

# Preparation for A-Level:

Welcome to the wonderful world of A-Level where YOU are the most important factor to learning. Your time, your passion and your energy are what count. It will be challenging and it will take time. Have you got what it takes?

## Top Tips:

- 1) Prepare before class.
  - A) *Academically*- No one knows what you know. You've got to keep on it. Review any prior learning. Read those extracts. Watch the relevant video clips.
  - B) *Mentally*- Get in the game. Put the right mind-set on. 'I enjoy this'; 'I'm up for a challenge'.
  - C) *Physically*- Bring the right equipment for the subject and WATER.
- 2) Take good notes[see image below]. Follow a particular method of note taking. They're tried and tested and STICK to it. Featured below is 'The Cornell Method'.
- 3) Go over your notes after a lesson- sharpen them up with any details you can remember and/or add questions you have.
- 4) Continue to discuss difficult concepts and topics outside of lessons
- 5) Use effective Study Tools- Images/Symbols to trigger key concepts; colourful mind maps, etc.
- 6) Revise regularly. Make a study group. Keep a tidy study space. Find a routine and stick to it.
- 7) Take care of your mind, body and soul. Reflect on what you need. Stay hydrated. Exercise. Eat right. Take time for mindfulness-meditate and pray.

"The most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows" –

David Ausubel

**Suggestion:**  
COLOUR Co-ordinate. Make all the Titles in the same Topic ONE colour.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_ Subtopic/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If something has been mentioned more than once- its **important**. Make it stand out in your notes.

Fill this with main points. [either during/ but usually after- it forces you to review your notes]. Things like: people, theories, years.

**Some Subjects require evaluation:** Review the arguments and theories. Think about which is the best arguments and which are not as good- consider why that is. Relevancy? Accuracy? Persuasiveness?

Keep this section as simple as possible. 1-2 words.

Summary must be in your own words. Concise and round up what you need to know.

CUES:	NOTES:
○ who rules Mordor?	1. Government A. ruled by Sauron B. Has a tower
○ Who lives there?	2. People A. has orcs B. Has Trolls C. Has Nazgul
○ Can you visit?	3. Accessibility A. cannot simply be walked into.
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	
○ Mordor is ruled by Sauron, is populated by orcs, trolls, and Nazgul, and cannot simply be walked into.	

Write the bulk of your notes here. Any key activities. Things discussed. Any practice paragraphs.

This section is only needed near the end of a topic. Build them into ends of mini sections/ full sections. Not every page.

## Next Steps:

- Practice using the Cornell Method of note taking whilst trying out an A-Level taster session.
- Write out the Top Tips at the front of your book- make it funky/ fresh and your own. As you do them; reflect on them .Change them and adapt them to your needs. Stick to it. And when in doubt- reach out, ask for feedback, to discuss further or five minutes to chat.

# Preparation for A-Level: Learn the vocab

*Every subject has it's own specialist language and required vocabulary to learn. The sooner you introduce those words into your general everyday speech the more successful you will feel.*

