

## Subject: Religious Studies (Religious Studies 7062)

Examining Board: AQA (aqa.org.uk)

Current hyperlink for direct access for syllabus, past papers etc.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062>

Assessment Structure: Year 12-13

<b>Component</b>	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<p><b>Component 1:</b> Philosophy of religion and ethics</p> <p><b>Paper 1</b> 3 hour written exam</p>	<p>This exam covers Philosophy of religion and ethics.</p> <p>Section A: Philosophy of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks.</p> <p>Section B: Ethics and religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks</p>	<b>50%</b>
<p><b>Component 2:</b> Study of religion</p> <p><b>Paper 2</b> 3 hour written exam</p>	<p>This exam covers the study of religion (Christianity)</p> <p>Section A: Study of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2.</p> <p>Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks).</p> <p>Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks).</p>	<b>50%</b>

### Suggested Summer Reading List:

Regular background reading, especially from the course textbook and recapping your notes, is absolutely vital to achieve a full understanding of the subject and as a result the following titles may be of interest. **Books in bold are highly recommended;**

- **AQA A-level Religious Studies 1. John Frye (course textbook)**
- **The Puzzle of Ethics : Peter Vardy & Paul Grosch**
- **The Puzzle of God : Peter Vardy**
- **Christianity - An Introduction: Teach Yourself :Dr Rowan Williams**
- Christianity Today : George Chryssides
- An Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics (Access To Philosophy) Mel Thompsen
- Making Sense: Philosophy Behind the Headlines: Julian Baggini
- Do You Think What You Think You Think? Julian Baggini
- Ethics: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...) ; Dave Robinson
- Do You Think What You Think You Think? Julian Baggini
- Ethics : Noel Stewart
- Philosophy Bites: Dave Edmonds & Nigel Warburton
- Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy Simon Blackburn
- Philosophy Through Film: Mary M Litch
- Philosophy Bites : David Edmonds
- The Philosophy Book Will Buckingham, Peter J King
- Understand Philosophy Of Religion: Teach Yourself: Mel Thompson
- [KINDLE?](#)  
[1 hour introductions by Paul Stathern on: Freud, Descartes, J.S Mill, Aquinas, Locke, Roussau, Nietzsche](#)

# SYLLABUS FOR YEAR ONE

<i>Learning Outcomes; Paper 1 - Philosophy</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes; Paper 1 - Ethics</i>
<p><b>ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD:</b> Students should study the basis of each argument in observation or in thought, the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments, their status as 'proofs', their value for religious faith and the relationship between reason and faith</p>	<p><b>NORMATIVE ETHICS:</b> The differing approaches taken to moral decision making by these ethical theories. Their application to the issues of theft and lying. The strengths and weaknesses of these ways of making moral decisions.</p>
<p>Cosmological</p> <p>Presentation: Aquinas' Way 3. The argument from contingency and necessity.</p> <p>Criticisms: Hume and Russell</p>	<p>Deontological: natural moral law and the principle of double effect with reference to Aquinas; proportionalism.</p>
<p>Ontological</p> <p>Presentation: Anselm's a priori argument.</p> <p>Criticisms: Gaunilo and Kan</p>	<p>Teleological: situation ethics with reference to Fletcher.</p>
<p>Design</p> <p>Presentation: Paley's analogical argument.</p> <p>Criticisms: Hume</p>	<p>Character based: virtue ethics with reference to Aristotle</p>
<p><b>EVIL &amp; SUFFERING:</b></p> <p>The problem of evil and suffering.</p> <p>The concepts of natural and moral evil.</p> <p>The logical and evidential problem of evil.</p> <p>Responses to the problem of evil and suffering.</p> <p>Hick's soul making theodicy.</p> <p>The free will defence.</p> <p>Process theodicy as presented by Griffin.</p> <p>The strengths and weaknesses of each response.</p>	<p><b>THE APPLICATION OF NATURAL MORAL LAW, SITUATION ETHICS AND VIRTUE ETHICS TO:</b></p> <p>Issues of human life and death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>embryo research; cloning; 'designer' babies</li> <li>abortion</li> <li>voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide</li> <li>capital punishment</li> </ul>
<p><b>RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:</b></p>	<p><b>THE APPLICATION OF NATURAL MORAL LAW,</b></p>

