



**Calday Grange**  
Grammar School

# Year 12 Pre-Course Material

Faculty	Humanities & Social Sciences ▾
Subject	Religious Studies ▾
Entry year	2023 ▾

# Welcome

Welcome to the department of Theology, Philosophy and Ethics. On these pages you will find:

- background reading suggestions
- details of a pre-course task we would like you to complete before the course starts
- details of subject knowledge enhancement task

We hope you will find this a useful introduction to the course and it gives you the opportunity to gain an insight into this A Level subject.

We look forward to meeting you in September.

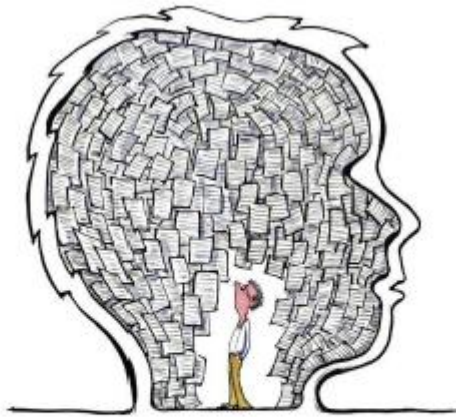
**Mr G. Griffiths**

**Mrs K. Starkey**

Teachers

# A Level Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

## Pre-Course Work



Below are a variety of tasks which cover some of the areas we will be studying at Alevel. Hopefully this will give you a flavour of what is to come but also keep you engaging with some conceptual material whilst reflecting on your own views.

## Ethics Task

Scenario: I'm on school lunch duty and I see and hear a student saying nasty things to another student while they're eating their chili and rice.



Questions:

Why is it OK, and my duty, to tell them off for being unkind?

Why is it *not* OK for me to tell them off for eating meat (I'm vegetarian)?

And then:

Which, if any, of our beliefs are 'just a matter of personal preference' and which, if any, refer to some kind of absolute fact?

Should we leave others to their 'personal preference' in matters of religious belief, or are some religious beliefs right and others wrong in an absolute sense?

Is there an ultimate truth, an absolute right and wrong, about religious truth claims?

At what point, if any, does one culture have the right to tell another 'you're doing it wrong' over matters of religion and ethics?

To what extent, if at all, do people have an obligation to share their religious faith with others – or should we keep our beliefs to ourselves and try and respect the views of others even if we think they'll miss out on going to heaven?

## Note Taking Task

Taking notes is a useful skill to develop at A Level. You are going to complete a Cornell Notes activity. There are instructions on how to take Cornell Notes on the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErSjc1PEGKE>

The video is called:

How to take Cornell Notes properly



Task: Read the chapter on the separate document on the Cosmological Argument, making notes using this method.

## General Tasks

1. Create a fact file on one (or all three!) of the philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Include pictures, key facts and a brief outline of their philosophical ideas.
2. Choose a story from the news that includes one of the following themes:
  - Abortion
  - Unfair business practices

Write a response to the story, from each of the following points of view. They may be similar or contrast vastly.

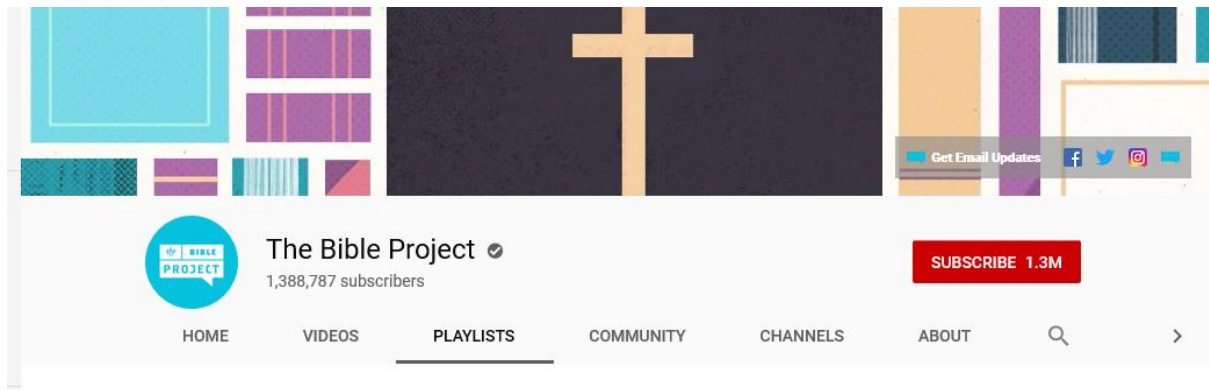
- An atheist (someone who fervently believes there is no God)
  - An agnostic (someone unsure about religion and faith in God)
  - A committed Christian
  - A child
3. Watch The Matrix (original). Note down your thoughts on the themes of truth, perception and reality.

## Introduction to Christianity Task

Our studied religion is Christianity and a good background knowledge of the Bible is important and therefore this is what your task is based on.

The Bible Project Series on YouTube will help you with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/playlists>



I would recommend the Biblical Themes playlist which is about 1 hour 30 minutes long if you watch every video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpa0gcPyo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNec-HZjVHooeb4BSDSeHhEoh>



Using these videos and your own additional research you need to find out about the following Biblical stories, events or characters.

For each topic below you need to fill in a Cornell Notes template

### **1. The Story of the Fall?**

What happens?

How does this story link with Christian ideas about Jesus?

### **2. The story of Exile**

Where, when and why were the Israelites exiled to?

What does the prophet Jeremiah teach about exile in Babylon?

What is the link with Jesus?

### **3. The Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah**

Who was Isaiah?

What is the background to Isaiah's writings?

What does Isaiah write about the suffering servant?

What is the link with Jesus?

### **4. The Prophets (there is a Bible project video called prophets)**

What do prophets do? Who are they?

What do they teach about the covenant?

What is the Day of the Lord? What is the link with Jesus?

### **5. The Messiah**

What does the Old Testament teach about the Messiah?

Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

What Jewish expectations of the Messiah does Jesus not fulfil?

### **6. Jesus**

What are the main events in Jesus' life?

What does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?

What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the Son of Man?

What is the day of the Lord?