Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
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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

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<td>Ethics</td>
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<td>Research the FOUR main categories of ethical theory and produce a summary of each.</td>
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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.

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<th>Stay in touch</th>
<th>Email us your progress</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs O’Gara</td>
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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](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
- Williams 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](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.
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<th>Main Ideas</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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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?
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.

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:

| The Cider House Rules (John Irving – abortion) | Million Dollar Baby (Euthanasia) |
| Birdsong (Sebastian Faulks – War) | My Sister’s Keeper (Genetic Engineering) |
| Brave New World (Genetic Engineering) | Gattaca (Genetic engineering) |
| 2184 (Martin Parish – genetic engineering) | The Island (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
  - Law, S. The Philosophy Files, Orion 2002; The Outer Limits, Orion 2003; The Philosophy Gym, Hodder Headline 2003

- **Philosophy:**
  - 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/](https://peped.org/listen/) - podcasts from Peter Baron, essay & exam advice – free until September 2020
  - [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&app=desktop](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](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=PLKt35O75w1r1cEddmP_OViFwELDXoytdi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKt35O75w1r1cEddmP_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

Main Ideas:
- We need to move away from the God of classical theism
- We need to stop looking for a philosophical answer to the problem of evil
- Abandon God of classical theism for a suffering God – this fits the 20th century
- A God who responds to prayer or acts in history is biased and unfair
- Abandon traditional God, not one who acts but a divine presence

Notes:
- 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.

  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.

  God has to be able to feel and experience our pain. One who weeps when we weep and rejoices 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.

  Why would God act in some cases but not others? This makes him unfair and partisan.

  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.

Summary:
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.
6th Form Preparation
work for
Philosophy, Religion
and Ethics at a glance
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.

- **Historical Figure of Jesus of Nazareth**
  - Time: 2hrs
  - University of Cambridge
  - Present information about the life of Jesus of Nazareth, discussing his role as the Son of God.

- **Augustine’s Confession**
  - Time: 1hr
  - BBC In Our Time podcast
  - Listen to this podcast exploring the life and thoughts of Augustine of Hippo.

- **Perfect Being Theology**
  - Time: 2hrs
  - University of Cambridge
  - Read these series of articles and complete the tasks on philosophical arguments for the existence of God.

- **Is Religion Good or Bad?**
  - Time: 40m
  - TED Talks – Kwame Anthony Appiah
  - Watch this TED talk examining the ideas of religion and the reasons to support both bad and good religions.

- **Thinking About God**
  - Time: 30m
  - Crash Course Philosophy
  - Watch the presentation on the concept of God and how it is understood and defined.

- **Philosophical Influences**
  - Time: 2hrs
  - Oxford University Press
  - Read the notes on Ancient Philosophical Influences, exploring the ideas of Plato and Aristotle and how they influenced Christianity.

- **Why Religion Matters**
  - Time: 10hrs
  - Open University
  - Complete this course exploring the importance of religion for understanding global challenges, including the importance of religious literacy.

- **The Fall**
  - Time: 1hr
  - BBC In Our Time podcast
  - Listen to this podcast exploring the idea of original sin and its impact on politics, gender, and notions of morality in Western culture.

- **The School of Athens**
  - Time: 1hr
  - BBC In Our Time podcast
  - Listen to this podcast about the work of Italian artist Raphael and his depiction of Plato and Aristotle.

- **Perfect Being Theologer**
  - Time: 2hrs
  - Oxford University Press
  - Read these series of articles and complete the tasks on philosophical arguments for the existence of God.

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work for
Philosophy, Religion
and Ethics at a glance
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.
Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary