



Subject		Religious Studies		
Title/Topic	Format	Length	WC	
Paper 1 – Christian Thought	1 question out of 2 in section A 1 question out of 3 in section B	2 hours	Thursday 5 January 12.40pm – 2.40pm	
Paper 2 – Philosophy of Religion	1 question out of 2 in section A 1 question out of 3 in section B	2 hours	Monday 9 January 12.40pm – 2.40pm	
Paper 3 – Ethics and Religion	1 question out of 2 in section A 1 question out of 3 in section B	2 hours	Wednesday 11 January 12.40pm – 2.40pm	

### My Advent assessment will test my knowledge on...

#### Component 1 - Christian Thought:

- Jesus – his birth: Consistency and credibility of the birth narratives (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-2:40); harmonisation and redaction; interpretation and application of the birth narratives to the doctrine of the incarnation (substantial presence and the kenotic model).
- Jesus – his resurrection: The views of Rudolf Bultmann and N.T. Wright on the relation of the resurrection event to history; interpretation and application to the understanding of death, the soul, resurrected body
- Religious concepts – the Trinity: The need for the doctrine of the Trinity: the nature and identity of Christ (issues of divinity and preexistence) and Christ's relationship with the Father (co-equal and co-eternal). The origin of the Holy Spirit: the filioque controversy.
- Religious life – faith and works: Luther's arguments for justification by faith alone (with reference to Romans 1:17; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16 and Luther's rejection of James 2:24); the Council of Trent as a response to Luther; E. P. Sanders and the role of works in justification.
- Social developments in religious thought – feminist theology and the changing role of men and women: The contribution of Mary Daly and Rosemary Radford Ruether to feminist theology. The changing role of men and women with reference to the issue of the ordination of women priests and bishops; the impact on the lives of believers and communities within Christianity today.

#### Component 2 – Philosophy of Religion;

- Ontological argument: Rene Descartes - concept of God as supremely perfect being; analogies of triangles and mountains/valleys. Norman Malcolm - God as unlimited being: God's existence as necessary rather than just possible. Kant's challenges, Gaunilo challenges
- Belief as a product of the mind: Jung - Religion necessary for personal growth with reference to: collective unconscious; individuation; archetypes; the God within. Supportive evidence including recognition of religion as a source of comfort and



promotion of positive personal and social mindsets arising from religious belief. Challenges including lack of empirical evidence for Jungian concepts and reductionist views regarding religious belief arising from acceptance of Jung's ideas. New Atheism - Religious responses to the challenge of New Atheism: rejection by religious groups of New Atheist claims regarding incompatibility of science and religion; increase in fundamentalist religious activity relating to morality and community; increase in religious apologists in media.

- Religious Experience: visions, Teresa of Avila - Prayer – types and stages of prayer according to Teresa of Avila
- Religious experience challenges: With reference to Caroline Franks Davis (description-related; subject-related and object-related challenges). Claims of religious experience rejected on grounds of misunderstanding; claims delusional - possibly related to substance misuse, fantastical claims contrary to everyday experiences. Challenges: individual experiences valid even if non-verifiable; claims could be genuine - integrity of individual; one-off experiences can still be valid even if never repeated.
- Rejection of religion: Rejection of belief in deities; the difference between agnosticism and atheism; the rise of New Atheism (antitheism); its main criticisms of religion: non-thinking; infantile worldview; impedes scientific progress. Religious responses to the challenge of New Atheism: rejection by religious groups of New Atheist claims regarding incompatibility of science and religion; increase in fundamentalist religious activity relating to morality and community; increase in religious apologists in media.

### **Component 3 – Ethics and Religion;**

- Deontological Ethics – John Finnis development of natural law; Bernard Hoose overview of the proportionalist debate; Finnis' Natural Law and Proportionalism – application;
- Teleological Ethics – Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethic – rejection of other forms of ethics and acceptance of agape; Joseph Fletcher and Situation Ethics – principles as a means of assessing morality; Fletcher's Situation Ethics – application of theory
- Utilitarianism – Jeremy Bentham's classic utilitarianism; John Stuart Mill's development of utilitarianism; Bentham's Act Utilitarianism and Mill's Rule Utilitarianism
- Meta Ethics – naturalism, intuitionism, and emotivism

