



A Level Religious Studies

Pre-course work



Pre-course expectations

Success in Sixth Form is largely a function of the amount and quality of independent study you carry out; here's a chance to help you get the very best start to your course. We would like you to complete the work described below and hand it in to your teacher in your first lesson in September. If you have made a late change to your timetable, please complete this work within the first week of starting the course. The work should take you 2-3 hours. It is expected that you attempt the stretch tasks.

Details of pre-course work

Ethics

(the Reading file)

1. Read 'An introduction to ethics' in the AS philosophy and ethics textbook pages 108-110
 - a) Explain the terms: Ethics, Moral, Moral agent, Applied ethics, meta ethics, normative ethics, Objective, subjective, relativist,
 - b) What in ethics do 'right' and 'wrong' generally mean?
2. Research **two** news stories that are to do with right & wrong actions/choices.
 - a) Make a brief summary of both stories.
 - b) Analyse/explain what you believe is right (moral) or wrong (immoral) about the news stories you have researched. Consider the following to help you:
 - Has the person/group (moral agent) lived up to or fallen short of guiding principles/rules?
 - Could someone else see their actions moral rather than immoral or vice versa?

Resources to help you:

www.bbc.co.uk
www.theguardian.co.uk
www.thetelegraph.co.uk
<http://edition.cnn.com/>
<http://uk.reuters.com/>

Stretch yourself

Read about Divine Command theory and the Eurythro dilemma. Summarise your view on whether 'acts are moral because God wills them or moral because they are good in themselves'.

<https://www.philosophyofreligion.uk/christian-ethics/divine-command-theory/>

Christianity

1. Research the Nicene Creed in Christianity and write a detailed summary. In this summary you must include:
 - a) What it is and who believes it?
 - b) An explanation of it's history
 - c) The key beliefs that are confirmed within this that define Christianity (link in key terms learnt in your GCSE).
 - d) How does the Nicene Creed inform Christian practices or the way a Christian lives their life?

Resources to help you:

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zbkvqdm/revision/2
www.churchofengland.org
www.request.org.uk

Stretch yourself

The Nicene Creed was created in the hope to counteract contemporary heresies. Explain what a heresy is and find some examples in Christianity that the Nicene Creed counteracts. Make links to quotes from the Nicene Creed to explain how the heresies are counteracted.