

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Transition Tasks



Quite often, people come in to Year 12 after their nice long holidays and get a bit of a shock! The demands of A-Level are obviously significantly greater than that of GCSE so here are a few things to do over the summer to give you a bit of a head start! Don't get me wrong, I'm not expecting you to come in knowing all there is to know about Philosophy & Ethics...I just think these things might help you ease in to the course, whilst not being too taxing on you!

Task 5 is optional with just some suggestions of TV programmes, films and books. Please complete the remaining tasks by your first A Level RP lesson in September.

Subject Content for this course can be found here...

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062/subject-content>

Task 1 - Create a fact file about the following philosophers

Include dates, pictures & a background of their views.

Major works, ethical theory(s), what their theories say, key aspects of their theories

Peter Singer

St Thomas Aquinas

Jeremy Bentham

John Stuart Mill

Plato

Aristotle

Task 2 – Read and make notes on the introductory chapter on the Puzzle of God

This is written by Peter Vardy, we will be referring to his books a lot over the next two years.

Task 3 – Watch some clips from TED Talks about philosophy & religion- and make notes

<https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=philosophy>

<https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=philosophy&topics%5B%5D=religion>

Task 4 - Listen to Radio 4's 'The Moral Maze' and note the key points

This show covers some interesting ethical debates, some of which may well be relevant to our studies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>

Task 5 – TV/ Film/Books (additional optional tasks)

-The American TV Series 'Lost'

This show raises some really interesting ethical issues. In fact, it may be argued that it is based on an ethical premise we will study

-The Matrix

In The Matrix, there is an element of fate versus free will, this is a topic that we will look at in detail.

-Read *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder – an exploration of the great philosophical concepts of Western thought.

Task 6 – Visit the RS Revision Website

Whilst this website is not specific to our new AQA course, it provides excellent background knowledge on many of the topics that we will be studying.

<http://www.rsrevision.com/contents/index.htm>

