



# **Religion, Ethics and Philosophy**

## **A Level**

### **Summer Independent Learning**

Bring all completed tasks to your first day in college in September.



## A. Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

1. Read the information on the hyperlink

[https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16\\_15/pdf/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction.pdf](https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16_15/pdf/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction.pdf)

2. Complete the activities on the link below – remember to keep checking your answers until you get them all right.

[https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16\\_15/eng/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction/01-which-arguments.html](https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2015-16/15-16_15/eng/arguments-for-existence-of-god/00-introduction/01-which-arguments.html)

| Deductive arguments                                      | Inductive arguments | Fits both | Fits neither |
|--|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| e.g. The premises provide absolute proof for conclusions |                     |           |              |

3. Use the information to write definitions of a priori and a posteriori premises.

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4. Watch the following videos about the Cosmological Argument.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+cosmological+argument&&view=detail&mid=A95B459BB8DC69EE4C3FA95B459BB8DC69EE4C3F&rvsmid=7FC0C81206E4DCB916C07FC0C81206E4DCB916C0&fsscr=0&FORM=VDRVRV> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY> (just arguments 1-3)

Is the cosmological inductive or deductive? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the cosmological argument based on a priori or a posteriori premises? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the cosmological argument attempt to prove the existence of God?

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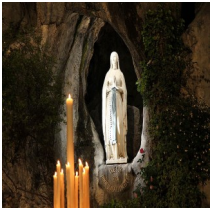


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Do you find the arguments convincing?

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Research these ideas / concepts and make notes in the table below

| Idea   | Key ideas, scholars etc |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p data-bbox="71 206 284 241"><b>The Big Bang</b></p>                  |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 486 220 521"><b>Evolution</b></p>                    |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 766 304 846"><b>The logical problem of evil</b></p>  |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 1046 276 1081"><b>New Atheism</b></p>               |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 1326 204 1361"><b>Miracles</b></p>                  |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 1606 177 1641"><b>Prayer</b></p>                    |                         |
| <p data-bbox="71 1886 236 1921"><b>Mythology</b></p>                 |                         |

## B. Introduction to Ethics

1. Watch the video below and complete the following tasks.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAlU&list=PLa\\_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAlU&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe)

Write a definition of ethics.

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Write a definition of meta-ethics.

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What is moral realism?

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What are the problems with moral realism?

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What is moral anti-realism?

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What are the problems with moral anti realism?

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What are moral relativism and moral absolutism?

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What do you think makes an action moral?

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## B. Introduction to Ethics

Research these ethical theories and make notes in the table below

| Ethical theory        | Key ideas, scholars etc |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Divine command theory |                         |
| Utilitarianism        |                         |
| Situation ethics      |                         |



Explain the concepts of **Predestination** and **Freewill**



## C. Introduction to Christianity

Research the following people and make notes in the table below



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Jesus of Nazareth 4 BCE to 30 CE</b><br>   |  |
| <b>John the Baptist 4 BCE to 27 CE</b>  |  |
| <b>Mary of Nazareth 18 CE to 40 CE?</b>   |  |
| <b>The Twelve Apostles: 1<sup>st</sup> decade BCE to 7<sup>th</sup> Decade CE</b>   |  |
| <b>Mary Magdalene 1st Decade BCE to ?</b>   |  |
| <b>Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. 1<sup>st</sup> Decade BCE- 8/9<sup>th</sup> Decade CE</b><br> |  |
| <b>Irenaeus of Lyons 130 – 202 CE</b>   |  |
| <b>Augustine of Hippo: 354 –430 CE</b>  |  |
| <b>Thomas Aquinas 1225 – 1274 CE</b>  |  |
| <b>Martin Luther 1483- 1546 CE</b>  |  |
| <b>John Calvin 1509 – 1564 CE</b>   |  |

Explain the distinction between the following Christian churches.

**The Catholic Church, also known as the Roman Catholic Church,**



**The Eastern Orthodox Church, officially the Orthodox Catholic Church,**



**Protestantism**



Research and make brief notes on the following religious movements

**Ecumenicalism**

**Charismatic movement**

## Where? Fill in the gaps below

Palestine-Israel in the 1<sup>st</sup> C CE was occupied by the R..... and administered by a Roman Pro-consul and a puppet King.

### The early Christian Church

#### Galilee

Jesus came from the town of N..... in Galilee. This northern territory of P..... was also his most important area of activity. Apart from the larger towns of Sepphoris and T....., Galilee was a country area, and agriculture was the main occupation. The Lake of Gennesaret was famous for its fishing. Jesus is said to have found his first disciples among fishermen (Mark 1:16-29). In the time of Jesus Galilee was surrounded by a number of G..... cities. The rest of the area was Jewish. Nazareth where Jesus lived for 30 years is in Galilee and many of the G..... stories are set in Galilee.

