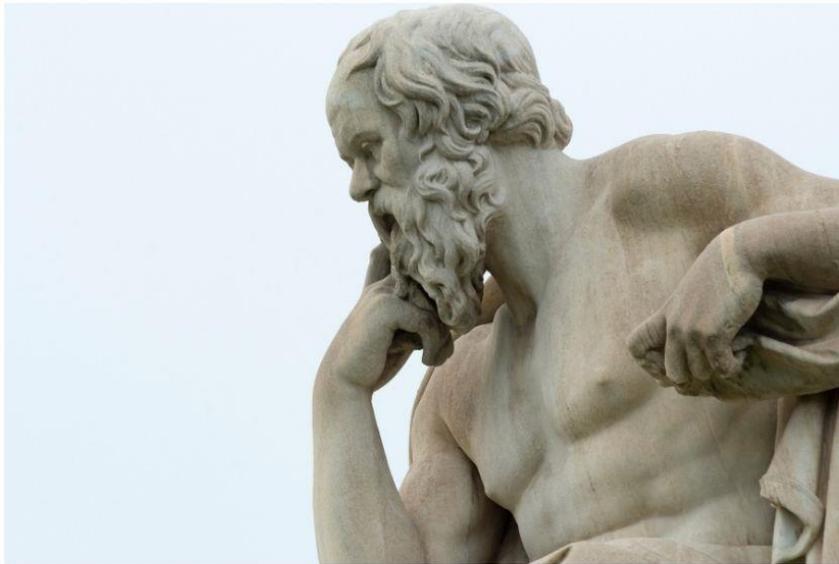


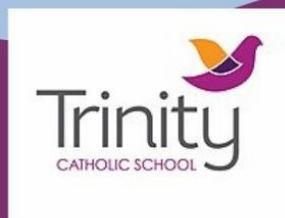
 Your-Future.Life

#AIMHIGH

Transition Pack
A Level
Philosophy, Religion
and Ethics



2021



Contents

Page	
Page 3	Introduction explanation of tasks
Page 4 – 6	An introduction to Philosophy
Pages 7-9	An introduction to Religion
Page 10	An introduction to Ethics
Page 11	Further Reading
Page 12	Example of Cornell Notetaking
Page 13	Additional Transition activities at a glance
Page 14 -18	Additional Cornell Note taking sheets

Introduction

Welcome to PRE. Philosophy is simply “thinking about thinking”, an intellectual journey of life and therefore the most useful and versatile subject to study!

In preparation for the transition days please complete the following required tasks

Details of each required task

Philosophy	Cornell Note taking activity – Does God Exist?
Religion	Bible research – Cornell Notetaking – Additional notetaking templates are available on our PRE team.
Ethics	Research the FOUR main categories of ethical theory and produce a summary of each.

There are also additional tasks and suggested reading for you to explore in preparation for September. To achieve the best results at A level students are required to read around the subject.

Stay in touch	Email us your progress
Mrs O’Gara	Ogara.g@st-benedicts.org
Mrs Fisher	Fisher.f1@st-benedicts.org
Ask to join the PRE Team and share your progress on there and start a conversation!	

Philosophy Task

Watch this debate between William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tYm41hb48o>

The video is called

Does God Exist? William Lane Craig vs. Christopher Hitchens - Full Debate [HD]

If you watch from 11 minutes 30 seconds you will see William Lane Craig and Christopher Hitchens being introduced. William Lane Craig is a Christian and Christopher Hitchens was a New Atheist.



Structure of the talk

The lecture is quite long and so you may wish to watch this in stages.

They talk for 20 minutes each and then have a right of reply each.

- William Lane Craig starts at 13 minutes
 - Christopher Hitchens starts at 33 minutes and 30 seconds
 - William Lane Craig replies to Christopher Hitchens from 54 minutes and 15 seconds
 - Christopher Hitchens replies to William Lane Craig from 1hr and 7 minutes
- From one hour 20 minutes there is a cross examination that you may wish to watch.

Having watched the videos you are going to complete a Cornell Notes activity. There are instructions on how to take Cornell Notes on the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErSjc1PEGKE>

The video is called:

How to take Cornell Notes properly

At the back of the booklet is an example of some completed Cornell Notes for you to see on a different topic.



Cornell Notes Template

Name Philosophy – Does God exist?	Date
--	-------------

Topic	Subject William Lane Craig's arguments for God's existence
--------------	---

Main Ideas	Notes
-------------------	--------------

Summary

Cornell Notes Template

Name Philosophy – Does God exist?

