## <u>A Level Religious Studies</u> <u>Summer Preparation Work</u>

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.

Please bring your completed work with you to the first lesson in September. We look forward to seeing you then.

## **Philosophy Tasks**

The first topic we study in Year 12 is about religious experiences. The tasks below will help you to prepare for the first unit of work. Task A and B are compulsory. You can choose whether to complete the challenge task at the end of task B.

**Task A:** Answer the questions below either by printing out this page and writing on the sheet or writing out the questions and answering them on paper. They can be handwritten or typed.

1. In the most simple way, a religious experience can be defined as an event that people feel gives them direct contact with God. Alasdair Hardy (a professor of religious studies) says a religious experience... "alters behaviour, changes attitudes... life enhancing... added confidence or courage"

Give three examples of religious experiences (if you need help click here)

2. How common are religious experiences? Research some statistics for the UK or globally and summarise your findings below.

•	3.	What is an example of an account of religious experience? <b>Research a case study</b> 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). <b>Write a summary of the experience in your own words.</b>
	4.	Why it can be difficult to believe that Religious Experiences are real experiences of connecting with God? <b>Give at least 5 reasons.</b>
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## **Task B:** Watch this online lesson about Religious Experience.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVu3Ij1DaWU&t=12s

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.

Complete these tasks on paper.

- 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 answer the question "Are religious experiences all in the mind?" This is asking whether religious experiences are real or are they just something that a person believes has happen or interprets religiously. Your answer should include at least 3 reasons for your opinion AND 3 reasons why someone might disagree with your opinion.

• 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).

Resources for the optional challenge task:

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/