

A-Level RE Handbook



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# Course details

## Qualification

OCR A Level Religious Studies

## Specification

[OCR A Level Religious Studies H573 Specification](https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf)

## Entry Requirements

* Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, and a Humanities subject

## Calendar

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Half-term** | **Year 12** | **Year 13** |
|  | **Teacher 1** | **Teacher 2** | **Teacher 1** | **Teacher 2** |
| 1 | Plato & AristotleSoul, Mind and Body | Natural LawSituation Ethics | Arguments for God from reasonNature of God | Sexual EthicsGender and Society |
| 2 | Arguments for God from observation | EuthanasiaJesus Christ | Religious language (traditional)Religious language (21st century) | Gender and TheologyConscience |
| 3 | Problem of EvilAugustine | Christian moral principles and action | Knowledge of GodReligious Experience | Meta Ethics |
| 4 | Problem of EvilPluralism Theology | UtilitarianismKantian Ethics | Revision | Revision |
| 5 | Pluralism SocietyDeath and Afterlife | Applied Ethics: Business | Revision | Revision |
| 6 | Secularism | Liberation TheologyNormative Ethics Revision |  |

## Contact details

Head of RE: Olivia Noble ONoble01@beckfoot.org

A-Level RE teacher: Lucy Grunwell Llowed01@beckfoot.org

A-Level RE teacher: Saif Mohammed SMohammed01@beckfoot.org

# Organisation

You are expected to maintain a well-organised folder, which will be checked by a teacher once per half-term. You must use file dividers, and should contain the following sections:

1. Course documents
	1. Specification
	2. Teaching plan
	3. Data Sheet
	4. Learning outcome checklist
2. Independent learning
	1. 5 hours in… guidance and templates
	2. A-Level RE Revision booklet
	3. Homework
	4. Independent learning
3. Topic notes
	1. Philosophy of Religion
	2. Religion and Ethics
	3. Developing Christian Thought

Notes from each lesson should have a title and date, and placed into your files so that you have a useful set of notes from which you can revise.

# Equipment

You must bring the following to all lessons:

* Subject folder, black pens, green pen, mini-whiteboard pen.

# Assessment

## External assessments

A-Level RE is a linear course, and you will sit all external exams at the end of Year 13. These take the form of three papers, as shown below:

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## Grade boundaries

Below is an indication of the highest grade boundaries that have been used in A-Level RE exams, up to 2023. These are indicative only – actual grade boundaries used for in-class assessments may vary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **A-Level RE (Year 13)** |
| A\* | 92% |
| A | 78% |
| B | 66% |
| C | 54% |
| D | 41% |
| E | 29% |

## Internal assessments

You will have an end-of-topic assessment at the end of each unit, which will take the form of past paper questions. Up to 25% of each assessment will comprise of questions from previous units (cumulative assessment), so it is important that you keep your revision of all topics up-to-date.

You will have one set of mock exams in Year 12, and two sets of mock exams in Year 13. These mocks will cover all topics that have been covered up to that point in time.

## Year 12

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Half-term** | **Main assessment topic** | **Spec.** | **Cumulative assessment topic** | **Spec.** |
| 1 | Plato & Aristotle | Philosophy |  |  |
| Soul, Mind and Body | Philosophy |  |  |
| Natural Law | Ethics |  |  |
| 2 | Euthanasia | Ethics |  |  |
| Arguments from God | DCT |  |  |
| 3 | Jesus Christ | DCT |  |  |
| Augustine | DCT |  |  |
| 4 | Problem of Evil | Philosophy |  |  |
| Christian Moral Principles | DCT |  |  |
| Pluralism | DCT |  |  |
| 5 | Death and Afterlife | DCT |  |  |
| Christian Moral Action | DCT |  |  |
| Ethics Mock | You will complete an Ethics mock and will answer 3 questions from a choice of 4. | Ethics |  |  |
| Ethics | Natural Law | Ethics |
| Ethics | Situation Ethics | Ethics |
| Ethics | Christian Moral Principles | DCT |

## Year 13

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Half-term** | **Main assessment topic** | **Spec.** | **Cumulative assessment topic** | **Spec.** |
| 1 | Liberation Theology | DCT | You will complete a DCT mock and will answer 3 questions from a choice of 4. | DCT |
| Pluralism Theology | DCT | DCT |
| 2 | Secularism | DCT | DCT |
| Gender and Society | DCT |  |  |
| Jesus Christ | DCT |  |  |
| Philosophy Mock | You will complete a Philosophy mock and will answer 3 questions from a choice of 4. | Philosophy |  |  |
| Philosophy |  |  |
| Philosophy |  |  |
| Philosophy |  |  |
| Ethics Mock | You will complete an Ethics mock and will answer 3 questions from a choice of 4. | Ethics |  |  |
| Ethics |  |  |
| Ethics |  |  |
| Ethics |  |  |

# 5 hours in… RE

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it’s something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we’re talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Independent study can be divided into three types – Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive.

