



Super Curriculum – Religious Studies

KS3



Reading:

- Life of Pi by Yann Martel
- The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
- The Religions Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained (DK)
- His Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pullman
- Craig, E. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002
- Sophie's World, London : Phoenix House



Watching:

- Prince of Egypt' film
- Miracle Maker
- The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/thefive-major-world-religions-johnbellaimey>
- Bruce Almighty – what does it teach about the nature of God?
- Watch Ted Ed lectures The Big Question and complete the quiz, you could do the dig deeper section. <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/howdo-you-know-you-exist-jameszucker>
- <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/marys-room>
- -a-philosophical-thoughtexperiment-eleanor-nelsen



Listening:

- Get the bigger picture on the history of philosophy. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiyQub6vpw&list=PLwxNMb28XmpfEr2zNKQfU97eyEs70krS_b
- Listen and get the bigger picture on whether we have free speech <http://philosophybites.com/2008/05/tim-scanlon-on.html>
- Listen to Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'The British'. Either listen as you or a friend reads it out loud - <http://benjaminzephaniah.com/rhyming/the-british-serves-60-million/> Or listen as it is performed on Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ1yYOAwvvo>



- Listen to the podcast on 'The God Particle' – consider Is the “God particle” truly “a blow to the Christian faith,”? <https://player.fm/series/sciencscripture-salvation/does-the-godparticle-prove-the-big-bang>



Doing:

- Complete activities from the A-Z of Religion KS3 Super Curriculum Evaluation Tasks. (More information on SharePoint).
- Complete some of the Super Curriculum Challenges from the following topics: Festivals, Holocaust and World Religions. (More information on SharePoint).
- Complete the Film Enquiry Task



Competitions:

- Standup – National Holocaust Competition.



Super Curriculum – Religious Studies

KS4



Reading:

- Blackburn, S. Think, OUP 2001
- Craig, E. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002
- Law, S. The Philosophy Files, Orion 2002; The Outer Limits, Orion 2003; The Philosophy Gym, Hodder Headline 2003
- Nagel, T. What Does It All Mean? OUP 1987 (reprinted 2004)
- Warburton, N. Philosophy: The Basics (5th ed.), Routledge 2012
- Philosophy:
- Gaarder, J. (1995) Sophie's World , London : Phoenix House
- Davies, B. (1993) An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Annas, J. (1998) An Introduction to Plato's Republic, Oxford: Oxford University Press, (particularly Chapters 9-10)
- Ethics:
- Vardy, P.(1999) The Puzzle of Ethics, SCM Press
- Norman, R. (1998) The Moral Philosophers, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Religious Thought:
- McGrath, A. (2015) Christianity: An Introduction, Blackwell Publishing.



Watching:

- https://www.ted.com/talks/kwame_anthony_appiah_is_religion_good_or_bad_this_is_a_trick_question/transcript#t-22290 Ted Talk by Kwame Anthony Appiah - Is religion good or bad? (This is a trick question)
- https://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz/transcript Ted Talk by Damon Horowitz – We Need a Moral Operating System
- https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_honey_on_god_and_the_tsunami/transcript Ted Talk by Tom Honey – Why Would God Create A Tsunami?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8MzPmkNsgU> Debate: Atheist vs Christian (Christopher Hitchens vs William Lane Craig)
- Watch The Matrix (film). Note down your thoughts on the themes of truth, perception and reality.
- Watch Lost (TV series). What moral and ethical points does this raise?
- Watch Sliding Doors (film). Do you think your life is pre-destined (set out for you) or can you control your own fate?



Listening:

- Listen to The Moral Maze on BBC Radio 4. (Available programmes vary over time) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>
- Note down the key points of argument. Create a flow chart of the main points of discussion.
- Listen to this episode of In Our Time.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01mwx64>
- Based on these arguments, is it possible to argue that God necessarily exists?
- Listen to this episode of Thinking Allowed.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b099ypqf> How should we help people who are dying?
- Listen to this podcast from Philosophy Now.
[https://philosophynow.org/podcasts/Free Will and the Brain](https://philosophynow.org/podcasts/Free_Will_and_the_Brain) To what extent can we exercise free will? List 10 examples of choices you have made in the last seven days. For each one, consider what factors influenced your choice (habit, parents, media, friends, consideration of consequences, etc).



Doing:

- **Thought Experiments:**
- <http://www.philosophyexperiments.com/fatman/>
- <http://moralmachine.mit.edu/>
- <https://io9.gizmodo.com/9-philosophical-thought-experiments-that-will-keep-you-1340952809>
- Carry out some of the above activities.
- Write a written reflection of the moral questions that each one raises, and how you might respond to these.
- Try to list your own “moral code” or “rules for life”. Include 5-10 elements.
- Can you imagine any exceptions to your own “rules”?
- **Written/ Reflection Tasks:**
- 1. Consider your definitions of the following terms:
- 2. Truth
- 3. Reality
- 4. Good
- 5. Evil
- 6. Moral
- 7. God
- 8. Time



- For each concept, try to argue against your own definition. Can you see any flaws in your ideas? How might they be criticised? What conclusions can you reach about *how* we define these concepts?
- 2. List *five* facts that you *know* to be true. For each one, explain *how* you know it to be true. Are any of your “facts” uncertain? What would have to happen to prove them irrefutably (without question)?
- 3. Create a picture collage, poem, song, mind map or vision board which illustrates the idea of “God”. Explain your choices of words, images and concepts. If you can, explain where these have originated.
- 4. Create a fact file of the philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Include pictures, key facts and a brief outline of their philosophical ideas.
- 5. Choose a story from the news that includes one of the following themes:
 - Abortion
 - Euthanasia
 - Capital punishment
 - Humans’ treatment of animals
- Write a response to the story, considering several different points of view. To help with this, you could consider the points of view of:
 - An atheist (someone who fervently believes there is no God)
 - An agnostic (someone unsure about religion and faith in God)
 - A committed Christian
 - A dying man
 - A child
- **Essay Questions**
- A. Write your own response to the following question:
 - “How should we decide the right thing to do?”
 - In your answer you should:
 - Include a range of different opinions
 - Conduct your own research to find possible answers from different fields of thinking (philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, etc)
 - Justify your answer with a range of reasons
 - Include examples to illustrate your point



