



Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

Summer Work

Over the summer buy 3 lever arch folders and a set of file dividers for each folder. You will need a folder for each section of the course: Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. You will also need 1 ringbinder folder with a set of file dividers in it. **THIS IS ESSENTIAL.**

You will also need to buy this book: Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: AS and Year 1 Student Book: Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics Paperback by Libby Ahluwalia and Robert Bowie. (ISBN 0198392850)

Philosophy of Religion

1. Read pages 6-9, 'An invitation to Philosophy' from *The Story of Philosophy* by Bryan Magee.
2. Read pages 78-100, 'What is real?' from *The Philosophy Files* by Stephen Law. Complete the following tasks:
 - Write a description of Plato's cave analogy
 - Draw a picture to illustrate the analogy
 - Write a paragraph summarising what you think the analogy means (ensure that you make reference to his concept of the Forms).

Ethics

1. Read pages 122-150 'Where do right and wrong come from?' from *The Philosophy Files* by Stephen Law. Complete the following tasks:
 - Make a list of things that are wrong in your view.
 - Summarise the different ways people know right and wrong.Write a paragraph outlining which is the strongest reason in your view and explain why.

Developments in Christian Thought

Read the chapter on the 'Life of Jesus' from *The Puzzle of Christianity* by Peter Vardy. Complete the following questions:

1. Why are the life histories of Jesus called 'gospels'?
2. In what ways do Christians differ over the interpretation of the gospels?
3. Is there a single, agreed version of the life of Jesus?
4. In what way does the Gospel of John differ significantly to those of Matthew, Mark and Luke (the Synoptic gospels)?
5. What did the Gospel writers want to achieve?
6. What was the general view of what the Messiah would be like?
7. How did Jesus radically differ from the view of what the Messiah would be like?
8. Why does Vardy state 'The Gospel of John is in a different category'?
9. Describe how Matthew and Luke show us that Jesus' conception was not 'natural'.

Use the image to help



10. Why do many Christians commend / praise Mary?
11. How do Matthew and Luke portray the birth / nativity as supernatural?
12. What radical messages did Jesus give to those who came to listen to him?
13. What is John's view on the prospect of baptising Jesus? Why?
14. How does the gospel give a divine/supernatural significance to the baptism of Jesus?
15. Use the image to help further justify the belief that Jesus was seen as no normal man at his baptism.



16. In what way is Jesus seen as a holy character?
17. How significant was the procession into Jerusalem? Use the image below and the quote from Zechariah to help.



Zechariah 9:9

9 Rejoice, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.

18. Describe crucifixion. Also study the image below and reflect on the symbolism of the crucifixion.

