



St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School Sixth Form

Year 11 Into Year 12 Transition Task

Subject: A Level Religious Studies - Eduqas

SMRT Sixth Form takes students from a wide range of schools who have studied a variety of GCSE syllabuses. We want to ensure that everybody is equally able to access the content of the A Level and so the following tasks give you a chance to ensure you are fully prepared.

At SMRT we have used the Eduqas syllabus at GCSE, route A (Christianity, Islam and Christian responses to moral issues) but if you have done something different or not done RE at all that is not a problem. Religious Studies is a great subject to help you build a wide range of skills, including improving your skills as a writer, speaker and thinker. This will help across all your subjects and give you skills for life and future employment.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt these tasks:

The first transition task on here is to read the 'Proofs for the existence of God' article and complete the tasks.

We'll go through this work when we start the course.

One focus in the Philosophy of Religion is the question of whether God exists. It approaches this question in the following ways: the Cosmological argument, the Design argument, the Ontological argument, religious experience, and atheism and postmodernism.

In the other half of the course you will be studying Ethical theory and practical problems. Towards the end of each year both teachers will cover the Christianity material.

This transition task aims to introduce you to some of the language and ideas that will be helpful for the course, as well as giving you the opportunity to read a text written for A level students by an important philosopher of religion.

Read the article Proofs for the Existence of God by Prof Keith Ward, then write your responses to the following questions and bring them along to your first lesson:

1. How would you describe your idea of God (whether or not you think God exists)? Write a short paragraph explaining your ideas.
2. What is meant by: a. An inductive argument b. A deductive argument?
3. Explain how two people could look at the same evidence in the universe and one could conclude that God exists (theist) and the other conclude that God does not exist (atheist).

4. What does Prof Ward conclude about the significance of proofs for the existence of God?

Religion and Ethics Activity

Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning:

1. Do you think there is a 'right' attitude and a 'wrong' approach to religious beliefs? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?
2. Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don't agree with them. Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?
3. What religious reasons do people sometimes give for why there is suffering in the world? How would you support or oppose these reasons?

Christianity

We will be looking at different aspects of development in Christianity during the course. Whether you have covered this at GCSE or not, the podcasts below give a flavour of ideas useful to the course:

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/season-4-episode-6-the-one-about-the-history-ofchristianity>

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/season-3-episode-1-the-one-about-feminist-theology>

Further Research

Use Wikipedia as a starting point and follow some of the links in the articles. You could do some research about: Aristotle, Aquinas, Bentham, Mill, Hume, Kant.

Practice using a range of sources to find out about a single person. When you have gathered together a range of information, try and turn it into a single piece of writing of your own.

If you want to read further into the philosophy of religion syllabus, try these: Religious experience: Read William James' classic account of mystical experiences.

<http://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/james/james12.htm>

Psychology and religion: Read about Carl Jung's development of ideas of the unconscious.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2011/jun/13/carl-jung-red-book-unconscious>

Atheism and postmodernism: Read a critical review of Richard Dawkins' book The God Delusion by another atheist:

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v28/n20/terry-eagleton/lunging-flailing-mispunching>

Hope that keeps you going and sets you up well for September. Any questions, please email Mr Noyce noycep@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Credits: BBC/TED talks/NATRE/Libby Ahluwalia for initial ideas that were adapted.