

Shenley Brook End Sixth Form
AS Religious Studies – Philosophy & Ethics

Dear Sixth Former,

Welcome to the Religious Studies faculty of Shenley Brook End Sixth Form.

You have chosen to study Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics). This course follows the OCR AS (H173) and A Level (H573) GCE Religious Studies specification. At AS level we concentrate on the Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and a study of Christianity.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics consists of 11 lessons per fortnight.

Below you will find two assignments you are expected to complete over the summer. For the first of these you will need to familiarise yourself with some essential key terms you will frequently come across and be expected to use in the course of your studies. The second task is in the form of two short essays (one philosophy based and one ethics). These are designed to help you start the course with an introductory level of knowledge to build upon during the first term. **Please bring your completed assignments to your first Religious Studies lesson.**

During your course some information and handouts will be provided, but if you are to be successful that you will also need to purchase at least one of the A Level textbooks in September. The two key recommended textbooks for yr 12 are:

OCR Religious Studies A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book (Michael B. Wilkinson, Michael Wilcockson, Hugh N.Campbell), ISBN:9781471866692, Hodder Education

Or

Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: AS and Year 1 (Libby Ahluwalia and Robert Bowie), ISBN: 9780198392859, Oxford University Press

We hope you enjoy your studies with us and find it a rewarding experience.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Walmsley

Team Leader Religious Studies
Shenley Brook End Sixth Form

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Key Terms:

Write a definition for each of the key terms.

Ethics	
Philosophy	
Religion	
Teleological	
Deontological	

Plato	
Aristotle	
Rationalism	
Empiricism	
Reason	
A posteriori	
A priori	

Please answer the following two A Level style questions below, as best as you can. Your answers should be no more than one side of A4 (approximately 300 words) each. They need to be on two separate pieces of paper and must be hand written, not typed. Answers should be made up of two reasoned arguments for, two reasoned arguments against and an explained conclusion giving your view (remember to put your name at the top of each essay). These assignments will allow your teachers to see at the beginning of the course your ability to answer questions.

Q1 Ethics. *'There are no moral rules that apply to all people of all time; morality is totally dependent on culture, time and place.'* Discuss.

Q2 Philosophy. *'If God cannot be proven to exist by using empirical evidence, then it is not logical to believe in a god.'* Discuss.

You may find some useful information on the internet, but please use these carefully and reference any quotes that you use.