## **PhilosophyReligious Studies Transition Tasks**

The demands of A-Level are significantly greater than that of GCSE so here are a few things that you could be looking at / doing over the summer to give yourself a bit of a head start.

Subject Content for this course can be found here…

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

**Religious Studies OCR - H173, H573 (Philosophy, Ethics and Development of Christian thought)**

1. **To research**

Create a fact file on the following philosophers and theologians. Include dates, pictures and a background of their views- major works, ethical theories, what their theories say, and key aspects of their theories.

*No more than a side of A4 each*

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| Peter Singer | Paul Tillich |
| St Thomas Aquinas | William Paley |
| Jeremy Bentham | Kant |
| John Stuart Mill | Bonhoeffer |
| Plato | Descartes  |
| Aristotle | Leibniz |

1. **Talks to listen to**

The Royal Institute of Philosophy- <https://www.royalinstitutephilosophy.org/publications/videos/>

Keep an eye on the website, talks updated monthly and are normally on a Friday evening from 6:30.

Philosophy Talk- <https://www.philosophytalk.org/>

Ted Talks- <https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=philosophy>

<https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=philosophy&topics%5B%5D=religion>

Professor Peter Singer - Ethics & Living Ethically Lecture at New College of the Humanities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyME2D4xQns>

Summarise the key messages from the talks you watch.

1. **Places to visit (virtually)**

**Perception** How do we know what we see is beyond our sense? How do we ‘interpret” the senses?

CAMERA OBSCURA Edinburgh

<https://www.camera-obscura.co.uk/>

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/perception-problem/>

**Aesthetics** What is beauty? How can we meaningfully call something beautiful? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDL4Zf2yEa4>

Tate Modern

National gallery

Victoria and Albert museum

Lisson gallery

St Paul’s Cathedral- <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/>

Take a walk in nature. What do you see? What is beautiful? Is beauty natural, manmade or both?

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aesthetic-concept/>

1. **Films and shows to watch**

**Lost-** Listen out for the references to philosophers and philosophical theories. The premise of the show raises some really interesting ethical issues. In fact, it may be argued that it is based on an ethical premise we will study!

**The Matrix-** in the Matrix there is an element of fate versus free will; this is a topic that we will look at in detail. Can you spot references to God and The Trinity throughout the three films?

**Westworld-** What is the nature of reality? Can artificial intelligence ever be considered as conscious? What does it mean to be alive?

**Black Mirror-** particularly seasons 1 & 2. Fifteen Million Merits, Be Right Back, White Bear and White Christmas. (Ask your parent’s permission first!)

**The Good Place-** Listen out for the references to philosophers / theologians and philosophical / religious theories. As you watch think about your own ideas about what makes a moral person and whether or not we can meaningfully discuss the probability and nature of an afterlife.

Extras- Inception, The Invention of Lying, The Truman Show, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

1. **Papers to read and websites to visit**

<https://plato.stanford.edu/> Have a look at this website, you will be using it for essays and research next year.

Whilst this website is not specific to our OCR course, it provides excellent background knowledge on many of the topics that we will be studying.

<http://www.rsrevision.com/contents/index.htm>

<https://www.academia.edu/37448801/PLATOS_ALLEGORY_OF_THE_CAVE_An_illustration_and_a_translation>

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588bcd399f74561e5f64a486/t/58b765251b631b4e73e0ef32/1488413990197/Dietrich+Bonhoeffer%2C+all+excerpts.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588bcd399f74561e5f64a486/t/58b765251b631b4e73e0ef32/1488413990197/Dietrich%2BBonhoeffer%2C%2Ball%2Bexcerpts.pdf)

1. **Questions to ask and thoughts to ponder**

Is there a correct way to run a business if the sole purpose is to make money?

Do women have a place in religion?

Is it wrong to experiment on embryos?

Does everything have a purpose?

What does it mean to do the right thing?

Is God necessary for morality?

Can we believe in free will and predestination at the same time?

Do we have rights over our lives, how we live them and when we can end them>

1. **Debates to listen to**

**Radio 4’s ‘The Moral Maze’**

This show covers some interesting ethical debates, some of which may well be relevant to our studies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>

**Radio 4’s ‘In Our Time’** Modern day philosophers debate established philosophical arguments. (If you go on to study Theology or Philosophy you might be taught by some of these professors. You could also talk to them about their theories at an Institute lecture.<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr>

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| **Task** | **What I discovered?** | **Questions** (philosophical, ethical and other) | **My development of the theory / idea** |
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Extra links:

[www.theguardian.com/world/philosophy](http://www.theguardian.com/world/philosophy)

[www.lse.ac.uk/philosophy/department-blog/](http://www.lse.ac.uk/philosophy/department-blog/)

[www.ethicssage.com/](http://www.ethicssage.com/)

[www.logicmatters.net/blogfront/](http://www.logicmatters.net/blogfront/)

[www.stephenlaw.blogspot.com/](http://www.stephenlaw.blogspot.com/)

[www.philosophynow.org/](http://www.philosophynow.org/)

[www.blog.practicalethics.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.blog.practicalethics.ox.ac.uk/)

[www.rockingphilosophy.com/](http://www.rockingphilosophy.com/)

[www.perfectchaos.blog/category/philosophy/](http://www.perfectchaos.blog/category/philosophy/)

[www.aphilosopher.drmcl.com/](http://www.aphilosopher.drmcl.com/)

[www.philosophybites.com/](http://www.philosophybites.com/)

[www.partiallyexaminedlife.com](http://www.partiallyexaminedlife.com)

[www.thephilosophyguy.fireside.fm/](http://www.thephilosophyguy.fireside.fm/)

[www.thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/](http://www.thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/)

[www.philosophizethis.org/category/episode/](http://www.philosophizethis.org/category/episode/)

[www.samharris.org/all-episodes/](http://www.samharris.org/all-episodes/)

[www.philosophy247.org/](http://www.philosophy247.org/)

[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05)