

Brighthouse High Sixth Form College A-Level Religious Studies Induction



To prepare for Religious Studies please consider the following topics. You needn't complete them all but aim for 50% of the work (choose what interests you!). Please bring your work in the form of notes, a presentation and/or posters in September. Suggested reading on these topics will also further your understanding of challenging topics covered in year 12.

	Philosophy: The problem of evil	Philosophy: Miracles	Ethics: Application of Ethical Theories: Issues of non-human life and death	Ethics: Application of Ethical Theories: Issues of human life and death
Y12 Topics	Logical and evidential problems of evil Natural and moral evil The Free Will Defence Hick's Vale of Soul Making Process Thought featuring Griffin	Differing understandings of 'miracle' Realist and anti-realist views violation of natural law or natural event. Hume and Maurice's views and the significance of these views for religion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of animals as food; intensive farming • use of animals in scientific procedures; cloning • blood sports • animals as a source of organs for transplants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embryo research; cloning; 'designer' babies • abortion • voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide • capital punishment
Induction tasks to be brought to first lesson of RS	<p><i>Answer the following in any form you like (poster, Q & A, essay form) What is evil? Can evil be classified, are there different types? Is evil a problem for religious believers? Which ones, and why? Can a person believe in the Christian God when evil is evident in the world?</i></p>	<p><i>Find two examples of biblical miracles and explain them in 4 key points.</i></p> <p><i>Find two examples of modern miracles and explain them in 4 key points.</i></p>	<p><i>Watch The Tiger King (if you can find it online) Episode One and list all the ethical problems or dilemmas that you see; these ethical dilemmas may be found in how the humans treat the animals or in how the humans treat each other. Research blood sports; again list the types of blood sports, their origin, the countries they exist in and how widespread they are, their cultural context; then note the ethical dilemmas that exist in how the animals are treated and the impact this has on the humans who participate in them.</i></p>	<p><i>Watch any selection of the following: My Sister's Keeper, Abortion on Trial, Terry Pratchett 'Choosing to Die' Hacksaw Ridge, My Baby's Life: who decides, Editing Your Genes (all on Click View). With each of the above, you are making notes on the ETHICAL issues in the programme: who may be hurt, who may hurt someone, do we have free will and control over our actions, what role does our conscience play</i></p>

Listed below is some useful reading material to prepare for Religious Studies. You will be able to find copies of these in Calderdale Libraries, or we have one copy in the department. If you would like a photocopy of relevant chapters, please don't hesitate to ask.

'The brothers Karamazov' by Dostoevsky is a good companion for the *Problem of Evil* element of the course.

'Meditations' by Descartes is useful for *self, death and afterlife* as well as parts of the Ontological argument, which, as you will see in your introduction booklet, also features in year 12 under 'Arguments for the existence of God'

'The Selfish Gene' and 'God Delusion' by Dawkins work well with *self, death and afterlife* as well as the *Problem of Evil*.

Hume 'Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals.' This book gives some useful ideas that will help with the miracles course.

There is no need to access all this material over summer but it may be useful to look at the bits that interest you most, to give you an indication of what the course will be like.