

SUMMER PREPARATORY WORK

AS LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Central
Saint Michael's
Sixth Form

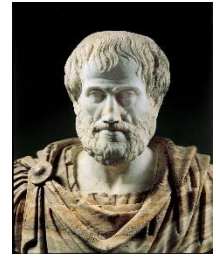
A UNIVERSITY-STYLE SIXTH FORM

Religious Studies

(AQA board)

Who is this course for?

The study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics raises the big questions of life, about God, meaning and how we ought to live as human beings. You will have an opportunity to explore these issues in some depth with other interested students. In addition to the personal value of studying such a subject, you will also acquire valuable skills of critical thinking and philosophical analysis.



Formal Entry Requirements

All A Level students must have five GCSEs in academic subjects at C or above. You must also have **GCSE English Language at B** or above. You do not need to have studied GCSE Religious Studies or to have any particular religious faith.

In order to progress to **A2 level** you would need a **D** grade at AS Level.

What does the course involve?

In the Philosophy of Religion, you will be introduced to Ancient Greek influences on religious philosophy, such as the ideas of Plato and Aristotle, and will also consider traditional Judaeo-Christian ideas of God, such as God's goodness and role as Creator. You will then consider the traditional arguments for the existence of God and the challenge posed to belief in God by the existence of evil and suffering in the world.

In Ethics, you will consider a range of approaches to a philosophical and religious understanding to issues regarding Euthanasia, Abortion and genetic engineering

The A2 course is again split into two modules, one covering further Philosophy of Religion topics and one covering further Ethics topics. Philosophy topics include miracles, religious language, the nature of God and life after death; Ethics topics include a study of free-will, conscience and practical ethics topics such as the environment, business ethics and sexual ethics.

How will I be assessed?

Each component is assessed by a written examination paper. This means that you will have 2 exams for AS level, and 2 exams for A2. There is no coursework for this subject.

AS Religious Studies - Summer Assignment Tasks

In AS Religious Studies in order to get good marks you need to demonstrate an understanding of the marking criteria.

The questions you will encounter will either ask you to **demonstrate knowledge & understand (A01)** or **analysis and evaluation (A02)**

Take the following essay question below:

‘For religious believers, the design argument is persuasive as an argument for the existence of God’ Assess this view.

(15 marks)

We must first ask is this an **A01** or an **A02** question? The clue is in the question itself as most **A02 questions** will ask us to **‘assess this view’** or **‘Evaluate this claim’**. If the question is an **A01 question** it will ask us to **‘Examine why’** or **‘Explain the strengths and weaknesses’**. We need to know the difference in order to answer the questions correctly. Use a dictionary or the internet to find out what these key terms mean.

What kind of things do we need to use in order to answer these types of questions?

Whether it is an **A01** or **A02** question you will need to demonstrate you know what you are taking about. So **A01** is still important but the question maybe asking you to examine a particular claim made by a philosopher/theologian so you will need to be able to compare and contrast different points of view

Below are two essay- based questions on the first topic we will be looking at on the course called the Design Argument or the Teleological Argument. I would like you to attempt in order to assess your capability for

the course. It should be approx. **400 - 500 words** long. Before attempting the topic, you will need to do some research on it first. You can use various resources such as **textbooks, internet** or **handouts** but you must show that the work is your own, do not plagiarise (copy directly the work of others). Good luck!

Question 1

**Explain how the design argument supports the existence of God.
(15 Marks)**

(Remember that this is an A01 question so what is it asking you to look at?)

Question 2

‘The design argument is the best proof that God exists’. Evaluate this statement.

(This is an A02 question and is asking the student to tackle the question in a specific way)