

# **A Level Religious Studies**

## **Summer Preparation Work**

The Religious Studies A-level course is split into two sections, Philosophy & Ethics and Study of Religion (Christianity). At the beginning of year 12 we will focus on Philosophy and Ethics. **There are two parts to your bridging work.** Each part should be completed on **separate pieces of paper** (because they will be marked by two different teachers) **and unless you are told otherwise brought to your first lesson in September.**

### **1. Ethics Research Task**

Please complete the written tasks on paper. They can be handwritten or typed. Task A, B, C and D are compulsory. There is an optional extra task that you can complete if you want to.

The study of ethics includes ideas about how we decide what is a right or wrong action in any situation.

**Task A:** Watch this youtube clip about 'What is Ethics' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX3LgUgxqRI> (If you need to search for it in the youtube app search for 'Lawson Talks Philosophy what is ethics').

**Task B:** Write a short summary (approx. 50 words) to answer the question 'What is Ethics?' *You are not required to explain meta-ethics or normative ethics even though those were covered in the video.*

**Optional challenge task:** *In 50 – 100 words explain what meta-ethics means, what normative ethics means and the key differences between the two.*

**Task C:** Situation Ethics is an example of an ethical theory that we study. Complete a detailed mind map which includes the following information written in your own words:

- Who developed the theory of situation ethics and when
- What is the 'boss principle' or main feature that situation ethics is based upon.
- What are the four main principles in situation ethics and what do they mean?
- What are the 6 guiding principles in situation ethics and what do they mean.
- How does situation ethics link to Christianity?
- What are the advantages of situation ethics?
- What are the disadvantages of situation ethics?

**The following resources will help you with the research task.**

*This is an introduction to situation ethics:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzMIBmjH7uc&list=PL2ggVdhXSiowx0EOMM7Mw5h1KjEj0TPF0>

To search for this in the youtube app find the Philosophy and Ethics channel and look for the situation ethics playlist – it is the first video called 1 Situation Ethics introduction)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxgkfJXWr-I> (If you need to search for this video in the app search for Situation Ethics explained by Peter Baron from Peped)

[http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/situation\\_ethics/index.htm](http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/situation_ethics/index.htm) This takes you to the topic overview page, use the menu on the left hand side to access other pages which go into more detail including some of the disadvantages of Situation Ethics.



3. What is an example of an account of religious experience? Research a case study of a religious experience. This could be from a holy book, a famous example or a modern example (e.g. Bernadette of Lourdes, Teresa of Avila, Guru Nanak, St. Paul's conversion). Write a summary of the experience in your own words.

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4. Why it can be difficult to believe that Religious Experiences are real experiences of connecting with God? Give at least 5 reasons.

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**Task B:** Watch this online lesson about Religious Experience.

- As you watch the online lesson, complete the mind map task (described between 6 minutes 25 seconds and 9 minutes into the video).
- Add the information shared from 10 minutes into the video up to 18 minutes into the video to your mind map
- Skip the textbook task described at 22 minutes in as we will cover that in lessons when we are in school.
- Use the information from 23 minutes into the video to 30 minutes to help you with the next bullet point.
- Answer the big question at the end of the video clip on paper. **Optional challenge task – to help you with your answer to the big question research Sigmund Freud's theory of religion and religious experiences as wish fulfilment (suggested resources below).**

You can start the video from 2 minutes in if you don't want to listen to the introduction. If you do watch it from the beginning please note this video was made for a different school where it is usual to pray at the beginning of their lessons – we don't do that at Ripley.

Resources for the optional challenge task:

[http://hettingern.people.cofc.edu/Philosophy\\_of\\_Religion/Freud\\_Future\\_of\\_an\\_Illusion.htm](http://hettingern.people.cofc.edu/Philosophy_of_Religion/Freud_Future_of_an_Illusion.htm)

<https://jamesbishopblog.com/2019/07/21/sigmund-freud-religious-belief-belief-as-wish-fulfillment-and-illusion/>

