



Bishop Milner Catholic College Year 12 CURRICULUM PLAN for A Level RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- PHILOSOPHY



The curriculum for this stage of students' education has is in line with the OCR Philosophy and Ethics specification. The curriculum provides students with a foundational introduction to Aristotelean and Platonic epistemology. Students will use this knowledge to inform the subsequent topics which require application of classical philosophical thought. Students will have the ability to explore a wide range of issues that saturate the theological and philosophical academic discourse. Students will be required to sit an examination-style essay question at the end of each unit

Topics may overlap into the next term.

Half Term 1: Ancient Philosophical Influences

Students must know

- Introduction to rationalism and empiricism and implications of using either to acquire knowledge
- Plato's allegory of the cave
- Aristotle's reliance on empiricism as opposed to reason
- Aristotle's 4 causes
- Aristotle's Prime Mover

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Half Term 2: Soul, mind and body

Students must know

- Schools of thought- substance dualism and materialism
- Platonic view of the soul- dualist
- Cartesian view of the soul – Descartes
- Aristotelean view of the soul- animates body
- Criticisms of substance dualism from materialists such as Dawkins and Ryle

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Half Term 3: Arguments for God's existence- Arguments from observation

Students must know

- Paley's Teleological Argument supplemented by Aquinas' 5th way
- Challenges to TA from evolution and problem of evil
- Thomas Aquinas' Cosmological Argument
- Challenges to CA from fallacy of composition
- David Hume's criticisms of arguments from observation

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Half Term 4: Arguments for God's existence- Arguments from reason

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- Anselm's Ontological Argument
- Criticism and response from Gaunilo
- Descartes' Ontological Argument
- Kant's criticisms of arguments from reason
- Consideration of best method of proving God's existence- rationalism or empiricism

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Half Term 5: Religious experience

Students must know

- William James' features of mystical experiences
- Nature of conversion, mystical and corporate experiences with examples
- Various ways individual experiences can be understood
- Validity of religious experiences, specifically corporate v individual

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Half Term 6: Problem of evil

Students must know

- The logical and evidential problems of evil
- Examples of evil and suffering, both moral and natural
- Augustinian theodicy
- Hick's Vale of Soul Making theodicy
- Criticisms regarding these theodicies
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HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Marking of classwork and short essay element tasks, knowledge retrieval tests
40-mark past paper questions; workbook book tasks.

Embedding this knowledge can be supported at home by having discussions at home about the issues covered in class; using the wider reading materials provided in class and on the exam specification reading lists
Topic related books, film and documentaries, A level conferences. Collaboration with other subjects such as History and Sociology.