**What should I do to revise and prepare for this assessment?**



To prepare for this assessment:

1. Use your knowledge organisers to revise key knowledge
2. Review your notes and complete mind maps on topics giving examples, scholars viewpoints and sources of authority. Where possible, make links to other aspects of the course (other components, other themes).
3. Consider the following issues for all the components in terms of evidence to support or question the issues as well as the strength and weakness of arguments about these issues.
4. Ensure you are familiar with the evaluation sections at the end of each module in the textbook
5. Use the evaluation questions to help you formulate essay plans
6. Ensure you know all the relevant key terms
7. Ensure you are familiar with the evaluation issues at the end of each module specification

### **Component 1 – Christian Thought**

Jesus – his birth and resurrection:

- The extent to which the birth narratives provide insight into the doctrine of the incarnation.
- The relative importance of redaction criticism for understanding the biblical birth narratives.
- The nature of the resurrected body.
- The historical reliability of the resurrection.

Religious concepts:

The monotheistic claims of the doctrine of the Trinity. • Whether the doctrine of the Trinity is necessary to understand the God of Christianity

Religious life:

The extent to which both faith and works are aspects of justification. • The extent to which the New Testament letters support arguments for justification by faith alone

Social developments in religious thought:

Whether men and women are equal in Christianity. • The extent to which feminist theology impacts modern Christian practice

### **Component 2 – Philosophy of Religion**

Ontological argument:

The effectiveness of the challenges to the ontological argument for God's existence. • The extent to which objections to the ontological argument are persuasive

Belief as a product of the mind:

The success of atheistic arguments against religious belief. • The extent to which religious responses to New Atheism have been successful

Religious Experience:

The impact of religious experiences upon religious belief and practice. • Whether different types of religious experience can be accepted as equally valid in communicating religious teachings and beliefs.

Challenges to Religious Experience:

The extent to which the challenges to religious experience are valid. • The persuasiveness of Franks Davis' different challenges

Rejection of Religion:

The success of atheistic arguments against religious belief. • The extent to which religious responses to New Atheism have been successful



### **Component 3 – Ethics and Religion**

#### Deontological Ethics:

Whether Finnis' Natural Law is acceptable in contemporary society. • The extent to which Proportionalism promotes immoral behaviour. • Whether Finnis and/or Proportionalism provide a basis for moral decision making for believers and/or non-believers. • The strengths and weaknesses of Finnis' Natural Law and/or Proportionalism. • The effectiveness of Finnis' Natural Law and/or Proportionalism in dealing with ethical issues. • The extent to which Finnis' Natural Law is a better ethic than Proportionalism or vice versa.

#### Teleological Ethics:

The degree to which agape is the only intrinsic good. • Whether Fletchers' Situation Ethics promotes immoral behaviour. • The extent to which Situation Ethics promotes justice. • The effectiveness of Situation Ethics in dealing with ethical issues. • Whether agape should replace religious rules. • The extent to which Situation Ethics provides a practical basis for making moral decisions for both religious believers and non-believers.

#### Utilitarianism:

The degree to which pleasure can be seen as the sole intrinsic good. • The extent to which Act and/or Rule Utilitarianism works in contemporary society. • The extent to which Rule Utilitarianism provides a better basis for making moral decisions than Act Utilitarianism. • Whether Utilitarianism promotes immoral behaviour. • The extent to which Utilitarianism promotes justice. • The extent to which Utilitarianism provides a practical basis for making moral decisions for both religious believers and non-believers.

#### Meta Ethics:

Whether ethical and non-ethical statements are the same. • The extent to which ethical statements are not objective. • Whether moral terms are intuitive. • The extent to which moral terms are just expressions of our emotions. • Whether one of Naturalism, Intuitionism or Emotivism is superior to the other theories. • The extent to which the different meta-ethical theories encourage moral debate.

### **What useful websites/resources could I use to help me prepare?**

- Knowledge organisers
- Eduqas website
- Textbooks – especially the essay writing sections for each module as well as the exam question sections.
- Websites recommended by your teachers
- PEPED <https://peped.org/>
- Philosophy Cat <https://www.philosophycat.org/>
- Panpsycast audio book
- Philosophy dungeon <https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/>