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**Bishop Challoner Catholic College**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
A-Level Study Guide**

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| **COMPONENT 2** | INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION | |
| This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental religious themes, over two years: | | |
| 1. arguments for the existence of God 2. challenges to religious belief | | 1. religious experience 2. religious language. |

**AUTUMN**

**Which topics will you be studying?**

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| **Theme 1a-c: Arguments for the existence of God- Inductive** | |
| **AO1:** | **AO2:** |
| * **Inductive Arguments- Cosmological (Kalam & Aquinas)** * **Inductive Arguments- Teleological.(Aquinas, Paley & Tennant)** * **Challenges to inductive arguments (Hume).** | * Whether inductive arguments for God’s existence are persuasive. * The extent to which the Kalam cosmological argument is convincing. * The effectiveness of the cosmological/teleological argument for God’s existence. * Whether cosmological/teleological arguments for God’s existence are persuasive in the 21st Century. * The effectiveness of the challenges to the cosmological/teleological argument for God’s existence. * Whether scientific explanations are more persuasive than philosophical explanations for the universe’s existence. |
| **Theme 1d-f: Arguments for the existence of God- Deductive** | |
| **AO1:** | **AO2:** |
| * **Deductive Arguments [Origins of the Ontological Argument] (Anselm)** * **Deductive Argument [Development of the Ontological Argument] (Descartes & Malcolm)** * **Challenges to deductive arguments (Gaunilo)** | * The extent to which ‘a priori’ arguments for God’s existence are persuasive. * The extent to which different religious views on the nature of God impact on arguments for the existence of God. * The effectiveness of the ontological argument for God’s existence. * Whether the ontological argument is more persuasive than the cosmological/teleological arguments for God’s existence. * The effectiveness of the challenges to the ontological argument for God’s existence. * The extent to which objections to the ontological argument are persuasive. |

**Purpose of independent study:**

* Familiarity with assessment objectives/ command terminology and how to evidence each of these.
* Reviewing content thoroughly and regularly, highlighting areas of development.
* Regularly practising examination techniques modelled in lesson and looking at feedback to see how you can further improve.
* Develop understanding of philosophical concepts, theories and research beyond the curriculum to expand on the impact they had/continue to have on society.

**What useful revision activities should I be doing?**

* Filling in glossaries of key terms. (Copies distributed in lesson/ available on Teams)
* Filling in blank knowledge organisers to consolidate/ summarise information covered in lesson. (Copies distributed in lesson/ available on Teams)
* At the END of EACH Lesson  
  - Summarise it! In your exercise book using Cornell- notes or into a mind map/flash cards.
* Practising examination techniques that have been modelled in lessons by completing past examination questions from ‘exam packs’ provided. Don’t forget to hand these in to be marked. (All past papers are available on Teams)
* Creating revision aids for studies/ theories using the A01/2 plan modelled in lessons
* Hot seating – talking for 1 minute non-stop about a given topic
* Creating a fact file on key Psychologists, such as Milgram, Bandura, Pavlov
* Prepare for next lesson by reviewing content
* Complete homework tasks
* Test a partner using a knowledge organiser you have been given. (available on Teams)
* Talk about a concept for one minute without stopping.
* Make a dual-coded glossary of key terms for each unit of work. ( It is when an image is used to match the word; then colour coordinate which words are often used together)
* Write a quiz to test a partner on a key topic we have covered.
* Make a case study poster for a Philosopher/ Philosophical Line of Inquiry  
  (e.g St Thomas Aquinas or for Teleological Arguments)

**Useful Resources:**

* Hodder EDUQAS Student Revision Guide Year 1 – Philosophy of Religion
* [www.pontefractcollege.com](http://www.pontefractcollege.com) – a useful revision website.
* **Introduction to Inductive Arguments***Watch them, Make or ADD to your notes in a different colour. THEN write an outline of what the argument discusses (for each)* **Cosmological Argument- Aquinas:** <https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/1-cosmological-argument-1-a.pptx>
* **Cosmological Argument-** **Kalam:** [**https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/2-kalam-argument-1-a.pptx**](https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/2-kalam-argument-1-a.pptx)
* **Inductive Arguments Booklet:** <https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/1-a-b-and-c-inductive-arguments-booklet.docx>
* **Introduction to Teleological Arguments:** [**https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/1-intro-to-the-ta.pptx**](https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/1-intro-to-the-ta.pptx)
* **Teleological Arguments- Aquinas:** [**https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/3-aquinas-and-the-ta.pptx**](https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/3-aquinas-and-the-ta.pptx)
* **Teleological Arguments- Paley:** [**https://youtu.be/9NGj6Zk9Wj0**](https://youtu.be/9NGj6Zk9Wj0)
* **Teleological Arguments- Anthropic Principle:**
* **Hume’s Criticisms:** [**https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/6-humes-criticism.pptx**](https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/6-humes-criticism.pptx)
* **Introduction to Ontological Argument (*Deductive)*  
  part 1:** [**https://youtu.be/jsNdL\_ANjAA**](https://youtu.be/jsNdL_ANjAA) **part 2:** [**https://youtu.be/SIkVU0AcSMw**](https://youtu.be/SIkVU0AcSMw)
* **Ontological Arguments- Anselm & Gaunilo:** [**https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/1-ontological-argument-anselm-and-gauniloa.pptx**](https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/1-ontological-argument-anselm-and-gauniloa.pptx)
* **Ontological Argument- Descartes, Kant & Malcolm**: <https://ncpreligiousstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/2-ontological-argument-decartes-kant-and-plantinga.pptx>