#### Samaria

South of Galilee lived the Samaritans, a mixed population resulting from political transfers of population, whom the Jews did not consider to be real Jews. While the Jewish Temple was situated on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the Samaritans regarded Mt. G..... as sacred. They recognized as Holy Scripture only the five books of M....., and the textual form they used was different from that in use among the Jews.

#### Judaea

The name Judaea had two different senses. Firstly, it meant the area surrounding Jerusalem, secondly it meant the whole area inhabited by Jews, which finally became a Roman province. The mountainous region surrounding Jerusalem is dry and bare. To the east is the D..... S.... In the oasis area north of the Dead Sea is J....., which is thought to be one of the oldest towns in the world. B..... where Jesus was born is close to Jerusalem in Judaea

#### Jerusalem

To the Jews Jerusalem was the centre of the world, where God dwelt in the Temple. The Jews went there on p..... at least once a year. It was also the economic, administrative and cultural centre. The Roman administration of Palestine was directed from C..... Jesus was executed in Jerusalem, buried there and his followers believe r..... The early Christian Church spread from this city.





Research these important events in Christianity. Add the date in the left hand column.

| Date | Event   |
|------|---|
|      | The Exodus begins. Led by Moses, the Israelites leave Egypt and eventually settle in Canaan.  |
|      | David becomes king of Israel, making Jerusalem his capital.   |
|      | David's son Solomon becomes king. He later builds a temple in Jerusalem to honour God.  |
|      | Babylonians take Jerusalem and destroy Solomon's temple. Jewish nation is taken into captivity in Babylon (the exile).  |
|      | Work begins to translate the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. This is known as the Septuagint or LXX.  |
|      | Roman rule of Israel begins.  |
|      | <b>Birth of Jesus Christ, in Bethlehem.</b>   |
|      | <b>Death of Jesus Christ.</b>   |
|      | <b>Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).</b>  |
|      | Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15).<br>Gentile Christians accepted alongside those in the Jewish tradition.   |
|      | First Gospel published (often thought to be that written by Mark).  |
|      | Widespread persecution of Christians under Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius.<br>(Severe persecutions also occurred under the emperors Decius (249-251) and Diocletian (284-305)).  |
|      | Roman emperor Constantine receives a vision of a flaming cross with the words<br>' <i>In hoc signo vinces</i> ': 'By this sign conquer'. Battle of Milvian Bridge.  |
|      | <b>Edict of Milan issued by Constantine - Christianity becomes a legal religion within the Roman empire.</b>  |
|      | Constantine calls the first ecumenical council at Nicea.<br>Arian heresy which declared Christ was a created being is refuted. Nicene Creed is drawn up, declaring Christ to be "... <i>Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father...</i> " |
|      | Saint Athanasius is the first to list all 27 New Testament books in his festal letter.  |
|      | Synod at Carthage ratifies the 27 books of the New Testament as sacred scripture.   |
|      | Ecumenical council at Chalcedon affirms Christ as having two distinct natures united in one person (known as the 'Hypostatic Union').   |
|      | Insertion of the <i>filioque</i> (Latin: 'and the son') into the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed at a council in Toledo.  |
|      | Following a mission authorised by Pope Gregory I, St. Augustine becomes the first Archbishop of Canterbury.   |
|      | <b>Great Schism - Eastern Orthodox and Western Catholic churches separate.</b>  |
|      | Pope Urban II authorises the first Crusade to recover the Holy Land from Moslems.   |
|      | Jerusalem recaptured by a Moslem army led by Saladin.   |
|      | Thomas Aquinas writes his great work of systematic Theology: <i>Summa Theologiae</i> .  |
|      | Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks.  |
|      | <b>Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in Wittenburg, Germany; beginning the Protestant reformation.</b>  |
|      | William Tyndale completes his translation of the Bible into English.  |
|      | Act of Supremacy passed - Henry VIII becomes supreme head of the English church.  |
|      | Council of Trent - Roman Catholic counter reformation.  |
|      | Dogma of the Immaculate conception of Mary proclaimed by the Roman Catholic church.   |
|      | First Vatican council. Dogma of Papal infallibility proclaimed.   |
|      | Azusa street revival in Los Angeles. Beginnings of the Pentecostal movement.  |
|      | World mission conference held in Edinburgh.   |
|      | Formation of the World Council of Churches.   |
|      | Beatification of Pope John Paul II.   |
|      | Resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, who is succeeded by Pope Francis.   |

## Key Beliefs

What do the Gospels of Matthew and Luke say about the birth of Jesus?



Describe how the Gospels described the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus



Can the UK be considered a Christian country? What arguments and evidence can you provide to support or challenge this idea?

