**Key Question: Is religion necessary for morality?**

The piece of reading ([click here](https://wqe.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Religious-Studies-A-level-reading-WQE-Induction-Task-2021.pdf)) will help you explore some central questions in Moral Philosophy and the Philosophy of Religion. For example, is God in charge of what is good and bad, right and wrong? What kind of ‘god’ is God? Is God good? Are humans born with a sense of morality regardless of whether they are religious or not? There are several tasks for you to complete which will either help you with the reading or assist you in reflecting on what you’ve learned. Complete the reading and tasks for your first Religious Studies lesson in September.

**Task 1 – Specialist Vocabulary.**

Find out what the following words mean ***BEFORE YOU START READING*** and note down their definition in the table below. Once you know the meaning of the word you can highlight and annotate it in the reading to help you follow the arguments presented more effectively.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Specialist word | Meaning |
| Divine (in terms of religion) |  |
| Morality  |  |
| Tautology  |  |
| Agnostic |  |
| Atheist |  |
| Intuition |  |
| Obligatory |  |
| Permissible |  |
| Empirical (in terms of evidence and experimentation) |  |
| Blasphemy  |  |

**Task 2 – The Arguments ‘against’…**

In the reading the authors list a variety of different reasons why morality is not dependent upon religion. Here the arguments have been summed up in to one sentence, see how much additional information you can add based on what you’ve read.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summary of argument | My added notes |
| Saying “Goodness comes from God” doesn’t tell us anything about what ‘goodness’ is. Is God even ‘good’ all the time? |  |
| Not all religious people believe the same things about moral issues and some religious people behave immorally.  |  |
| Civilisations where religion hasn’t had a major presence are still moral.  |  |
| Atheists and religious people share many of the same moral beliefs.  |  |
| Human morality is the result of human evolution.  |  |

**Task 3 – Your moral judgements**

Which words did you insert in to the spaces in the 3 scenarios? Why did you judge the situations in that way? Do your judgements match the 1,500 people who took the survey? ***Continue on to a new page if needed.***

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