Religious Studies

Philosophy of religion

1. Philosophical Language and Thought – learners will study significant concepts and issues in the philosophy of religion through the works of key thinkers:
- Ancient philosophical influences
- Soul, mind, and body

2. The existence of God – learners will study contrasting arguments about the existence and non-existence of God:
- Arguments based on observation.
- Arguments based on reason.

3. God and the world – the nature and influence of religious experience and the challenge posed by the problem of evil and suffering:
- Religious Experience.
- The problem of evil.

Religion and ethics

1 Normative ethical theories: religious approaches – to moral decision-making
- Natural law.
- Situation ethics

2. Normative ethical theories – deontological and teleological.
- Kantian ethics
- Utilitarianism

3. Applied ethics - The application of ethical theory, including religious ethical perspectives to two issues of importance:
- Euthanasia
- Business ethics.

Developments in religious thought

1. Insight – Beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life, the world and ultimate reality:
- Augustine's teaching on human nature
- Death and the Afterlife

2. Foundations -The origins and development of Christianity, and the sources of wisdom which it is based:
- Knowledge of God's existence
- The person of Christ

3. Living – the diversity of ethics and practice, including those that shape and express religious identity, the role of the community of believers and key moral principles.
- Christian moral principles
- Christian moral action

Development in Christian Thought

4. Development – significant social and historical developments in Christian thought, such as those influenced by ethics, philosophy, or studies of religion:
- Religious pluralism and theology
- Religious pluralism and society

5. Society – the relationship between religion and society including issues of how religions adapt when encountering different cultures and religious tolerance:
- Gender and society
- Gender and theology

6. Challenges - facing religious thought from areas such as science, secularisation, migration, and multi-cultural societies and changing gender roles.
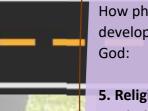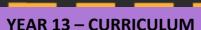- The challenge of Secularism
- Liberation Theology and Mar

Philosophy of religion

4. Theological and philosophical developments – How philosophy of religion has been influenced by developments in religious beliefs about the nature of God:
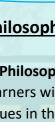
5. Religious language: Negative, Analogical or Symbolic – religious teachings of two key scholars

6. Religious language, twentieth century perspectives – how views have changed over time, studying a variety of approaches and views.

Religion and Ethics

4. Ethical language: Meta-ethics – how ethical language in the modern era has changed over time:

5. Significant ideas – ideas in religious and moral thought through comparison of the works of two key schools from the field of religion and ethics.

6. Developments in ethical thought – how the study of ethics has influenced and been influenced by developments in religious beliefs and practices.

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