

# Year 11 into 12 Bridging Work - A Level Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics

## AQA A Level Religious Studies Topics

Studying AQA A-Level Religious Studies will help you to develop your analytical and evaluative skills. You will gain a deep understanding of religious, philosophical, and ethical issues. The A-level course is structured into two key components:

1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

2: Study of Religion and Dialogues

### 1. Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

In this component, you'll explore some of the most fundamental philosophical questions about religion, morality, and ethics. There are two sections within this component

1. Philosophy of Religion
2. Ethics and Religion

#### A. Philosophy of Religion

The topics covered include:

- Arguments for the existence of God including the design, cosmological and ontological arguments
- The problem of evil and suffering
- The nature of religious experience
- The use and value of religious language
- Miracles
- Self, death, and the afterlife

#### B. Ethics and Religion

The topics covered include:

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Meta-ethics (the meaning of right and wrong)
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- The ethical thought of Bentham and Kant

### 2. Study of Religion and Dialogues

In this component you'll undertake an in-depth study of one religious tradition – Christianity

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This bridging work will touch on all three papers to give you a brief overview. There is plenty of knowledge that you need at A Level that isn't covered in the GCSE Spec. This work is designed to bridge some of those gaps and introduce you to some of the key philosophical and religious ideas at KS5. Please complete this work to the best of your ability, as it will not only benefit you but give your teachers an early indication of your performance and potential in this subject. Good first impressions are key! You have several pieces of work that are a mixture of research, written work, videos, poster projects and reading- please complete all of these before first lesson in September. There are also some optional activities such as films, TV series and podcasts.

Philosophy of Religion- The existence of God In this section, we want to be able to see that you can think and are open to ideas!

We'd like you to write an answer / essay response to this question:

“Can we PROOVE that God exists?”

There are no limits to this question! You can answer it in any way you like!

We would advise you spend time researching different philosophers, ideas and that you think about this question from many angles. We would expect that you write between 1 and 3 pages in answer to the question- but we are looking for quality not quantity! These links may help with your answers but please also feel free to explore ideas of your own.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KH6LLKw0Gk>

[https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/files/can\\_we\\_prove\\_gods\\_existence.pdf](https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/files/can_we_prove_gods_existence.pdf)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/future/article/20210301-how-physics-could-prove-god>

exists

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/can-you-prove-the-existence-of-god/>

Some suggested potential topics to discuss in this essay:

Paley's Design Argument; Aquinas' Cosmological Argument; The Problem of Evil and Suffering; Miracles; The Bible; The rise of atheism; Religion vs. Science; Personal belief, Religious Experience, Psychology, Biology, Medicine... e optional activities such as films, TV series and podcasts.

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ETHICS Relativist and Absolute Morality Watch the clip and read the paper on Relative and Absolute Morality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkpEq5FVYsg>

<https://dsfc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Yr11-2020-Philosophy-Bridging-Work Moral-Relativism.pdf>

1. Outline the meaning of Relative and Absolute Morality.
2. In no more than 500 words for each, summarise the content of the Relative and Absolute Morality papers above by answering both of these questions:

“Why might someone agree with Relative Morality?”

“Why might someone disagree with Absolute Morality?”

- ” 3. Create a glossary of all the words in bold in the two articles.

This might be in the form of bullet points or a mind map.

You will need to research many of them beyond they reference in these articles.

Ensure the definition you outline puts the term in a philosophical context, i.e. the term ‘relative’ could mean ‘family member’ in the context of households, but we need the definition in the context of philosophy and ethics!

4. Finally, add a paragraph or more on whether you think you are more of a Relativist or more of an Absolutist. Refer to examples from one or more areas of applied/practical ethics to illustrate your points. Make sure you give your reasons!



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THEOLOGY; The Study of Christianity; The Bible

This section of course assumes your knowledge of Christianity is good and you have a basic understanding of the religion and the Bible.

Therefore, we'd like you to make notes on a few key areas and basics to ensure you are prepared for the A level theology you will be exploring:

Watch these 2 videos from "the Bible Project" and make notes on the content in the form of a Bible timeline or "journey" poster.

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/what-is-bible/>

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/the-story-of-the-bible>

Try to include as much detail as possible including the formation, history and origins of the Bible, key sections, key terms and changes made to the Bible over time.

You should also show you understand the "story" of the Bible and make reference to different books, stories or important people.

Be creative! This task works best as a creative piece of work on poster paper, where you use images and diagrams as well as text to show you understand the history, origins and story of the Christian scriptures.

