

<p>Subject:</p>	<p>Religious Studies</p>
<p>Subject Context:</p>	<p>A Level (Philosophy, Ethics and Religion), Eduqas specification</p> <p>This is a 2-year course which focuses on the 3 key elements of Religion and Ethics, The Philosophy of Religion and the study of Buddhism. The course develops the skills needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate ultimate questions such as “Who is responsible for the existence of evil in our world?”, “Is there a God?” and considers the relationship between religion and psychology. • Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as animal experimentation, and whether our behaviour is based upon our own self-interest. Ask questions such as, “What kind of person should I be?” and “What does it really mean for an action to be ‘right’ or ‘wrong’?” • Study Buddhism and consider its main themes including: What is the root cause of human suffering? How can we live more mindfully and develop compassion for all beings? What happens when we die? <p>Grades needed: College level 3 entry requirements, plus English Language grade 5</p>
<p>Reading List:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Problems of Philosophy, Bertrand Russell • The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins • Philosophy, a guide through the subject, A.C Grayling • Being Good, Simon Blackburn • Practical Ethics, Peter Singer • The puzzle of God, Peter Vardy (1999)
<p>Essential resources or equipment required for the course:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 paper (lined) • A4 ring binder with dividers • Writing equipment (pens etc) • Highlighters • Record cards/revision materials
<p>Taster Activity:</p>	<p>TASK 1 This is the first episode of a documentary about attitudes towards homosexuality. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPI25oraVc This is the first episode of Stephen Fry’s series ‘Out There’, where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world. Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you think there is a ‘right’ attitude and a ‘wrong’ attitude towards homosexuality? 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/you 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? Give

	<p>clear reasons for your answer and see if you can think of different examples to illustrate your thinking.</p> <p>3. What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?</p> <p>TASK 2 Read the following article on “The Good Place” https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dmgOY14LpMbMcg4-S1yhYYjS3JNjsiBh</p> <p>Make some notes summarising your thoughts on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what it means for the afterlife to be “binary” 2. Is God’s judgement at death fair? Give reasons both for and against showing you have used the article 3. Do you think God should have created a “Middle Place”? Why/Why not? Give a thorough explanation with relevant examples to support your thinking. <p>TASK 3 Use the internet to research some philosophical issues/themes. Themes that are directly relevant to the A Level course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arguments for the existence of God (Teleological, Cosmological, Ontological) - The Problem of Evil - Religious Experience - Miracles - Situation Ethics - Utilitarianism - Free Will and Determinism <p>This blog might be useful https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/edugas-wjec-religious-studies/</p> <p>Task 4 – Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research the life of The Buddha and the main claims of his teachings. Put together a fact file and autobiography. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiEADtRLQfs <p>Watch this documentary on the wonders of the Buddhist world. It’s a great introduction to the belief system and history of Buddhism</p>
<p>Resources needed to complete the activity:</p>	<p>Pens – ideally red and green</p>
<p>Estimated time required to complete the activity:</p>	<p>3-5 hours</p>

How you could extend
your learning:

This is a TED talk by Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – Why we should all be feminists.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg3umXU_qWc

Watch it and enjoy it 😊

Here are a few others you could try:

- TED talk by Kwame Anthony Appiah – is religion good or bad? (This is a trick question)
- Listen to 'The Moral Maze' on BBC Radio 4
- Listen to the podcast from 'Philosophy Now'.
- Listen to the podcast from 'The Panpsycast'