

A Level RE: *Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought*



Essay Writing Structure

A

Answer
the
question

B

Build on
your
point

C

Challenge
or
support
the
argument

D

Decide
which is
stronger

Philosophy

Philosophy covers the big questions of life, and you will study many metaphysical debates that explore the reliability of knowledge, human nature and what it means to exist.

Units:

- Ancient philosophical influences, including Plato and Aristotle
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, including the cosmological, teleological and ontological arguments
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God, including God's attributes and the concept of eternity
- Issues in religious language.

Ethics

Ethics covers different methods of making moral decisions and how these apply to different scenarios and topics. Some ethical theories rely on a belief in God, others on the consequences, and some on duty.

Units:

- Normative ethical theories, including different approaches to ethical decision making:
 - Utilitarianism
 - Kantian Ethics
 - Natural Law
 - Situation Ethics
- The application of ethical theories to Euthanasia and Business Ethics
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Christian Thought

Developments in Christian Thought is a theological unit. This unit covers influential theologians of Christian history, including St Augustine and St Aquinas, and modern debates for the Church.

Units:

- Teaching on human nature, before and after the Fall
- Death and the afterlife, including beliefs about Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- The Person of Jesus, including the paradox of Jesus being wholly human and divine
- Moral principles and actions
- Religious Pluralism, theology and society, including the debate of who gets to go to heaven?
- Gender, theology and society, including feminist theology
- Liberation theology
- The Challenge of Secularism

What is RE about? Debating, discussion, evaluating, analysing, arguing, philosophy, ethics, secularism, humanism, atheism, fundamentalism, creative, fun, challenge!

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How it's assessed:

- 3 exams at the end of year 13
 1. Philosophy of Religion (120 marks / 2 hours)
 2. Religion and Ethics (120 marks / 2 hours)
 3. Developments in Christian Thought (120 marks / 2 hours)
- Each exam will be three essays, each worth 40 marks and written in 40 minutes.



Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Philosophy of religion Learners will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient philosophical influences • the nature of the soul, mind and body • arguments about the existence or non-existence of God • the nature and impact of religious experience • the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil • ideas about the nature of God • issues in religious language. 	Philosophy of religion (01) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Religion and ethics Learners will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normative ethical theories • the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance • ethical language and thought • debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience • sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs. 	Religion and ethics (02) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Developments in religious thought Learners will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world • sources of religious wisdom and authority • practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition • significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought • key themes related to the relationship between religion and society 	Developments in religious thought (03-07) 120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level

Is the universe designed with purpose?

Do we have a soul to live after death?

Is the right thing always the most loving?

Is Christianity sexist?

When discussing euthanasia, who has the autonomy?

Does happiness mean the greatest good for the greatest number?

How do we know we exist?

Is sexual behaviour entirely private or should it be subject to legislation?

Is the universe designed with purpose?

Is good ethics good business?