

## Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics - preparation work overview

The course is divided into three components:

Component 1 – **Study of a Religion (Christianity)**

Component 2 – **Philosophy**

Component 3 – **Ethics**

You will have specific tasks to complete that will help you to prepare for each topic.

---

**Set 1:** Your first section will focus on Component 1: Christianity. The Christianity (1) worksheet has four tasks for you to complete, with links to help support you for each task.

**Set 2:** You should now have an understanding of the two Birth Narratives of Matthew and Luke and also be familiar with the similarities and differences in each account. This fortnight we are going to move on to whether these accounts are historically accurate representations of Jesus' birth, and whether the flaws in their historicity are detrimental to the message of Jesus being the Son of God.

Using the Christianity (2) worksheet, you will then look at 'Redaction Criticism', and decide whether you think this can strongly respond to criticisms of The Birth Narratives based on historical accuracy. Furthermore, you will also examine the supernatural events in the Birth Narratives and understand how the Birth of Jesus presented in Luke and Matthew aren't like any other regular birth! Look at the Task Sheet and read through it, answering questions where required.

**Set 3:** This section you are beginning the study of Component 2: Philosophy. The Philosophy (1) worksheet has tasks for you to complete. You will create a glossary of key terms whilst developing your understanding of different types of philosophical arguments. There is also a review task about how religious people view God, which will help to prepare you for future work on arguments for and against God's existence.

There is also a suggested reading list; please consider getting and reading one or more of the books on the list, as they will give you an excellent background for the course.

**Set 4:** You will be going in-depth into one debate that we examine on the philosophy course: whether or not we can prove that God exists (or prove that God does not exist!) During this fortnight you will watch and summarise the key arguments made by believers for the existence of God. You will also read about the problem of evil, which is one of the main way that atheists attempt to prove that God does not exist. You will be asked to give your opinion on these different viewpoints, trying to figure out who, in your opinion, wins this major debate. There are also links to further philosophy preparation from the Open University, if you would like to dive any deeper.

**Set 5:** This section you are beginning the study of component 3: Ethics. There is a worksheet for you to follow which is split up into 4 tasks. If you have access to a printer then you can print this document and write on the sheet, if not that is fine too. Simply read through the tasks and complete your answers on paper. You are going to be investigating different branches of ethics and why and how we make decisions. You are then going to be linking those ideas to the theory of Situation Ethics and considering how much you agree with the ideas of this theory.