

Programme of Study



Subject: Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics

Year: 12

Autumn 1

Inductive arguments - Cosmological & Teleological + Challenges
Deductive arguments – Origins & developments of the Ontological argument + Challenges
The problem of evil and suffering - Augustinian & Irenaeus type theodicy
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes

Autumn 2

Religious belief as a product of the human mind: Sigmund Freud
Religious belief as a product of the human mind: Carl Jung
The nature of Religious Experience - Mystical Experience + Challenges
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes

Spring 1

Issues relating to rejection of religion
The influence of religious experience on religious practice and faith
Miracles the definition of - Aquinas, Hume and Holland
Religious language – Problems of religious language, cognitive but meaningless, non-cognitive & symbolic, Mythical, & as a language game
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes

Spring 2

Divine Command Theory, Virtue Theory, Ethical Egoism
Meta-ethical approaches – Naturalism, Intuitionism, Emotivism
Analysis and Evaluation of both themes
Deontological Ethics - St Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law, John Finnis' development of Natural Law
Bernard Hoose's overview of the Proportionalist debate, Finnis' Natural Law + application
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes

Summer 1

Teleological ethics - Situation Ethics + application
Utilitarianism – Classical Bentham, John Stewart Mill + application
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes

Summer 2

Determinism - Religious concepts of predestination, Concepts of determinism & the implications
Analysis and Evaluation of all themes