



## RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS: BRIDGING ACTIVITY

Quite often, people come in to Year 12 after their nice long holiday and get a bit of a shock. The demands of A-Level are significantly greater than that of GCSE so here are a few things that you could be looking at/doing over the summer to give you a bit of a head start.

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>

### 1. To research/complete

**Task 1:** Create a fact file about the following philosophers. Include dates, pictures & a background of their views- major works, ethical theories, what their theories say, and key aspects of their theories.

*No more than a side of A4 each*

Peter Singer

St Thomas Aquinas

Jeremy Bentham

John Stuart Mill

Plato

Aristotle

**Task 2:** Write a newspaper article outlining why philosophical study is still relevant in the modern world.

**Task 3:** Ask 10 people (friends or family) their views on at least 3 'Ultimate Questions' (google ultimate questions for ideas) and record their answers.

**Task 4:** Create a timeline of philosophy from Plato to the modern day.

### 2. Talks to attend

<http://royalinstitutephilosophy.org/events/london-lecture-series/>

Keep an eye on the website, talks are updated monthly and are normally on a Friday evening from 6:30.

### **3. Places to visit**

**Perception** How do we know what we see is beyond our sense? How do we 'interpret' the senses?

CAMERA OBSCURA Edinburgh (or watch the clip below instead)

<http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/camera-obscura-2>

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/perception-problem/>

**Aesthetics** What is beauty? How can we meaningfully call something beautiful?

Tate Modern

National gallery

Victoria and Albert museum

Lisson gallery

Brentwood Cathedral

The Brentwood Council office

Weald park

Hopefield animal sanctuary

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aesthetic-concept/>

### **4. Films and shows to watch**

Lost- Listen out for the references to philosophers and philosophical theories. The premise of the 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. Can you spot references to God and The Trinity throughout the three films?

### **5. Papers to read and websites to visit**

<https://plato.stanford.edu/> Have a look at this website, you will be using it for essays and research next year.

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>

## **6. Talks to watch**

<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>

Summarise what you think of these talks.

## **7. Questions to ask and thoughts to ponder**

Is business just about making money?

Do women have a place in religion?

Is it wrong to experiment on embryos?

Does everything have a purpose?

What does it mean to do the right thing?

Is God necessary for morality?

Can we believe in free will and predestination at the same time?

## **8. Debates to listen to**

Radio 4's 'The Moral Maze'

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

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

Radio 4's 'In Our Time'

Modern day philosophers debate established philosophical arguments. (If you go on to study Theology or Philosophy you might be taught by some of these professors. You could also talk to them about their theories at an Institute lecture.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr>