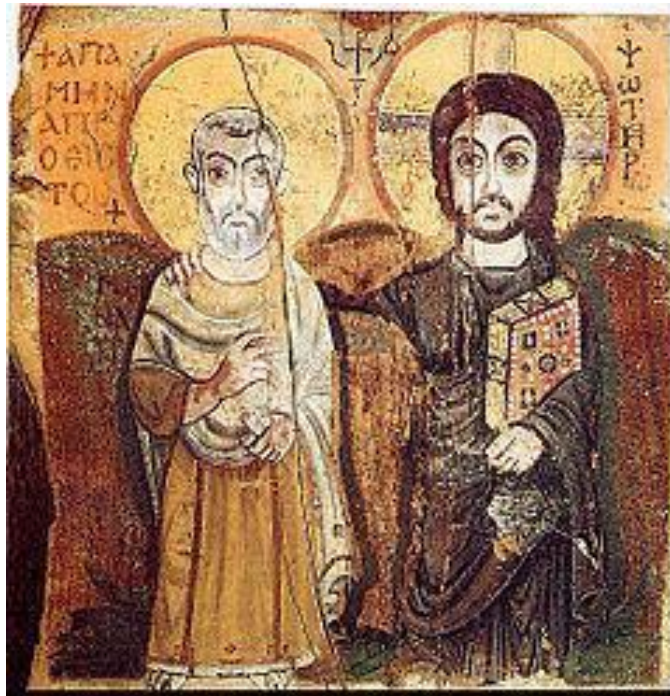




Year 12 Course Induction Booklet 2026-27



GCE Advanced Level Religious Studies

Name:

Tutor Group:

PERSONAL DETAILS SHEET

Please complete and hand it to your teacher.

NAME	
FORM TUTOR	
ADDRESS	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND NUMBER	
MOBILE NUMBER	
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?	

Week 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
P1					
P2					
BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
P3					
P4					
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
P5					
P6					

Week 2

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
P1					
P2					
BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
P3					
P4					
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
P5					
P6					

A-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES **LEARNING AGREEMENT**

Requirements

All students will be expected to get to all lessons on time. In addition to this, you will be expected to complete other work/reading in your own time. You will be required to hand in essays or reading notes on the specific date given. You are expected to fully engage with all the lessons and be willing to participate in discussions.

Class work

Lesson time will focus on checking understanding from reading that is done before the lesson. You will be instructed what to read for the next lesson so that you are informed prior to the lesson and to aid discussion. Class time will be dedicated more to analysis of key topics and studies and how they can be applied to exam questions

Homework

You will be given reading, essays and revision to complete in individual learning time. These will be expected to be completed on time and assessed formally to enable effect revision and learning to take place.

Monitoring

You will be regularly assessed in the form of learning conversations, assessment questions, debates, research, presentations, groups work. Students will be assessed in accordance with OCR's marking criteria and assessment objectives which are detailed below.

Your target

We want you to achieve the highest possible grade and we will target you a grade that you can achieve, providing you follow the course requirements. This target grade will be based on your GCSE grade and our experience. We will discuss this grade with you and alter it over time if necessary.

Questions

If you have any questions or problems please contact;

Mr Bird

mbird@hfcsw.uk

Mr. Skelton

gskelton@hfcsw.uk

Absences

If you are sick or not feeling well please call in before 8.30am **020 8520 0482 - Your parent or carer must call in - please make sure you are using this number.**

A Level Religious Studies Aims

The aim of A Level Religious Studies is to encourage you to know and understand:

- the best thinking about morality – matters of right and wrong;
- the best thinking about how God, human beings and their lives should be understood – Philosophy of Religion;
- the best thinking on the Christian faith – what does it mean to be a Christian in the 21st Century?
- How to present evidence, arguments and evaluate ideas.

Overview of course

You will follow the **OCR** specification for Religious Studies (H573)

Specification Overview

<u>Content</u>	<u>Assessment method</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<p><u>Philosophy of religion</u> Learners will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient philosophical influences • the nature of the soul, mind and body • arguments about the existence or non-existence of God • the nature and impact of religious experience • the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil • ideas about the nature of God • issues in religious language. 	<p>Philosophy of religion (01)</p> <p>120 marks</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>33.3%</p> <p>of total</p> <p>A Level</p>
<p><u>Religion and ethics</u> Learners will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normative ethical theories • the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance • ethical language and thought • debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience • sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs. 	<p>Religion and ethics (02)</p> <p>120 marks</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>33.3%</p> <p>of total</p> <p>A Level</p>

<p><u>Developments in religious thought</u> Learners will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world • sources of religious wisdom and authority • practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition • significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought • key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of Christianity. 	<p>Developments in religious thought (03–07)</p> <p>120 marks</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>33.3%</p> <p>of total</p> <p>A Level</p>
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3b. Assessment objectives (AO)

There are two Assessment Objectives in OCR A Level in Religious Studies. These are detailed in the table below.

