

National curriculum or specification coverage

OCR A Level Religious Studies H573

Paper 1 Philosophy of religion

- Ancient philosophical influences (Plato and Aristotle)
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experiences
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

Date	Exams/ Assessments	Learning Intentions	Core Task/Assessments
31/08/26		Paper 2 Topic 1 Ancient philosophical influences Plato and Aristotle • The philosophical views of Plato in relation to understanding of reality, the forms and the analogy of the cave • The philosophical views of Aristotle, in relation to understanding of reality, the four causes and the Prime Mover Key Knowledge - Plato's reliance on reason as opposed to the sense - The nature of the Forms, hierarchy of the forms - Details of the analogy, its purpose and relation to the theory of the forms - Aristotle's use of teleology - Material, formal, efficient and final cause - The nature of Aristotle's Prime Mover and connections between this and the final cause • Comparison and evaluation of Plato's Form of Good and Aristotle's Prime Mover - Comparison and evaluation of Plato's reliance on reason and Aristotle's use of the senses in their attempts to make sense of reality	Core task 1 – AO1 part of an exam question – Knowledge of Plato and Aristotle
07/09/26			
14/09/26			
21/09/26			
28/09/26			
05/10/26			
12/10/26			
19/10/26			

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Subject: RE NRY

		Soul, mind and body - The philosophical language of soul, mind and body in the thinking of Plato and Aristotle - Metaphysics of conscious, including substance dualism and materialism Key knowledge - Plato's view of the soul as the essential and immaterial part of human, temporarily united with the body - Aristotle's view of the soul as the form of the body, the way the body behaves and lives, something which cannot be separated from the body - The idea that the mind and body are distinct substances - Descartes' proposal of material and spiritual substances as a solution to the mind/body problem - The idea that mind and consciousness can be fully explained by physical or material interactions - The rejection of a soul as a spiritual substance	
26/10/26		HALF TERM	
02/11/26		Arguments about the existence of non-existence of God (based on observation) - The teleological argument - The cosmological argument - Challenges to arguments from observation Key knowledge - Details of this argument including reference to Aquinas' Fifth way and Paley - Details of this argument including reference to Aquinas' first three ways - Details of Hume's criticisms of these arguments for the existence of God from natural religion - The challenge of evolution Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God (based on reason) - The ontological argument Key knowledge - Details of this argument including references to Anselm, Gaunilo's criticisms and Kant's criticism	Core Task 2 – Timed essay based on teleological argument / cosmological arguments
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		God and the Worlds Religious Experiences - The nature and influence of religious experience including mystical experience and conversion experience - Different ways in which individual religious experiences can be understood Key knowledge - Examples of mystical and conversion experiences and views about these including views and main conclusions of Williams James - As union with a greater power	Core Task 3 – timed essay on religious experiences
11/01/27			
18/01/27			
25/01/27			
01/02/27			
08/02/27			

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		- Psychological effect of such illusion - The product of a physiological effect The Problem of evil - The problem of evil and suffering - Different presentations of the problem of evil - Theodicies that propose some justification or reason for divine action or inaction in the face of evil Key knowledge - The logical and evidential aspects of the problem of evil - Augustine’s use of original perfection and the Fall - Hick’s reworking of the Irenaean theodicy which gives some purpose to natural evil in enabling human beings to reach divine likeness Theological and philosophical developments The nature or attributes of God - Developments in the understanding of omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence, eternity and free will Key knowledge - Divine power and self-imposed limitations - Divine knowledge and its interaction with temporal existence and free will - Divine benevolence and just judgement of human actions, including Boethius’ arguments in relation to divine foreknowledge, eternity and free will - Divine eternity and divine action in time, including Anselm’s four-dimensionalist approach as an extension of Boethius’ view - The extent to which human free will reasonably coexists with these attributes	
15/02/27	HALF TERM		
22/02/27		Theological and philosophical developments The nature or attributes of God - Developments in the understanding of omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence, eternity and free will Key knowledge - Divine power and self-imposed limitations - Divine knowledge and its interaction with temporal existence and free will - Divine benevolence and just judgement of human actions, including Boethius’ arguments in relation to divine foreknowledge, eternity and free will - Divine eternity and divine action in time, including Anselm’s four-dimensionalist approach as an extension of Boethius’ view - The extent to which human free will reasonably coexists with these attributes	Core Task 4 – Timed Essay on attributes of God
01/03/27			
08/03/27			
15/03/27			
22/03/27			
29/03/27	SPRING BREAK		
05/04/27			

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12/04/27		Religious language, Negative, Analogical or Symbolic - The apophatic way – via negativa - Cataphatic – via positiva - Symbolic language Key knowledge - The argument that theological language is best approached by negation - The understanding of religious language in terms of analogy with reference to Aquinas's analogy of attribution and analogy of proper proportion Understanding of the language of religious expression in terms of symbol, with reference to Tillich's view of theological language as almost entirely symbolic	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		Religious language: Twentieth century perspectives Twentieth-century perspectives and philosophical comparisons • Logical positivism • Wittgenstein's view on language games and forms of life • Discussion about the factual quality of religious language in the falsification symposium Key knowledge - The impact of the verification principle on the use of religious language with reference to Ayer's approach to verification - How language games may permit religious language to be deemed meaningful yet not cognitive - The varying arguments, with their associated parables put forward in relation to teleological language by Flew, Hare and Mitchall in their contributions to the symposium YEAR 13 CONTENT Development in Christian thought Insight Augustine's teachings on Human nature - Human relationships pre and post Fall - Original Sin and its effects on the will and human societies - God's grace Key knowledge - Augustine's interpretation of Genesis 3 including the state of perfection before the Fall and Adam and Eve's relationship as friends - Lust and selfish desires after the fall - Augustine's teaching that Original Sin is passed on through sexual intercourse and is the cause of human selfishness and lack of free will, lack of stability and corruption in all human societies - Augustine's teaching that only God's grace, his generous love, can overcome sin and the rebellious will to achieve the greatest good	Core task 6 – timed essay
14/06/27			
21/06/27			
28/06/27			
05/07/27			
12/07/27			