

National curriculum or specification coverage

OCR A Level Religious Studies H573

Paper 2 Religion and Ethics

- 1 & 2 Normative ethical theories
- 3 The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- 4 Ethical language and thought
- 5 Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- 6 Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Date	Exams/ Assessments	Learning Intentions	Core Task/Assessments
31/08/26		Paper 2 Topic 1 Normative ethical theories Situation Ethics • Origins of Agape in NT and Fletchers development of it • Six propositions – what are they and how they influence the theory • Four working principles – what they are and how they are intended to be applied • Conscience – what it is and what it is not according to Fletcher Consider the following issues • whether or not situation ethics provides a helpful method of moral decision-making • whether or not an ethical judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong can be based on the extent to which, in any given situation, agape is best served • whether Fletcher's understanding of agape is really religious or whether it means nothing more than wanting the best for the person involved in a given situation • whether or not the rejection of absolute rules by situation ethics makes moral decision-making entirely individualistic and subjective Religious – Natural Law • origins of the significant concept of telos in Aristotle and its religious development in the writing of Aquinas • Four Tiers of Law – what they are and how they are related • The Precepts – what they are and how they are related	Core task 1 – AO1 part of an exam question – Knowledge of Situation Ethics
07/09/26			
14/09/26			
21/09/26			
28/09/26			
05/10/26			
12/10/26			
19/10/26			

Year 12 Long Term Scheme of Learning 2026-2027

Subject: RE PJO

		Consider the following issues whether or not natural law provides a helpful method of moral decision-making • whether or not a judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong can be based on its success or failure in achieving its telos • whether or not the universe as a whole is designed with a telos, or human nature has an orientation towards the good • whether or not the doctrine of double effect can be used to justify an action, such as killing someone as an act of self-defence	
26/10/26		HALF TERM	
02/11/26		3. Applied Ethics - Euthanasia • sanctity of life - the religious origins of this concept (that human life is made in God's image and is therefore sacred in value) • quality of life - the secular origins of this significant concept (that human life has to possess certain attributes in order to have value) • voluntary euthanasia - what it is (that a person's life is ended at their request or with their consent) and its use in the case of incurable or terminal illness • non-voluntary euthanasia - what it is (that a person's life is ended without their consent but with the consent of someone representing their interests) and its use in the case of a patient who is in a persistent vegetative state Consider the following • the application of natural law and situation ethics to euthanasia • whether or not the religious concept of sanctity of life has any meaning in twenty first century medical ethics • whether or not a person should or can have complete autonomy over their own life and decisions made about it • whether or not there is a moral difference between medical intervention to end a patient's life and medical non-intervention to end a patient's life	Core Task 2 – Timed essay based on Normative Ethical Theory
09/11/26			
16/11/26	Y12		
23/11/26	Y12		
30/11/26			
07/12/26			
14/12/26			
21/12/26		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	
28/12/26			
04/01/27		2 Normative ethical theories – secular Kantian Ethics • origins of the concept of duty (acting morally according to the good regardless of consequences) in deontological and absolutist approaches to ethics • What is the Hypothetical Imperative • What is the Categorical Imperative and the 3 formulations • The 3 Postulates:- Freedom, Immortality and God Consider the following • whether or not Kantian ethics provides a helpful method of moral decision-making • whether or not an ethical judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong can be based on the extent to which duty is best served • whether or not Kantian ethics is too abstract to be applicable to practical moral decision-making	Core Task 3 – timed essay
11/01/27			
18/01/27			
25/01/27			
01/02/27			
08/02/27			

		• whether or not Kantian ethics is so reliant on reason that it unduly rejects the importance of other factors, such as sympathy, empathy and love in moral decision-making Utilitarianism – Teleological • utility • the hedonic calculus • act utilitarianism • rule utilitarianism Consider the following • whether or not utilitarianism provides a helpful method of moral decision-making • whether or not an ethical judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong can be based on the extent to which, in any given situation, utility is best served • whether or not it is possible to measure good or pleasure and then reach a moral decision 3. Applied Ethics – Business Ethics • corporate social responsibility • whistle-blowing • good ethics is good business • globalisation Consider the following • the application of Kantian ethics and utilitarianism to business ethics • whether or not the concept of corporate social responsibility is nothing more than 'hypocritical window-dressing' covering the greed of a business intent on making profits • whether or not human beings can flourish in the context of capitalism and consumerism • whether globalisation encourages or discourages the pursuit of good ethics as the foundation of good business	
15/02/27	HALF TERM		
22/02/27		6. Developments in Ethical Thought Consideration of the following areas of sexual ethics: • premarital and extramarital sex • homosexuality The influence of developments in religious beliefs and practices on debates about the morality, legality and tolerability of these areas of sexual ethics Application of the following theories to these areas of sexual ethics: • Natural law • Situation ethics • Kantian ethics • Utilitarianism Consider the following • whether or not religious beliefs and practices concerning sex and relationships have a continuing role in the area of sexual ethics • whether choices in the area of sexual behaviour should be entirely private and personal, or whether they should be subject to societal norms and legislation • whether normative theories are useful in what they might say about sexual ethics	Core Task 4 – Timed Essay
01/03/27			
08/03/27			
15/03/27			
22/03/27			

Year 12 Long Term Scheme of Learning 2026-2027

Subject: RE PJO

29/03/27	SPRING BREAK		
05/04/27			
12/04/27		4. Ethical Language: Meta-ethics • naturalism • intuitionism • emotivism Consider the following • whether or not what is meant by the word 'good' is the defining question in the study of ethics • whether or not ethical terms such as good, bad, right and wrong: have an objective factual basis that makes them true or false in describing something, reflect only what is in the mind of the person using such terms, can be said to be meaningful or meaningless • whether or not, from a common sense approach, people just know within themselves what is good, bad, right and wrong	Core task 5 - PPE
19/04/27	Y12		
26/04/27			
03/05/27			
10/05/27			
17/05/27			
24/05/27			
31/05/27	HALF TERM		
07/06/27		5 Significant Ideas – Conscience Aquinas' approach • ratio (reason placed in every person as a result of being created in the image of God) • synderesis (inner principle directing a person towards good and away from evil) • conscientia (a person's reason making moral judgements). • vincible ignorance (lack of knowledge for which a person is responsible) • invincible ignorance (lack of knowledge for which a person is not responsible) Freud's approach • psychosexual development (early childhood awareness of libido) • id (instinctive impulses that seek satisfaction in pleasure) • ego (mediates between the id and the demands of social interaction) • super-ego (contradicts the id and working on internalised ideals from parents and society tries to make the ego behave morally) Consider the following a comparison between Aquinas and Freud • on the concept of guilt • on the presence or absence of God within the workings of the conscience and super-ego • on the process of moral decision-making • whether conscience is linked to, or separate from, reason and the unconscious mind • whether conscience exists at all or is instead an umbrella term covering various factors involved in moral decision-making, such as culture, environment, genetic predisposition and education	Core task 6 – timed essay
14/06/27			
21/06/27			
28/06/27			
05/07/27			
12/07/27			