

A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES SUMMER WORK

GETTING READY TO STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES:

Dear Students!

A Level Religious Studies combines the study of three areas: (1) Ethics; (2) Philosophy; (3) and, Religions, e.g., Christianity.

You may have heard of the following terms (if not, do not worry):

- (a) The Design Argument;
- (b) The Ontological Argument;
- (c) The Cosmological Argument.

Your summer work involves research, and your *three tasks* are as follows. Please read this carefully!

TASK 1:

- Research why the Design Argument states that God *does* exist.
- You will need to please refer to the arguments that the scholar 'Paley' puts forward.
- Also, research the counter argument by the scholar 'Hume' (look at how he criticises the Design Argument as being used as proof of God's existence)
- You will need to write 600 words for task 1. Please do not just copy from sources, but reword your findings, putting them into your own words.*

TASK 2:

- Research why the Ontological Argument states that God *does* exist.
- You will need to please refer to the arguments that the scholar 'Anselm' puts forward (he uses a term 'a priori' which is very important).
- Also, research the counter argument by the scholars 'Gaunilo' and 'Kant' (look at how they both criticise the Ontological Argument as being used as proof of God's existence)
- You will need to write 600 words for task 2. Please do not just copy from sources, but reword your findings, putting them into your own words.*

TASK 3:

- Research why the Cosmological Argument states that God *does* exist.
- You will need to please refer to the arguments that the scholar 'Aquinas' puts forward (he uses terms 'contingency' and 'necessity' which are very important).
- Also, research the counter argument by the scholars 'Hume' and 'Russell' (look at how they both criticise the Cosmological Argument as being used as proof of God's existence)
- You will need to write 600 words for task 3. Please do not just copy from sources, but reword your findings, putting them into your own words.*

So, in total you will need to write 1800 words (or three mini-essays).

These tasks will give you an insight into what studying Religious Studies will be like.

Good luck and thank you!