*"The doer alone learneth."* — **Friedrich Nietzsche**

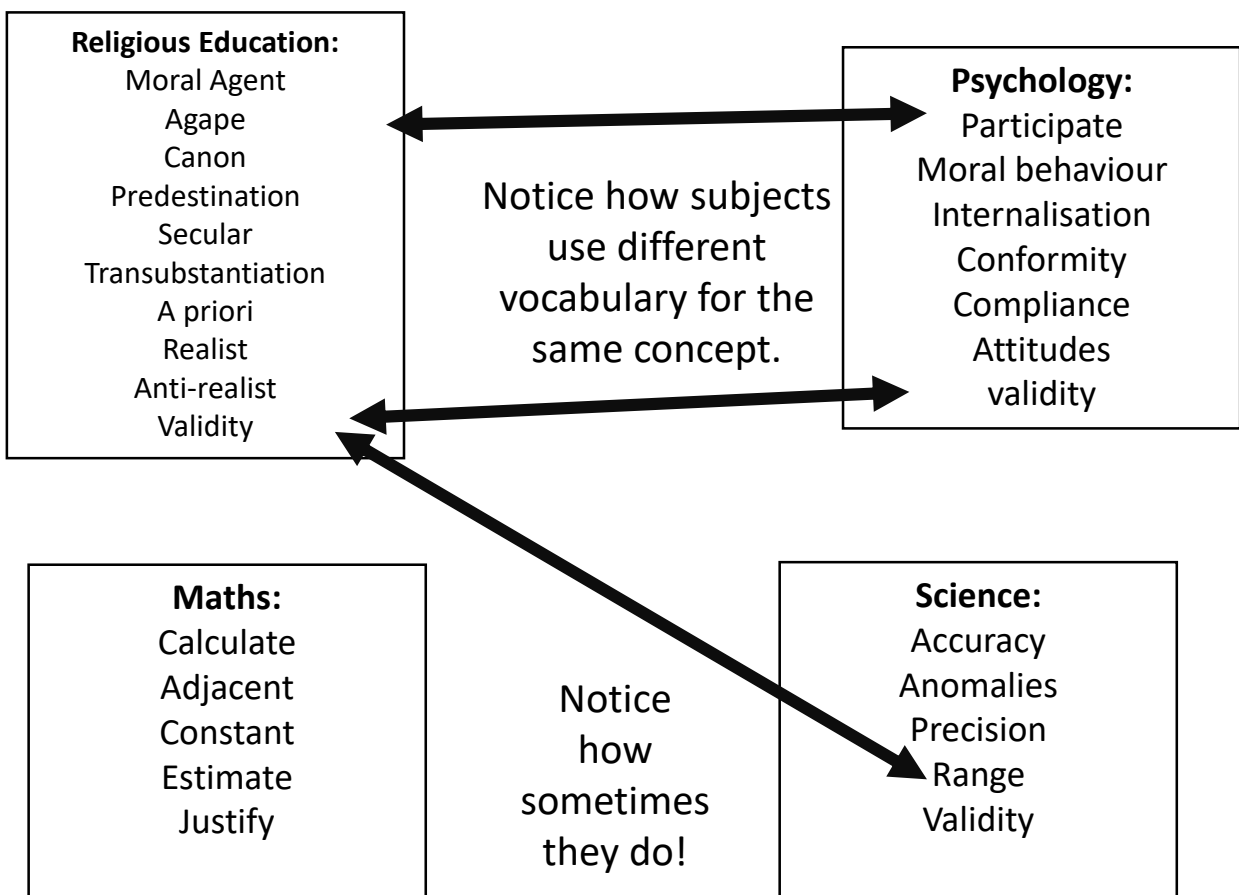
## Top Tops:

- 1) Prepare before class.  
A) throw in some of the key vocab you know you need into your before class prep routine. Add them to the Cue section of your notes or build them onto a book mark to place where you are in your lessons.
- 2) Read daily- nothing better for forming and supporting new literacy like reading. Why not read out loud? Make a funny voice and entertain yourself too.
- 3) With new vocabulary- use them in a sentence. Write that sentence down. Practice using it in conversation. The more- the better.
- 4) Sticky note key vocab- pop it on your mirror and say those sentences to yourself as you brush your teeth.
- 5) Do a word puzzle or a game- making using language fun.
- 6) Practice key vocab using mnemonics or association techniques.

## Below are some A-Level words and phrases to build into your vocabulary:

- 1) Subsequently
- 2) In disagreement/ In contract/ In direct contradiction
- 3) Relative/ Relevant/ Accurate
- 4) Ultimately Extremely, Strongly, Firmly
- 5) Important to consider/ to examine

## Examples of A-Level Vocabulary:



## Next Steps:

- Practice doing some fun literacy tasks now. Get them into your weekly routine. Make it fun.
- Practice using some of the common vocabulary in your daily conversations and in written responses. Consequently, you shall sound and feel far more A-Level ready in advance.