Date

Topic

Subject Christopher Hitchens' case for God not existing

Main Ideas

Notes

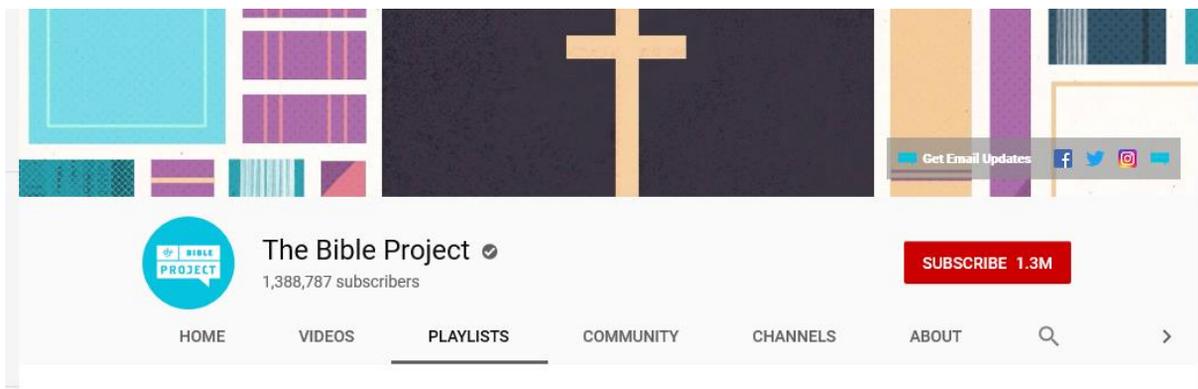
Summary

Religion Task

Our studied religion is Christianity and a good background knowledge of the Bible is important and therefore this is what your task is based on.

The Bible Project Series on YouTube will help you with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/playlists>

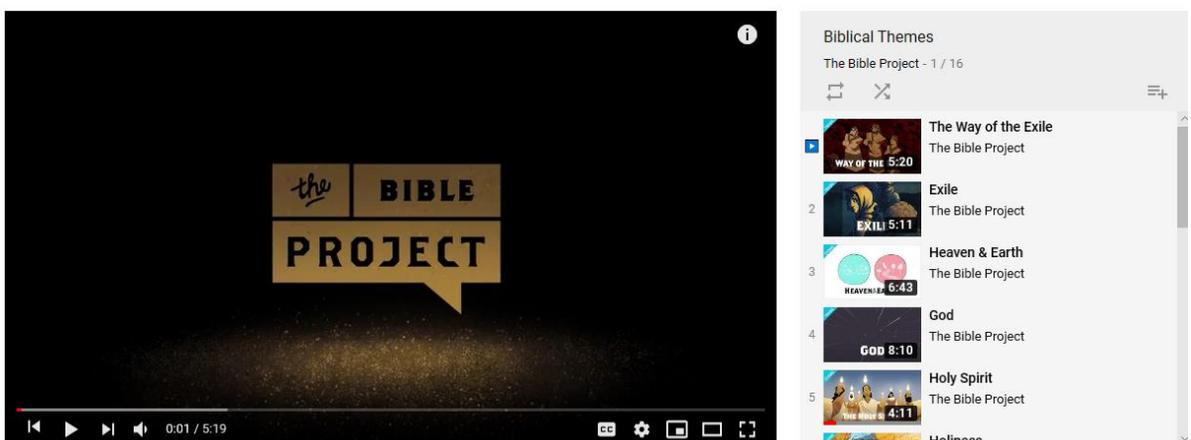


We recommend the Biblical Themes playlist which is about 1 hour 30 minutes long if you watch every video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpa0gcPyo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNec-HZjVHooeb4BSDSeHhEoh>

Using these videos and your own additional research you need to find out about the following Biblical stories, events or characters.

For each topic below you need to fill in a Cornell Notes template.



For each topic below you need to fill in a Cornell Notes template

- **The Story of the Fall?**

- What happens?
- How does this story link with Christian ideas about Jesus?

- **The story of Exile**

- Where, when and why were the Israelites exiled to?
- What does the prophet Jeremiah teach about exile in Babylon?
- What is the link with Jesus?

- **The Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah**

- Who was Isaiah?
- What is the background to Isaiah's writings?
- What does Isaiah write about the suffering servant?
- What is the link with Jesus?