Learners are expected to demonstrate their ability to:

	Assessment Objective	
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching • influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies • cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice • approaches to the study of religion and belief. 	40%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.	60%

AO weightings in A Level in Religious Studies

The relationship between the assessment objectives and the components are shown in the following table:

Component	✓ of overall A level in Religious Studies (H573)	
	AO1	AO2
Philosophy of religion (H573/01)	13.3	20
Religion and ethics (H573/02)	13.3	20
Developments in religious thought (H573/03–07)	13.3	20
Total	40	60

Holy Family Catholic School

Curriculum Overview Religious Studies (A Level)



	Curriculum Content- Year 12	Curriculum Content-Year 13
Half Term 1 (Sept-Oct)	<p>Philosophy: Ancient Philosophical Influences</p> <p>Ethics: Natural Law Theory</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: True Knowledge of God: Reason and Revelation</p>	<p>Philosophy: Religious Experience</p> <p>Ethics: Meta-Ethics</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Secularisation</p>
Half Term 2 (Nov-Dec)	<p>Philosophy: Arguments for the Existence of God (Observation)</p> <p>Ethics: Situation Ethics</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: The Bible and the Person of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>Philosophy: The Nature and Attributes of God</p> <p>Ethics: Conscience</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Pluralism (Theology and Society)</p>
Half Term 3 (Jan-Feb)	<p>Philosophy: Arguments for Existence of God (Reason)</p> <p>Ethics: Kantian Ethics</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Death and Afterlife</p>	<p>Philosophy: Religious Language (Part 1)</p> <p>Ethics: Sexual Ethics</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Gender in Theology</p>
Half Term 4 (Feb-Mar)	<p>Philosophy: The Problem of Evil (Part 1)</p> <p>Ethics: Utilitarianism</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Human Nature</p>	<p>Philosophy: Religious Language (Part 2)</p> <p>Ethics: Revision</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Gender in Society</p>
Half Term 5 (Apr-May)	<p>Philosophy: The Problem of Evil (Part 2)</p> <p>Ethics: Euthanasia</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Christian Moral Principles/Moral Action</p>	<p>Philosophy: Revision</p> <p>Ethics: Revision</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Revision</p>
Half Term 6 (Jun-Jul)	<p>Philosophy: Soul, Mind, and Body</p> <p>Ethics: Business Ethics</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Liberation Theology</p>	<p>Philosophy: Exams</p> <p>Ethics: Exams</p> <p>Developments in Christian Thought: Exams</p>

Useful Websites/Books & Extended Reading

Further resources:

1. The Panpsycast is a weekly 'informal and informative' philosophy podcast inspiring and supporting students, teachers, academics, and freethinkers worldwide. The show has covered our Religious Studies A Level specification as well as a range of other topics. The goal of each episode is to make exciting and challenging research accessible to students, teachers, academics and the general public. <https://thepanpsycast.com/>
2. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is an online resource which organizes scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work. <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
3. Crash Course is a YouTube channel started by John and Hank Green in association with PBS, the American public broadcast service. These are videos across subjects including science, computer science, engineering, media, history, literature, drama, mythology, statistics, chemistry, physics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, business, biology and economics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc850iqMcwo>
4. A History of Ideas from the BBC Radio 4 programme is another collection of videos on YouTube. The series answers big questions and explains big theories in under 2 minutes from the BBC Radio 4 programme – A History of Ideas. The videos were scripted by philosopher Nigel Warburton <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>
5. Philosophy Bites is a great podcast, too. The site covers a range of topics and you can even find interviews with leading philosophers! You can access it here <https://philosophybites.com/>

There are many relevant books – a small selection:

Philosophy:

Plato's Republic book
 Stephen Law 'Philosophy Files'
 Descartes, The Meditations
 Descartes, Principles of Philosophy
 Ryle, G (1949) The concept of mind
 Paley, Natural Theology
 Dawkins, R (1991) The Blind Watchmaker
 Dawkins, R, God Delusion
 Palmer, M (2002), Question of God.
 Mackie, J 'The Miracle of Theism'
 Davies, B (2000) Philosophy of Religion: a guide and anthology.
 Swinburne, R 'Is there a God?'
 Hay, D 'Religious Experience Today'
 Otto, R The idea of the Holy chapter 4 & 5
 James, W 'The Varieties of Religious Experience.'
 Vardy, P., The Puzzle of God

Ethics:

- Bowie, R. (2004). Ethical Studies. Nelson Thornes.
- Fletcher, J. (1997). Situation Ethics: The New Morality. Westminster John Knox Press.
- Messer, N. (2006). SCM Study Guide Christian Ethics. SCM Press
- Glover, J. (1990) Causing Death and Saving Lives.
- Rachels, J and S. The elements of moral philosophy.
- Singer, P. (1995). Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of our Traditional Ethics. Oxford.
- Warburton, N. (2014). Philosophy the Classics. Routledge
- Pojman, L. (2016). Ethics-Discovering Right and Wrong. Wadsworth Publishing

Christian Thought:

- A McGrath, The Christian Theology Reader 3rd Ed (Blackwell: Oxford , 2007)
- T Wiley, Original Sin: Origins Developments, Contemporary Meanings (Paulist: New York, 2002)
- A McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction
- H Chadwick. Augustine: A Very Short Introduction (OUP: Oxford, 1986)
- R Price. Augustine (Fount: London, 1996)
- J Wetzel. Augustine A Guide for the Perplexed (Continuum: London, 2010)
- P Brown. The Body and Society (Columbia University Press: New York, 1998)
- D L Migliore. Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology (2nd Ed)
(Grand Rapids: Michigan, 2004)
- E Pagels. Adam, Eve and the Serpent (Vintage: New York, 1988)
- J Webster. The Cambridge Companion to Karl Barth (CUP: Cambridge, 2007)