

## A2 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 your Developments 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 A2 exams to ensure each topic is reviewed and covered.

TOPIC:	GREEN	AMBER	RED
<b>Religious Experiences:</b>			
What is a religious experience?			
Types of religious experience			
Factors that lead to religious experiences			
The inductive argument			
The cumulative argument			
Swinburne's principles of testimony and credulity			
Arguments against religious experiences			
Is it meaningful to talk about religious experiences?			
<b>The Ontological Argument:</b>			
The form of the ontological argument			
Anselm's ontological argument			
Gaunilo and the perfect island			
Evaluation of Anselm - strengths and weaknesses			
Descartes and the perfect being			

Evaluation of Descartes - strengths and weaknesses			
Criticisms of Anselm & Descartes - Kant, Gasking, Moore, Russell, Hume & Dawkins			
Support for the argument - Leibniz, Malcolm & Plantinga			
Anti-realism, language games and deductive reasoning			
<b>Atheism and critiques of religious belief:</b>			
Defining atheism and agnosticism			
Sociological critiques of religious belief - Durkheim			
Sociological critiques of religious belief - Marx			
Evaluation of Marx & Durkheim			
Popularist critiques			
Is theism stronger than atheism?			
<b>Life after death:</b>			
The nature of death and post-mortem existence			
The relationship between the body and the mind/soul (monism and dualism) - Ryle			
Near-death experiences (Moody and Fenwick)			
Parapsychology			
Reincarnation			
Rebirth			
Resurrection of the body (Aquinas & Hick)			
Immortality of the soul (Plato, Descartes & Kant)			
Which approach is the most convincing?			
<b>Religious Language:</b>			
What is religious language and why is it a problem?			

The verification principle - A.J.Ayer			
Criticisms of the verification principle			
The falsification principle - Anthony Flew			
Alternatives to the falsification principle - Hare, Mitchell and Swinburne			
The <i>via negativa</i>			
Univocal, equivocal and analogical language - Aquinas and Ramsey			
Symbolic language and criticisms			
Myth and criticisms of myth (Bultmann and Strauss)			
Wittgenstein and Language game theory: a postmodern view			
Evaluation of language game theory			