

Year 12 Philosophy of Religion

Name.....

My predicted grade:.....

The outline below shows the overview for the year and will in part prepare you for assessment in Topics 1 to 3 of the Philosophy of Religion paper in the A-Level (or for the AS exam).

You can use this overview in a number of ways:

- 1) Tick off the topics as they are covered in class
- 2) Help to keep your notes in a logical order
- 3) Review your confidence levels in each topic area (Red / Amber / Green)
- 4) Incorporate this topic list into your revision for the AS exams to ensure each topic is reviewed and covered.

TOPIC:	GREEN	AMBER	RED
The Teleological Argument:			
Explain inductive reasoning, a posteriori types of arguments, interpretation of experience, in relation to the design argument with reference to the ideas of W Paley and D Hume			
Explain types of order and regularity, role of analogy, cumulative effect of evidence, anthropic principle, regularities of co-presence and regularities of succession, in relation to the design argument with reference to the ideas of W Paley and D Hume			
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of design arguments: probability rather than proof, alternative interpretations, including evolution and deism			
Analyse philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, in relation to the design argument with reference to the ideas of W Paley and D Hume			
The Cosmological Argument:			
Explain inductive reasoning, a posteriori types of arguments, in relation to the cosmological argument with reference to Aquinas, D Hume and I Kant			
Explain the principle of sufficient reason, explanation, interpretation of experience, movement, cause and effect, contingency, infinite regress, first cause, necessary existence, and the Kalam version in relation to the cosmological argument			
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of cosmological arguments: probability rather than proof, brute fact, debates about infinite regress, necessary existence and God as a necessary being			
Analyse, philosophical language and thought through significant concepts in relation to the cosmological argument with reference to Aquinas, D Hume and I Kant			

The Ontological Argument			
Explain a priori compared to a posteriori types of arguments, deductive reasoning, not evidence based but understanding of concept 'God' as an analytic proposition in relation to the ontological argument with reference to Anselm and B Russell			
Define 'God', necessary existence, aseity in relation to the ontological argument			
Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the ontological argument: concept of proof compared to probability, debates about 'existence' and predicates			
Analyse philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, with reference to Anselm and B Russell			
Religious Experience:			
Describe the context of religious experience across religious traditions, ineffability, noetic, transience, and passivity with reference to the ideas of W James and R Otto			
Describe types of religious experience: conversion, prayer, meditation, mysticism, numinous, and the relationship between religious experience and propositional and non-propositional revelation with reference to the ideas of W James and R Otto			
List alternative explanations to religious experiences such as, physiological and naturalistic interpretations, objectivist and subjectivist views			
Explain inductive reasoning based on evidence, along with principles of testimony and credulity, the value and role of testimony to religious experience with reference to the ideas of R Swinburne and J Hick			
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of religious experience as an argument for the existence of God: with reference to the ideas of M Persinger and R Dawkins			
Problem of Evil:			
Evaluate the nature of the problem of evil and suffering along with the challenge to religious belief posed by the inconsistency of the nature of God with reference to the ideas of D Hume and J Mackie			
Explain the belief that creation was good; evil and suffering is a privation of good due to the fall of the angels and man with reference to the ideas of Augustine and Irenaeus			
Evaluate the belief that creation is a mix of good and evil linked to the vale of soul making theodicy, including free will defence, with reference to the ideas of Augustine and Irenaeus			
Describe process theodicy: God is not responsible for evil and suffering, but he is co-sufferer and cannot coerce the free will of human agents			
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theodicies and solutions: with reference to the ideas of Augustine and Irenaeus			