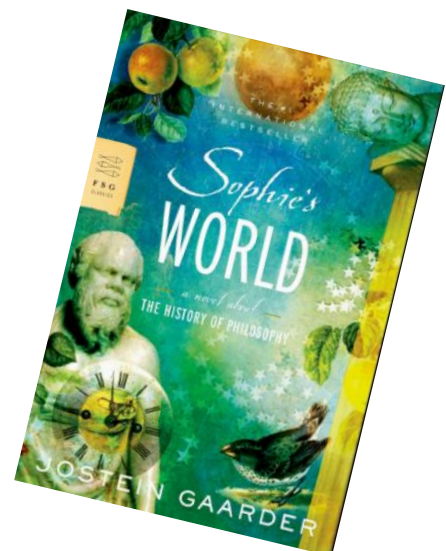
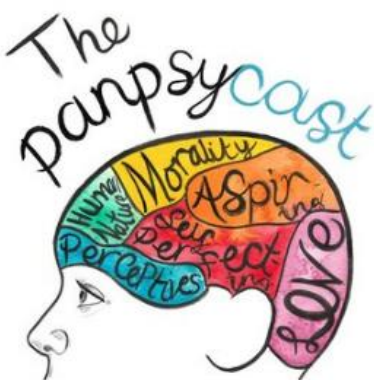
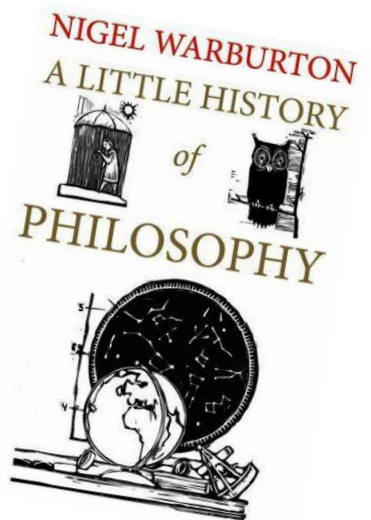
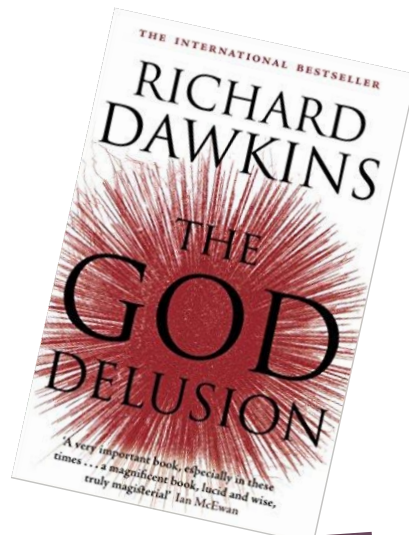


Religion	A particular system of faith and worship.
Belief	An acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof.
Faith	A belief in something or somebody. In terms of religious faith can also imply an attitude of trust or assent to unproved assertions.
Secular	Not connected with religious or spiritual matters.
Philosophy	The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.
Atheist	A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.
Theist	A person who believes in the existence of a god or gods, specifically of a creator who intervenes in the universe.
Agnostic	A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God.
Reason	The use of logic to come to a conclusion.
Free will	The ability to act at one's own discretion. This results in having moral responsibility for our free choices.
Religious Experience	A personal experience of the divine.
Natural Evil	Cause of suffering within the natural world including disaster, disease, decay and death. Sometimes referred to as suffering, this is evil which is not the consequence of specific human action and humans generally have little or no control over it.
Moral Evil	Intentional human action (commission) or inaction (omission) that results in suffering, eg murder.
Ethics	This term comes from the Greek word ethikos, which in its root form (ethos) means custom or habit. It refers to a branch of moral philosophy that aims to determine the meaning of right and wrong, and subsequently the correct way to act.
Absolute Morality	Absolute morality is when a person has a principle such as 'it is wrong to kill' and never alters it. They apply this principle or moral standard to all situations, no matter what the context or circumstance.
Relative Morality	Relative morality is when a person holds a moral principle but is prepared to adapt or adjust it in certain situations. This person might believe that, if it reduces suffering in the future, killing in war might be necessary.
Moral Responsibility	To be morally responsible requires freedom of choice. It is the status of morally deserving praise, blame, reward, or punishment for an act or omission, in accordance with moral obligations.

# Additional Reading / Viewing / Listening



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



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



## PHILOSOPHY EXPERIMENTS



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



# Supporting Resources



## Suggested General Internet resources and radio/TV programmes

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/as-a-level/">http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/as-a-level/</a>	Exam board website. Useful for specifications and past papers.
<a href="https://philosophymonster.weebly.com/">https://philosophymonster.weebly.com/</a>	Regularly updated with materials to help with our A Level course.
<a href="http://thesagetrain.co.uk/">http://thesagetrain.co.uk/</a>	Website to go with the book The Sage train. Has useful information on the philosophers included in the book.
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtOLJIWPWAcxFa37iQOUtOA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtOLJIWPWAcxFa37iQOUtOA</a>	MrMcMillanREvis YouTube channel for A Level RS. Mostly useful for Philosophy. This may not be for our exam board - so use with your specification to check that you are learning relevant material.
<a href="http://thepanpsycast.com/episodes-by-category/">http://thepanpsycast.com/episodes-by-category/</a>	A collection of Podcasts that are regularly updated, mostly suited to Philosophy and Ethics
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl</a>	In our Time is a Radio 4 programme which looks at influential ideas and people. It often takes complex ideas and makes them easy to understand. As well as watching out for new episodes the archives are useful. There is a religion section and philosophy section.
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09v6xx3">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09v6xx3</a>	The Moral maze is particularly useful for Ethics and Theme 3 Christianity. Each week a panel discusses an ethical issue. The archives are full of useful episodes.
<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s6p6/episodes/player">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s6p6/episodes/player</a>	Beyond Belief is radio 4's weekly programme that looks at faith in the modern world, probably most useful for the Christianity side of the course.
<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b007zpll?suggid=b007zpll">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b007zpll?suggid=b007zpll</a>	The Big Questions is on every Sunday morning, an audience discuss moral issues. Mostly relevant to Ethics and Christianity Theme 3.