

Name.....

A-Level Religion, Ethics & Philosophy Introductory Task!



Firstly, welcome to the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Carmel College – you have made a great decision with your subject choice here and I hope that you will find your studies stimulating and challenging. This subject offers the opportunity for you to become a much better thinker, through exploring the big questions in life that have been pondered and discussed by philosophers and theologians for centuries. In learning to think well, not only can you better understand and analyse the issues, puzzles and problems that we tackle in lessons, you will also be able to evaluate the beliefs and values that *you* hold. As such, Philosophy and Religious Studies offer you a valuable opportunity to reflect critically upon who you are, how you should live, and what your place is in this grand old place we call the universe – exciting times!

Your course of study is **OCR Religious Studies** but in our department, we call it ‘Religion, Ethics & Philosophy’ or REP for short! There are three strands to the course: The Study of a Religion (Buddhism), Philosophy of Religion, and Religion & Ethics. The specification, giving full information on the course can be found here: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

In preparation for the course, please complete the tasks below. You should e-mail your worksheet to glenn@carmel.ac.uk by the deadline of 4pm 31st August and bring a print out to your first lesson in September. Specific instructions for Task 4 are provided.

Task 1: Philosopher Fact-File

Choose a philosopher to research. It can be anyone, female or male, from any time or place – just someone who strikes you as an interesting character with interesting ideas. Complete the fact-file below and we can discuss your findings when we meet as a class.

Name of philosopher	
When did she/he live?	
Where did she/he live?	

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Which famous books did she/he write?	
Key idea 1	
Key idea 2	
Key idea 3	
An interesting/funny story from his/her life	

Task 2: Philosophy Questions

Using the internet and/or books, find three philosophical questions – write them in the table below and, in the right column, write your response to the questions, giving your reasons to support your answer. Again, we will discuss these in class 😊

Philosophy Question, e.g. is it ever right to kill?	Your response (with reasons)

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Task 3: Research Questions

Find out the answers to the following questions, which connect to your course topics (Study of a Religion – Buddhism; Religion and Ethics; Philosophy of Religion):

1. Summarise Plato's 'analogy of the cave'
2. What is the difference between a priori and a posteriori?
3. What does the term creation-ex-nihilo mean?
4. Name three philosophers who created arguments to prove
The existence of God
5. What is meant by the term, 'Buddha'?
6. How does Buddhism explain suffering?
7. Explain what is meant by the term, 'nirvana'.

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8. How does the utilitarian argue we should make moral decisions?

9. What is meant by Aristotle's 'golden mean'?

10. What is meant by 'agape love'?

Task 4: Being Creative!

Choose **ONE** or more of the following tasks to complete

<p style="text-align: center;">Cave Theatre</p> <p>Draw your own illustration of, or create a puppet theatre of, Plato's analogy of the cave. This must include the cave, the walkway, a fire, prisoners, the escaped prisoner, the outside world, and the sun.</p> <p>ONCE COMPLETED, PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WORK AND E-MAIL IT TO glenn@carmel.ac.uk AND BRING TO YOUR FIRST LESSON IN SEPTEMBER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pinterest Buddhism!</p> <p>Create a Pinterest 'board' (this can be on paper or on computer) which gathers key ideas and concepts in Buddhism. Use images, key words and quotations. You should also provide a small summary for anybody who may wish to 're-pin' in!</p> <p>ONCE COMPLETED, E-MAIL YOUR PINTEREST LINK OR, IF ON PAPER, PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WORK AND E-MAIL IT TO glenn@carmel.ac.uk ALSO, BRING TO YOUR FIRST LESSON IN SEPTEMBER IF ON PAPER.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Outline the Arguments</p> <p>Choose one of the following arguments for the existence of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Ontological*Cosmological*Teleological <p>Create a three-dimensional flow diagram of the stages of the argument. Highlight any strengths or weaknesses as branches of the diagram.</p> <p>ONCE COMPLETED, E-MAIL YOUR DIAGRAM TO glenn@carmel.ac.uk AND BRING TO YOUR FIRST LESSON IN SEPTEMBER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The eternal debate!</p> <p>Write a screenplay and/or record a video for a debate between those who argue that God exists, and those who argue that God does not exist. If you are recording a video, this should be e-mailed (address below) or uploaded to Youtube.</p> <p>ONCE COMPLETED E-MAIL YOUR SCREENPLAY AND/OR VIDEO RECORDING TO glenn@carmel.ac.uk</p>