

HIGHFIELDS SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-2024



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SUBJECT: A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

AUTUMN TERM - YEAR 12	SPRING TERM - YEAR 12	SUMMER TERM - YEAR 12
<p>What is Philosophy of Religion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts and issues in the philosophy of religion through the works of key thinkers <p>Ancient philosophical influences</p> <p>What are the philosophical views of Plato?, in relation to: understanding of reality, the Forms, the analogy of the cave.</p> <p>What are the philosophical views of Aristotle? in relation to understanding of reality, the four causes, the Prime Mover.</p> <p>What are the philosophical views on Soul, mind and body?</p> <p>The philosophical language of soul, mind and body in the thinking of Plato and Aristotle. Metaphysics of consciousness, including substance dualism and materialism.</p> <p>2. The Existence of God</p> <p>Learners will study contrasting arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.</p> <p>What are the Arguments based on observation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the teleological argument the cosmological argument challenges to arguments from observation <p>What are the Arguments based on reason?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ontological argument <p>3. God and the World</p> <p>The nature and influence of religious experience, and the challenge posed to religious belief by the problems of evil and suffering.</p> <p>What are religious experiences and what are the different ways they can be understood?</p> <p>Religious experiences</p> <p>The nature and influence of religious experience, including mystical experience, conversion</p>	<p>What is Kantian Ethics?</p> <p>Kantian ethics, including duty, the hypothetical imperative, the categorical imperative and its three formulations the three postulates.</p> <p>What is Utilitarianism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilitarianism, including utility, the hedonic calculus, act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism. <p>Applied Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application of ethical theory, including religious ethical perspectives <p>What is Euthanasia and what are the various ethical responses to it?</p> <p>Key ideas, including sanctity of life, quality of life, voluntary euthanasia and non-voluntary euthanasia.</p> <p>What is Business Ethics and what are the various ethical responses to it?</p> <p>Key ideas, including corporate social responsibility whistle-blowing good ethics is good business globalisation.</p> <p>Developments in religious thought</p> <p>What does it mean to be human?</p> <p>1. Insight Beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life, the world and ultimate reality.</p> <p>What are Augustine's Teachings on Human Nature?</p> <p>Human relationships pre- and post-Fall Original Sin and its effects on the will and human societies God's grace.</p> <p>What are religious teachings about Death and the Afterlife?</p> <p>Christian teaching on heaven, hell, purgatory and election.</p> <p>2. Foundations</p> <p>What are the origins and development of Christianity, and the sources of wisdom on which it is based?</p>	<p>3. Living</p> <p>What is the diversity of ethics and practice, including those that shape and express religious identity, the role of the community of believers and key moral principles?</p> <p>What are the sources of Christian moral principles?</p> <p>The diversity of Christian moral reasoning and practices and sources of ethics, including: the Bible as the only authority for Christian ethical practices. Bible, Church and reason as the sources of Christian ethical practices love (agape) as the only Christian ethical principle which governs Christian practices.</p> <p>Christian moral action</p> <p>What can we learn from the teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on: duty to God and duty to the State Church as community and source of spiritual discipline, the cost of discipleship?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summer Examinations</p>

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<p>experience, different ways in which individual religious experiences can be understood.</p> <p>What is the problem of evil?</p> <p>The problem of evil and suffering - different presentations, theodicies that propose some justification or reason for divine action or inaction in the face of evil.</p> <p>Religion and Ethics</p> <p>1. Normative Ethical Theories: Religious Approaches</p> <p>Two normative ethical theories taking a religious approach to moral decision-making.</p> <p>What is Natural Law?</p> <p>Aquinas' natural law, including telos, the four tiers of law, the precepts.</p> <p>What is Situation Ethics?</p> <p>Fletcher's situation ethics, including agape, the six propositions, the four working principles.</p>	<p>What are the religious teachings on Knowledge of God's Existence?</p> <p>Natural knowledge of God's existence: as an innate human sense of the divine as seen in the order of creation.</p> <p>Revealed knowledge of God's existence: through faith and God's Grace revealed knowledge of God in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Who is the person of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>Jesus Christ's authority as: the Son of God a teacher of wisdom a liberator.</p>	
<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Past Examination Questions - 4Rs Retrieve (4Rs Revisit & 4Rs - Rehearse Essay Planning)</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Past Examination Questions – 4Rs Retrieve (4Rs Revisit & 4Rs Rehearse - Essay Planning)</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Past examination Questions – 4Rs Retrieve (4Rs Revisit & 4Rs Rehearse – Essay Planning)</p>