**Consolidation**

The evening following an RE lesson, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing a summary section at the bottom of your notes and making relevant flashcards e.g. for equations, definitions, facts you need to recall etc.

**Reactive**

This is your ’homework’. Each of your RE teachers should give you at least 1 hours’ worth of homework each week. If they don’t – ask them for some! If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that’s fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

**Proactive**

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. This might contain some of the following:

* Complete a set of practice past paper questions **(40 minutes each)**
* Listen to a podcast on Panpsycast **(1 hour)**
* Use websites to complete and add to class notes **(30 minutes)**
* Use the specification checklist to evaluate your understanding **(10 mins)**
* “Read, Cover, Write and Check” sections of Knowledge organisers **(30 mins)**

**Useful links**

* **OCR Past papers:** [AS and A Level - Religious Studies - H173, H573 - OCR](https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/assessment/)
* **Podcast:** [The Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast](https://thepanpsycast.com/)
* **Read and Revise:** [Ethics | philosophycat](https://www.philosophycat.org/ethics)

# Supercurricular

## Read

* Plato, Republic Book
* Aquinas Summa Theologica I-II (93–95)
* Lewis, C.S. The Four Loves, William Collins, Chapter 6
* Pojman, L. Discovering Right and Wrong, Chapter 8
* Singer, P. Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of our Traditional Ethics, Chapter 7
* Rosemary Radford Reuther: Women and redemption
* [Richard Huxtable](https://eclipse.microlibrarian.net/item/author/Richard-Huxtable): Euthanasia
* Introducing Ethics: A Graphic Guide: Dave Robinson
* [**Christianity and Sexuality In the Early Modern World**](https://eclipse.microlibrarian.net/item/book/b5d452ff-44d0-41f8-bc9e-3ff7981d830e)**:** Hanks[**Wiesner**](https://eclipse.microlibrarian.net/item/author/Wiesner-HanksM)
* **The Confessions: Augustine**

## Watch

* DCT: Bonhoeffer: Agent of grace
* Business Ethics: Erin Brockovich
* The Good Place - Netflix

## Listen

* [www.thepanpsycast.com](http://www.thepanpsycast.com)
* [The Bonhoeffer Podcast on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-bonhoeffer-podcast/id1449401976)
* [ALevelREpodcast on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/alevelrepodcast/id1534823518)
* [www.therepodcast.co.uk](http://www.therepodcast.co.uk)
* [https://events.chester.ac.uk/trs23/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fevents.chester.ac.uk%2Ftrs23%2F&data=05%7C01%7CONoble01%40beckfoot.org%7C6ded0517fd1140967fdd08db7d5f4c78%7Cb85cf629675449dbb8ab652d464da87d%7C0%7C0%7C638241620475989538%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DGHnbD2BBe0qD%2Bm%2FvitMVyOx3HGCqekAGvuvVHZivGU%3D&reserved=0)

## Compete

* Lots of universities run essay competitions for RE, for example the University of Cambridge and Sheffield.
* Debate Club – join in or even lead a debate!

## Online

* [www.philosophycat.org/ethics](http://www.philosophycat.org/ethics)
* <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>
* [www.iep.utm.edu](http://www.iep.utm.edu)

# Write like a Theologian

It is important that you can explain yourself clearly in your written work. Writing like a Theologian will ensure you are able to get your points across in an accurate and concise manner.

## A card with text and a person in a cap  Description automatically generated

## Command words

Analyse Interpret data to arrive at a conclusion.

Comment Present an informed opinion.

Compare Identify similarities and/or differences.

Deduce Draw conclusions from information provided.

Define Specify meaning.

Describe Set out characteristics.

Determine Use given data or information to obtain an answer.

Evaluate Judge from available evidence.

Explain Set out purposes or reasons.

Give Produce an answer from recall or from given information.

Justify Support a case with evidence.

Predict Give a plausible outcome.

Show Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

State Express in clear terms.

Suggest Present a possible case/solution.

# Specification

The specification ([OCR A Level Religious Studies H573 Specification](https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf)) Should be in the front of your folder.