- **The Prophets (there is a Bible project video called prophets)**

- What do prophets do? Who are they?
- What do they teach about the covenant?
- What is the Day of the Lord? What is the link with Jesus?

- **The Messiah**

- What does the Old Testament teach about the Messiah?
- Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?
- What Jewish expectations of the Messiah does Jesus not fulfil?

- **Jesus**

- What are the main events in Jesus' life?
- What does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?
- What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the Son of Man?
What is the day of the Lord?

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

Ethics Task

A Level Religious Ethics

Ethics is the part of philosophy that deals with good and evil. Ethics tries to answer questions like: What actions are good? What actions are evil?

How can we tell the difference?

Are good and evil the same for everyone?

How do our actions affect others?

To be prepared for the study of ethics it is important to be able to distinguish between:

Deontological ethics – This is the branch of ethics concerned with **actions**. Here we should follow independent moral rules or duties. When we follow our duty, we are behaving morally. When we fail to follow our duty, we are behaving immorally.

Absolutist ethics – Some people think there are such universal rules that apply to everyone. This sort of thinking is called moral absolutism. Natural Law

Teleological ethics – This is the branch of ethics concerned with **consequences**. Consequentialism teaches that people should do whatever produces the greatest amount of good consequences. Utilitarianism

Relativist ethics – If you look at different cultures or different periods in history you'll find that they have different moral rules. So what is right or wrong depends on the situation.

Required Task:

Research the **FOUR main categories of ethical theory** and **produce a summary of each**. You should include particular philosophers or ethical theories, and link these to examples of ethical dilemmas.

Read and summarise **AT LEAST ONE** news article on each on the following areas of **Applied Ethics**:

- Abortion
- Right to a Child / Infertility Treatments
- Euthanasia
- Genetic Engineering / Medical Ethics
- War and Peace
- You should include the main ethical issue(s) raised in the article, and explain the arguments **FOR** and **Against** the issue(s) mentioned.

Recommended Task – aiming for top marks you should read:

Ethics Made Easy – Mel Thompson ISBN 1444123033

Advisable:

Read or watch AT LEAST ONE of these:

<i>The Cider House Rules</i> (John Irving – abortion)	<i>Million Dollar Baby</i> (Euthanasia)
<i>Birdsong</i> (Sebastian Faulks – War)	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i> (Genetic Engineering)
<i>Brave New World</i> (Genetic Engineering)	<i>Gattaca</i> (Genetic engineering)
<i>2184</i> (Martin Parish – genetic engineering)	<i>The Island</i> (Cloning)

Further Reading

If you would like to do further reading we can suggest the following books to you:

- Brief Introductory Reading:
- Blackburn, S. Think, OUP 2001
- Craig, E. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002
- Law, S. The Philosophy Files, Orion 2002; The Outer Limits, Orion 2003; The Philosophy Gym, Hodder Headline 2003
- Nagel, T. What Does It All Mean? OUP 1987 (reprinted 2004)
- Warburton, N. Philosophy: The Basics (5th ed.), Routledge 2012

Philosophy:

- Gaarder, J. Sophie's World, London: Phoenix House 1995
- Davies, B. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion, OUP 1993
- Annas, J. An Introduction to Plato's Republic (particularly Chapters 9-10), OUP 1998

Ethics:

- Norman, R. The Moral Philosophers, OUP 1998

Religious Thought:

- McGrath, A. Christianity: An Introduction, Blackwell Publishing 2015

Online resources that will support your transition from KS4 to KS5

- <https://peped.org/listen/> - podcasts from Peter Baron , essay & exam advice – free until September 2020
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&app=desktop> – 7 hour crash course in Philosophy
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRjpyJxppUg&feature=youtu.be> – Feminism and Religion -
In this lunchtime lecture, Dr Dawn Llewellyn explores the tricky connections and disconnections between feminism, gender, and religion
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKt35O75wlr1cEddmP_OViFwELDXoytdi – Ben Wardle Religious Studies on YouTube

IX. A Model of the Cornell Notes document

Name	Date
Topic: Topic Rev Tom Honey on why God allows tsunamis	Subject: Problem of Evil