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<p>Philosophy of Religion Concepts and issues in the philosophy of religion through the works of key thinkers.</p> <p>4. How has Theology influenced Philosophical Developments? (Nature of God) Learners will examine how philosophy of religion has, over time, influenced and been influenced by developments in religious beliefs about the nature of God. Developments in the understanding of omnipotence, omniscience, (omni)benevolence, eternity and free will.</p> <p>5. What are the traditional approaches to Religious Language? Negative, Analogical or Symbolic Learners will study different views about the understanding of religious teachings, and compare the significant ideas presented in works of two key scholars. the apophatic way – the via negative, cataphatic way – the via positive and symbol.</p> <p>6. What are the Twentieth Century approaches to Religious Language? Learners will study how views of religious language have changed over time, studying a variety of approaches and views logical positivism, Wittgenstein's views on language games and forms of life, discussion about the factual quality of religious language in the falsification symposium.</p> <p>Religion and Ethics</p> <p>4. Ethical Language: What is Meta-ethics and how does it differ to Normative Ethics? The study of meta-ethical theories and how ethical language in the modern era has changed over time.</p> <p>Naturalism What it is (the belief that values can be defined in</p>	<p>Synderesis (inner principle directing a person towards good and away from evil), conscientia (a person's reason making moral judgements), vincible ignorance (lack of knowledge for which a person is responsible) and invincible ignorance (lack of knowledge for which a person is not responsible).</p> <p>What is Freud's psychological approach to conscience? Details of this approach, including psychosexual development (early childhood awareness of libido), id (instinctive impulses that seek satisfaction in pleasure), ego (mediates between the id and the demands of social interaction), super-ego (contradicts the id and working on internalised ideals from parents and society tries to make the ego behave morally).</p> <p>6. What are Developments in Ethical Thought on the issue of Sexual Ethics? consideration of the following areas of sexual ethics: premarital and extramarital sex, homosexuality, the influence of developments in religious beliefs and practices on debates about the morality, legality and tolerability of these areas of sexual ethics. Application of the following theories to these areas of sexual ethics - natural law, situation ethics, Kantian ethics and utilitarianism.</p> <p>Developments in religious thought:</p> <p>4. Pluralism</p> <p>Religious pluralism and theology What is the teaching of contemporary Christian theology of religion on exclusivism, inclusivism and pluralism?</p> <p>Religious pluralism and society The development of contemporary multi-faith</p>	<p>Gender and theology What is the reinterpretation of God by feminist theologians, including the teaching of Rosemary Radford Ruether and Mary Daly on gender and its implications for the Christian idea of God?'</p> <p>6. What are the key Challenges to belief in God? (Challenges facing religious thought from areas such as science, secularisation, migration, multi-cultural societies and changing gender roles.)</p> <p>What is the Challenge to belief in God from Secularism? The rise of secularism and secularisation, and the views that God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment, Christianity should play no part in public life.</p> <p>Liberation Theology and Marx The relationship of liberation theology and Marx, including Marx's teaching on alienation and exploitation liberation theology's use of Marx to analyse social sin liberation theology's teaching on the 'preferential option for the poor'.</p> <p>Revision of Year 1 content from: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics, and Developments in Religious thought.</p>

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terms of some natural property in the world) and its application to absolutism.

Intuitionism

What it is (the belief that basic moral truths are indefinable but self-evident) and its application to the term good.

Emotivism

What it is (the belief that ethical terms evince approval or disapproval) and its application to relativism.

5. Significant Ideas

What are the various beliefs about Conscience?

Significant ideas in religious and moral thought, through comparison of the works of two key scholars from the field of religion and ethics.

Aquinas' theological approach

Details of this approach, including ratio (reason placed in every person as a result of being created in the image of God).

societies. Christian responses to, including responses of Christian communities to inter-faith dialogue the scriptural reasoning movement.

5. What are the different views on the relationship between religion and society?

Gender and society

What are the effects of changing views of gender and gender roles on Christian thought and practice? Including Christian teaching on the roles of men and women in the family and society, Christian responses to contemporary secular views about the roles of men and women in the family and society.

Summer Examinations

ASSESSMENT

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