



Samuel Whitbread Academy
YEAR 11 INTO YEAR 12 SUMMER TRANSITION CHALLENGE 2024



Subject:-	Qualification/Level:-	Examination Board:-
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	A-Level	WJEC - Eduqas
Is this a Linear or Modular A level?	Linear (new from 2016)	
- In a linear A level, any AS examination at the end of Year 12 <u>will not count</u> towards the A level.		

We expect students to complete a transition piece of work for each subject between the end of Key Stage 4 and the start of Key Stage 5. This is assessed and feedback given to students when they start the courses in September. The following challenge(s) are to be completed over the summer break and either **sent by email** or brought to your **first lesson**.

The Summer Transition CHALLENGE:

In preparation for the course it is important that you develop written skills that can synthesise information and extract meaning. Below is a list of topics that will be covered in the course.

- **Section One** → *Philosophy*
- **Section Two** → *Ethics*
- **Section Three** → *Buddhism*

Your work for summer is to complete **five** readings (Readings at the bottom of this document) and produce a 500-word analysis/summary of the units given. Look at the PowerPoint to explore other units within the topics!

How the work produced will fit into subsequent work and the specification as a whole:

During your course you are graded on **2 assessment objectives**. To pass you need to meet both of these.

AO1: Demonstrate **knowledge and understanding** of religion and belief, including:

- 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

AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their influence and study.

Length of time expected to complete the challenge:

3-4 hours *in addition to extra reading – But! You do have the entire summer to do this!*

How the work will be assessed and marked:

Send completed work to kbradshaw@bestacademies.org.uk ; Verbal discussions and quiz in class in first lessons back in school - Peer and teacher-marked using the AOs stated below.

Expectations:

A-Grade:

AO1	AO2
Address the question specifically and select relevant material. Deploy comprehensive and accurate knowledge, expressed clearly. Use a range of technical language and terminology accurately and consistently. Competently explain appropriate examples and/or relevant sources/scholars.	Construct a coherent & well-organised evaluative argument. Demonstrate an informed viewpoint and evidence of own thinking within the context of understanding different arguments and views. Use proficient, fluent and accurate language. Competent analysis of the connections between elements of the course, their broader context and human experience.

Resources to be used for this work:

- <https://www.ted.com/>
- <https://iep.utm.edu/> - A great place for research.

General Video introductions:

- Intro to philosophy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY
- Intro to ethics -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_t4obUc51A
- Intro to Buddhism -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=litWtakwsjw>

These are merely a few suggestions – as a research task you need to learn to navigate and filter the internet etc.

Remember to keep a note of any sources used for future essays...

The following sites are brilliant as an introduction to the course itself: (Ignore the sections on Christianity – this isn't part of our course!) -

- <https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/eduqas-wjec-religious-studies/>
- <https://ncpreligiousstudies.wordpress.com/new-philosophy-of-religion-resources/>

Who to contact if you should require further assistance with the work before the end of term?

Miss K Bradshaw (kbradshaw@bestacademies.org.uk)

What equipment will be needed for the subject?

Three lever arch folders (one for each topic) and dividers for organisation of work; highlighters and coloured pens for annotations; lined paper and a notebook.

To understand more about this subject at a high level:

If you fancy buying a book:

- Mel Thompson – *Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics* ISBN: 0340876425
- A fun read; *The Pig that wants to be eaten & 99 other thought experiments*

As philosophy and ethics are relevant to every aspect of our lives, keeping abreast of current affairs is vital – so add a few newspapers to your apps and browse – for example:

- BBC www.bbc.co.uk

Listen to some podcasts – for example:

- <https://philosophynow.org/podcasts>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/vsauce>
- <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/philosophy/exploring-philosophy>
- There are also Philosophy podcasts on Spotify such as 'Philosophy Bites' That I would highly recommend!

If you want a lighter way to introduce yourself to philosophy and ethics, check out 'the Good place' series on Netflix

Readings:

Ethics:

1. Utilitarianism:

- <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-epcc-introethics-1/chapter/utilitarianism/>

2. Natural Law (Choose one of the following)

- Natural Law on abortion. Howard Kainz' views - <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/abortionand-the-slippery-slope>

OR

- Natural Law on euthanasia. The Doctrine of Double Effect - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/euthanasia/overview/doubleeffect.shtml>

Philosophy:

3. Cosmological/Teleological Arguments (Both of these are much harder reads; try to understand what the difference between cosmological and teleological arguments are) (Choose one of the following)

- Intro to cosmological arguments (God as the 'first cause' of creation) through the Kalem cosmological argument: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmological-argument/#KalaCosmArgu>

OR

- Intro to the teleological argument (also known as the 'design' argument) - https://www.qcc.cuny.edu/socialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/Chapter%203%20Religion/Teleological.htm#:~:text=Basically%2C%20this%20argument%20says%20that,other%20means%2C%20such%20as%20evolution.

4. Religious Experience (Choose one of the following)

- St Teresa of Avila's mystical experiences - <https://www.thymindoman.com/saint-teresa-of-avilasfirst-vision-accounts/>

OR

- Should we trust religious experiences? Hume and Swinburne's views - <https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/credulity--testimony.html>

Buddhism

5. Introduction to Buddhism:

(I do not expect you to read the entire book – choose one chapter to summarise as work; and read more if you want to be better prepared in September!)

- <https://toleratedindividuality.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/an-introduction-to-buddhism-teachings-history-and-practices.pdf>