Super Curriculum – Religious Studies

KS5



Reading:

- There is a detailed reading list on the SharePoint area for A Level Philosophy, Christianity and Ethics.
- This is a sample of texts from the list:
- <https://iai.tv/articles/70-philosophy-books-everyone-should-read-auid-1168>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/philosophy/wiki/readinglist> (categorised into different areas of philosophy)
- <http://thedailyidea.org/best-books-philosophy/>
- Ayer, A.J. (1975). The Central Questions of Philosophy
- Blackburn, S. (1999). Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy
- Blackburn, S. (2003). Ethics: A Very Short Introduction
- Craig, E. (2002). Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction
- Dawkins, R. (2006). The God Delusion
- Dante, (many translations). The Divine Comedy
- Descartes, R. (many translations). Discourse on the method
- Ford, D. (2013). Theology: A Very Short Introduction
- Gaarder, J. (1994). Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy
- Harari, Y.N. (2011). Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind
- Hollis, M. (1997). Invitation to Philosophy
- Hume, D. (1779). Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion
- Kant, I. (1781). Critique of Pure Reason
- Law, S. (2000). The Philosophy Files
- Law, S. (2003). The Philosophy Gym
- McGrath, A. (1991). Introduction to Christian Theology
- Messer, N. (2006). Scm Study Guide to Christian Ethics
- Midgely, M. (2018). What is Philosophy For?
- Nagel, T. (2004). What Does It All Mean?
- O'Hear, A. (1995). What Philosophy is: An Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy
- Plato (many translations), The Republic
- Plato (many translations), Symposium
- Russell, B. (2008). The Problem of Philosophy
- Singer, P. (2016). Ethics in the Real World: 82 Brief Essays on Things That Matter
- Vardy, P. (1993). The Puzzle of Evil
- Vardy, P. (1994). The Puzzle of Ethics
- Vardy, P. (1999). The Puzzle of God



- Vardy, P. (2016). The Puzzle of Christianity
- Warburton, N. (2004). Philosophy: The Basics
- Warburton, N. (2006). Philosophy: The Classics
- Warburton, N. (2011). A Little History of Philosophy



Watching:

- School of Life, Youtube Playlist covering key western philosophers
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwxNMB28XmpeypJMHfNbJ4RAfKrtmAN3P>
- Crash Course Philosophy, Youtube playlist covering different topics
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYlHKR>
- 'Unbelievable 'The Big Conversation' – similar to the radio show but you can watch the debate too! Really high profile and interesting scholars:
<https://www.thebigconversation.show/>
- BBC Radio 4 In Our Time. nearly 900 discussions exploring a wide range of areas so you can choose what you are interested in
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/player>
- BBC A History of Ideas <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>
- Learn about Philosophy with professors from Yale, Stanford, Oxford, MIT, and more. <https://www.youtube.com/user/WirelessPhilosophy/featured>
- The Good Place (Netflix)
- The Handmaid's Tale (from novel by Margaret Atwood)
- The Matrix
- Bruce Almighty
- Gattaca
- My Sister's Keeper
- The Children Act (from novel by Ian McEwan)
- Ghost in the Shell
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (novel, Douglas Adams)
- Blade Runner
- The Truman Show



Listening:

- Ted Talks - Just browse and watch those which grab your interest! You can search by topic. this link takes you to philosophy related talks. <https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=relevance&q=philosophy>
- Philosophers engaging in discussion about issues relating to science, morality and the human condition <https://www.philosophytalk.org/>
- The Panpsycast podcast. Made for A level students - based on the course you've studied but will go a little further. <https://thepanpsycast.com/home>
- Philosophy Bites (a range of short interviews on different topics) <https://philosophybites.com/>
- Unbelievable podcasts, Premier Christian radio - genuinely balanced debates mostly between Christians and non Christians as well as high profile scholars



Doing:

- **Philosophy**
 1. If I know I am sitting in my bedroom, must I also know that I am not falsely dreaming that I am in my bedroom?
 2. Is functionalism a philosophically attractive account of our concept of mind?
 3. What is it for a painting to be OF something?
 4. Is intuition to philosophy as observation is to science?
 5. Are there circumstances under which an employer has a moral duty to pay her employee more than they agreed in the employment contract?
 6. Can good art make one a better person?
- **Theology**
 1. According to C.S. Lewis, 'a man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.' If Jesus was not God Incarnate, what was he?
 2. Many people have committed acts, execrated and deplored by others, in obedience to sincerely held beliefs. Can we reasonably ask anyone to do better than simply to obey his own conscience?
 3. Is Islam a religion of peace?
- **Ethics**
 1. 'Amid all the profuse waste of the means of happiness which men commit, there is no imprudence more flagrant than that of Selfishness in the ordinary sense of the term' (Henry Sidgwick). Are we happier if we are unselfish? Does this show that ethics is indirectly a matter of self-interest?'
 2. 'If you learn that humanity will be extinct in twenty years, what difference should it make to what you value?'
 3. Could you be friends with a robot?'

