

## AQA A-Level: Religious Studies – Summer Prep tasks

### Task 1 – Online Ethical Research

#### What's wrong with driverless cars?

Use <https://www.moralmachine.net/> to see how you would react to the crash responses to driverless cars. Who should be programming them to not cause ethical dilemmas?

#### Find out why we call Euthanasia a 'slippery slope' argument

Read the cases about Dianne Pretty and the dignity in dying campaign

<https://www.dignityindying.org.uk/assisted-dying/the-law/diane-pretty/>

<https://www.dignityindying.org.uk/>

Compare this to the case of Daniel James

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/oct/18/11>

#### Which one is the most deserving of euthanasia?



### Task 2: Applying an Ethical Theory

Research the theory of Utilitarianism and **make a mind map of your research.**

Make sure you include:

- a) **Who founded it.**
- b) **How it works.**
- c) **Your judgement - do you think it's an effective normative ethical theory? Why / why not**

1) Use this article to help you research: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/>

2) Watch this video about the thought experiment known as the 'trolley problem':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>

**If a utilitarian had to make this ethical dilemma, what would they decide? How would they justify their answer?**

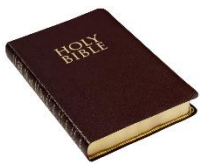
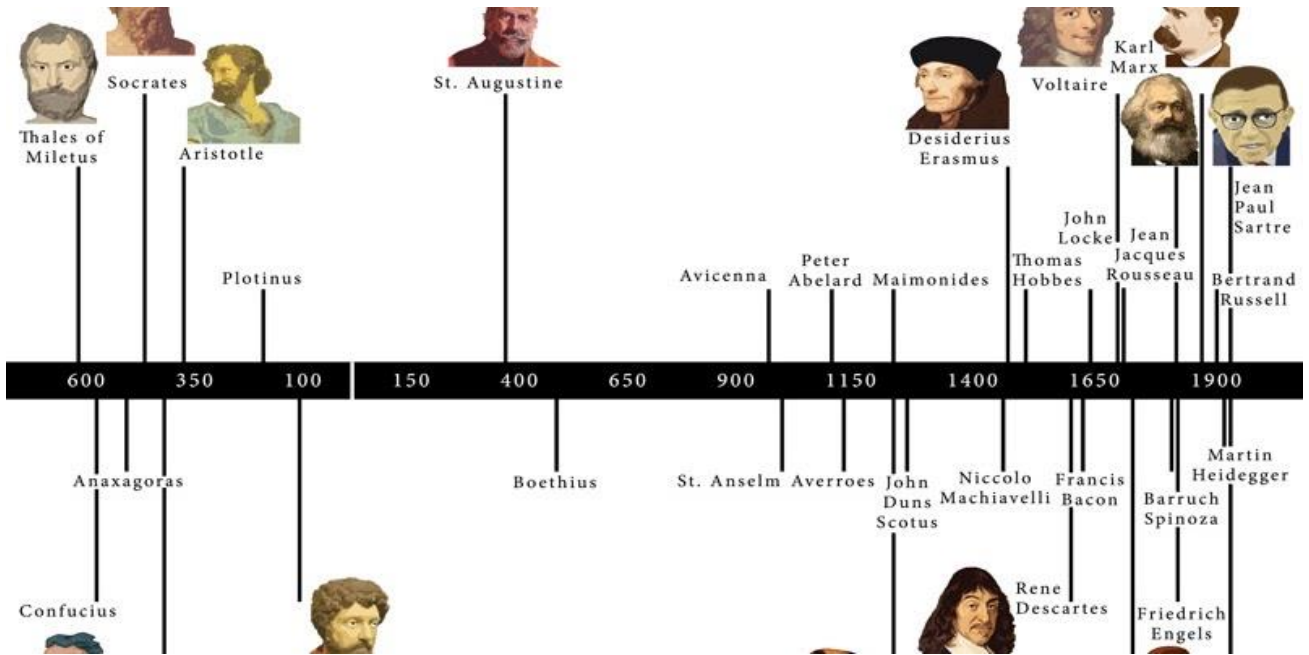


### Task 3 – Intro to philosophy

Create a timeline of philosophers including:

Plato, Aristotle, Anselm, Aquinas, Hume, Hick, Swinburne, Ayre, Wittgenstein, Popper.

For each philosopher, give his dates and a brief summary of the philosophical theory they formed.



### Task 4 - What is actually in the Bible? Independent research task

What are the names of the four Gospel books called? What are the Gospels about?

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Where does the Bible say homosexuality is a sin?

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What are the 5 books in the Hebrew Canon – check the Old Testament

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Name the books in the Hebrew Bible

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Which book in the sermon on the mount in?

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Who is believed to have written the 'Corinthians' books?

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## A-Level Essentials: Shopping List



For Religious Studies in Year 12, we'll need you to have:

3 folders (ringbinders or lever-arch) – one for each section of the course

Punched plastic wallets

Dividers

Pack of lined paper

Black and blue pens

Different colour highlighters

Sticky notes

AQA A-Level Religious Studies Book 1 – by John Frye, Published by Hodder Education

Great reads and watches!

'The Good Place' is a Netflix Sitcom about how someone destined for Hell ended up in a chaotic Heaven. It is a comedy that makes fun of philosophy, but uses it at the same time! Lots of judgement and gossiping too!

'Philosophy for Busy People' by Alain Stephen – short and easy to read breakdowns of big philosophical ideas

'Grill a Christian' by Roger Carswell – a short section Q&A book, which tries to answer lots of the questions we discuss in class.

Journals and magazines are a good way of keeping up to date. You can subscribe for a year or buy individual editions. We recommend: -

Philosophy Now: <https://philosophynow.org/>

Philosophers Magazine: <https://www.philosophersmag.com/>

The Journal of Ethics: <https://www.springer.com/journal/10892>

It will help you to be aware of current global events that are related to the events in the units you will be studying; so watch/read the news each week.

You can use Google Alerts or frequently check news websites:

- [www.google.co.uk/alerts?hl=en](http://www.google.co.uk/alerts?hl=en)

- [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

- [www.theguardian.com/uk](http://www.theguardian.com/uk)

Further resources:

1. The Panpsycast is a weekly 'informal and informative' philosophy podcast inspiring and supporting students, teachers, academics, and free thinkers worldwide. The show has covered our Religious Studies A Level specification as well as a range of other topics. The goal of each episode is to make exciting and challenging research accessible to students, teachers, academics and the general public. **This is based on the OCR A-Level Spec, but is still very useful**

<https://thepanpsycast.com/>

2. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is an online resource which organizes scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work.

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

3. Crash Course is a YouTube channel started by John and Hank Green in association with PBS, the American public broadcast service. These are videos across subjects including science, computer science, engineering, media, history, literature, drama, mythology, statistics, chemistry, physics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, business, biology and economics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc850jqMcwo>

4. A History of Ideas from the BBC Radio 4 programme is another collection of videos on YouTube. The series answers big questions answered and explains big theories in under 2 minutes from the BBC Radio 4 programme – A History of Ideas. The videos were scripted by philosopher Nigel Warburton

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>

5. Philosophy Bites is a great podcast, too. The site covers a range of topics and you can even find interviews with leading philosophers! You can access it here <https://philosophybites.com/>