<p>The nature of religious experience.</p> <p>Visions: corporeal, imaginative and intellectual.</p> <p>Numinous experiences: Otto, an apprehension of the wholly other.</p> <p>Mystical experiences: William James; non sensuous and non-intellectual union with the divine as presented by William Stace.</p>	<p><b>SITAUION ETHICS AND VIRTUE ETHICS TO:</b></p> <p>Issues of non-human life and death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of animals as food; intensive farming</li> <li>use of animals in scientific procedures; cloning</li> <li>blood sports</li> <li>animals as a source of organs for transplants</li> </ul>
<p><b>VERIFYING RELGIOUS EXPERIENCE:</b></p>	
<p>The challenges of verifying religious experiences.</p> <p>The challenges to religious experience from science.</p> <p>Religious responses to those challenges.</p> <p>Swinburne's principles of credulity and testimony.</p> <p>The influence of religious experiences and their value for religious faith</p>	
<p>Paper 2 – Study of Religion Christianity</p> <p><b>SOURCES OF WISDOM &amp; AUTHORITY</b></p>	
<p>The Church: the different perspectives of the Protestant and Catholic traditions on the relative authority of the Bible and the Church</p> <p>The authority of Jesus: different Christian understandings of Jesus' authority, including Jesus' authority as God's authority and Jesus' authority as only human; implications of these beliefs for Christian responses to Jesus' teaching and his value as a role model with reference to his teaching on retaliation and love for enemies in the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:38-48.</p>	
<p>Paper 2 – Study of Religion Christianity</p> <p><b>GOD</b></p>	
<p>Christian Monotheism: one God, omnipotent creator and controller of all things; transcendent and unknowable; the doctrine of the Trinity and its importance; the meaning and significance of the belief that Jesus is the son of God; the significance of John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6</p> <p>God as Personal, God as Father and God as Love: the challenge of understanding anthropomorphic and gender specific language about God: God as Father and King, including Christian feminist perspectives.</p> <p>The concept of God in process theology: God as neither omnipotent nor creator</p>	

Paper 2 – Study of Religion Christianity

**SELF, DEATH & AFTERLIFE**

The meaning and purpose of life: the following purposes and their relative importance: to glorify God and have a personal relationship with him; to prepare for judgement; to bring about God's kingdom on earth.

Resurrection: the concept of soul; resurrection of the flesh as expressed in the writings of Augustine; spiritual resurrection; the significance of 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44 and 50-54.

Different interpretations of judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory as physical, spiritual or psychological realities; objective immortality in process thought.

Paper 2 – Study of Religion Christianity

**GOOD CONDUCT & KEY MORAL PRINCIPLES**

Good conduct: the importance of good moral conduct in the Christian way of life, including reference to teaching about justification by works, justification by faith and predestination.

Sanctity of life: the concept of sanctity of life; different views about its application to issues concerning the embryo and the unborn child; the just war theory and its application to the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Dominion and stewardship: the belief that Christians have dominion over animals; beliefs about the role of Christians as stewards of animals and the natural environment and how changing understandings of the effects of human activities on the environment have affected that role

Paper 2 – Study of Religion Christianity

**EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGIOUS IDENTITY**

Baptism: the significance of infant baptism in Christianity with particular reference to the Catholic and Baptist traditions; arguments in favour of and against infant baptism.

Holy Communion: differing practices associated with Holy Communion, and differing understandings of Holy Communion and its importance, in the Catholic and Baptist Churches; different Christian understandings of the significance of Jesus' actions at the last supper, Luke 22: 17-20.

The mission of the Church: developments in Christian ideas of 'mission' from the early 20th century to today.

## **Summer Assignment**

Contact details: [TSinclair@fromecollege.org](mailto:TSinclair@fromecollege.org) & [JLove@fromecollege.org](mailto:JLove@fromecollege.org)  
Websites to support:

<http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csIW4W\\_DYX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csIW4W_DYX4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJvoFf2wCBU>

[http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Category:Philosophy Revision Notes](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Category:Philosophy_Revision_Notes)

1. Write mini Biographies on the following Philosophers

- Aristotle (Virtue Theory)
- St Thomas Aquinas (Natural Moral Law)
- Joseph Fletcher (Situation Ethics)

2. Research the following Christian denominations (groups) Baptist and Roman Catholics and make notes on their key practices. What are the notable differences?

3. Read the gospel of Luke (in the New Testament of the Bible) and write a 500 word review.

4. Watch this Atheist vs Christian debate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tYm41hb48o> and write a report on both. In your report comment:

- The strengths and weaknesses of both sides (both arguments and delivery).
- How well each debater responded to the other side's arguments.
- Who you think won the debate and why.