<p>Main Ideas:</p> <p>We need to move away from the God of classical theism</p> <p>We need to stop looking for a philosophical answer to the problem of evil</p> <p>Abandon God of classical theism for a suffering God – this fits the 20th century</p> <p>A God who responds to prayer or acts in history is biased and unfair</p> <p>Abandon traditional God, not one who acts but a divine presence</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Many people see God as the almighty, a policeman in the sky. In the past we have not wanted to rock the boat by exploring other ideas about God.</p> <p>Archbishop of Canterbury – people do not want an intellectual explanation of evil. There are no words that can make up for what has happened; instead, a compassionate silence and practical help is needed.</p> <p>God has to be able to feel and experience our pain. One who weeps when we weep and rejoice when we rejoice. We need to move away from an unchanging God who is cold and indifferent. WW1, WW2 and Holocaust. Where is God – the answer is God is in this with us or he does not deserve our allegiance. An unchanging God may exist but I do not want to know him.</p> <p>Why would God act in some cases but not others? This makes him unfair and partisan.</p> <p>We should see God not as one who does things as in the Old Testament, defeating Egyptians etc. but instead he is in things. Is this Pantheism? Pantheism? There are lots of don't knows but that is what makes God a divine mystery.</p>
---	---

<p>Summary:</p> <p>We must move away from the God of classical theism. God is not a grand fixer but instead a presence within us who feels our pain and joy. This allows us to offer support to those experiencing evil rather than philosophical arguments. A God who acts in history becomes partisan, and it makes more sense to have a God who understands all suffering rather than one that fixes some suffering whilst ignoring others' pain.</p>

<h2>6th Form Preparation</h2> <h3>Work for</h3> <h1>Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at a glance</h1>	 <p>Read these series of articles and complete the tasks on the Historical Figure of Jesus of Nazareth. It will give you skills of analysis of source texts and introduction to theological thought. <i>(Dev of Christian Thought)</i></p> <p>Historical Figure of Jesus of Nazareth <i>University of Cambridge</i> Time: 2hrs</p>	 <p>Listen to this podcast about Italian artist Raphael and his painting called The School of Athens. The podcast explores both Plato and Aristotle, and how Raphael has depicted them. <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>The School of Athens <i>BBC In Our Time</i> podcast Time: 1hr</p>	 <p>Listen to this podcast exploring the idea of original sin and its impact on politics, gender and notions of morality in western culture, examining Augustine, Milton, the Masaccio frescoes and Charles Darwin. <i>(Dev of Christian Thought)</i></p> <p>The Fall <i>BBC In Our Time</i> podcast Time: 1hr</p>
 <p>Complete this course which explores the importance of religion for understanding and engaging with global challenges, including the importance of religious literacy. <i>(Dev of Christian Thought)</i></p> <p>Why Religion Matters: Religious Literacy, Culture and Diversity <i>Open University, starts 11th May</i> Time: 10hrs</p>	 <p>Listen to this podcast about St Augustine and his book called Confessions. It gives an insight into the person of St Augustine and what influenced him. <i>(Dev of Christian Thought)</i></p> <p>Augustine's Confessions <i>BBC In Our Time</i> podcast Time: 1hr</p>	 <p>Complete a profile of the following scholars: Plato – including The Forms and Analogy of the Cave Aristotle – including The Four Causes and Prime Mover St Augustine of Hippo – including his ideas on Original Sin and his response to Problem of Evil <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>Time: 2hrs</p>	 <p>Watch the TED talk which looks at how plenty of good things are done in the name of religion, and plenty of bad things too. But what is religion, exactly — is it good or bad, in and of itself? <i>(Ethics)</i></p> <p>Is Religion Good or Bad? <i>TED Talks – Kwame Anthony Appiah</i> Time: 40m</p>
 <p>Watch the series of interviews from the 'Closer To Truth' website. It interviews leading philosophers and theologians about their ideas of God. There are 3 parts with different philosophers and theologians. <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>Thinking About God <i>Closer To Truth</i> videos Time: 1hr</p>	 <p>Read these series of articles and complete the tasks on the nature of God. It explores the idea of God as seen in the major monotheistic religions. It will give you skills of analysis of philosophical and theological arguments. <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>Perfect Being Theology <i>University of Cambridge</i> Time: 2hrs</p>	 <p>Watch the presentation on Anselm's argument for the existence of God. It introduces Anselm's Ontological Argument and presents arguments for and against his ideas. It will develop your ability to analyse philosophical arguments. <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>Thinking About God <i>Crash Course Philosophy</i> Time: 30m</p>	 <p>Read the notes on Ancient Philosophical Influences. It explores the key ideas of Plato and Aristotle, and how their ideas influenced Christianity. It will show you how key ideas have developed and influenced beliefs. <i>(Philosophy of Religion)</i></p> <p>Ancient Philosophical Influences <i>Oxford University Press</i> Time: 2hrs</p>

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary