

There are three papers in the OCR A level: Philosophy, Development of Christian Thought and Ethics. This booklet introduces you to all of these.

Philosophy Task: Religion and Science

Watch this debate between Bill Nye (the Science Guy) and Dr Ken Ham, Creation Scientist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6kgvhG3AkI>

This debate has had over 7 million views and is very well produced.

Start at 14 minutes. You will see Bill Nye and Ken Ham being introduced. Bill Nye is a famous US TV presenter of science/nature programmes, and Ken Ham works for the 'Answers in Genesis' organisation.

Structure of the talk

The debate is quite long and so you may wish to watch in stages. They each give an introductory presentation and then each have a right of reply.

- Ken Ham starts at 15 minutes
- Bill Nye starts at 57 minutes
- The right of reply starts at 1 hour 28

Consider as you watch:

How is each speaker arguing? What evidence do they use to support their views? Is their evidence used well?

Who 'won' the debate, in your opinion?

Having watched the video, you are going to complete a Cornell Notes activity. There are instructions on how to take Cornell Notes on the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErSjc1PEGKE>

The video is called:

How to take Cornell Notes properly

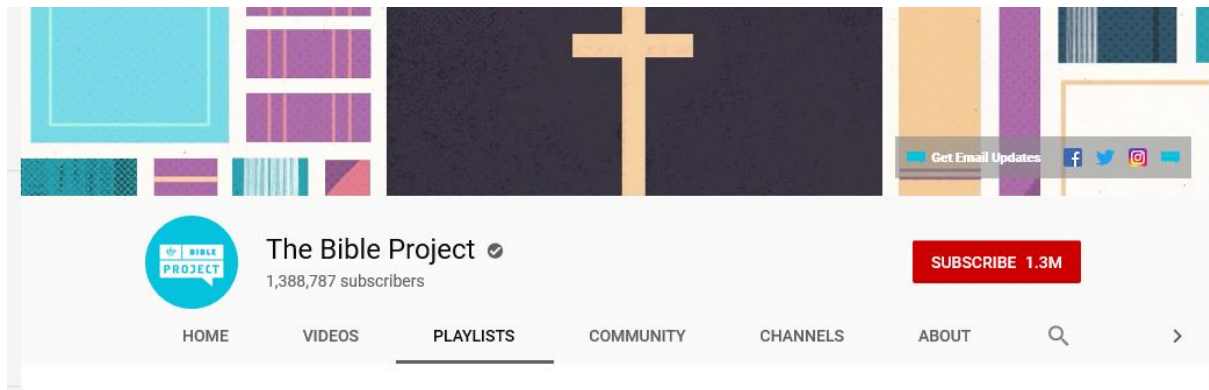


Religion Task: Biblical Themes

Our studied religion is Christianity and a good background knowledge of the Bible is important.

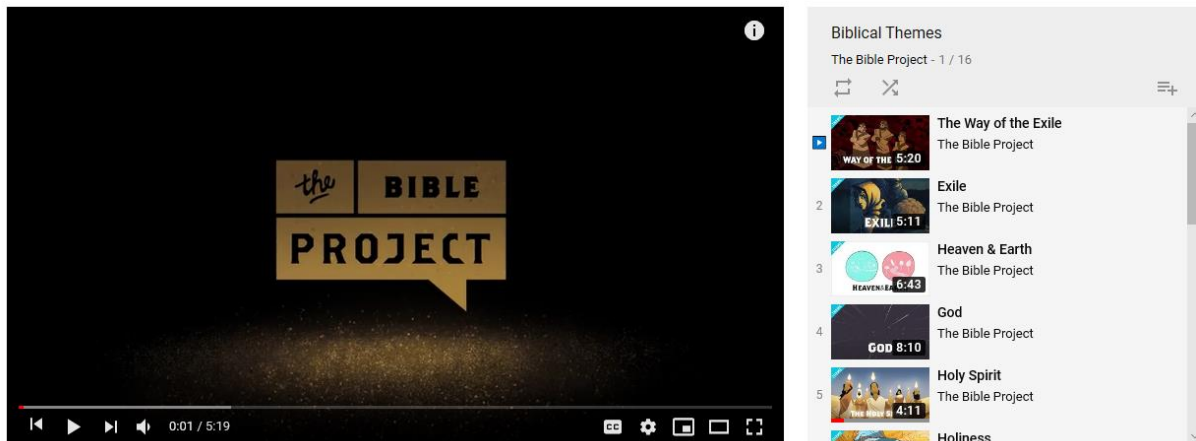
The Bible Project Series on YouTube will help you with this.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/playlists>



I would recommend the Biblical Themes playlist which is about 1 hour 30 minutes long if you watch every video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpa0gcPyo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNec-HZjVHooeb4BSDSeHhEoh>



Using these videos and your own additional research you need to find out about the following Biblical stories, events or characters.

1. The Story of the Fall?

What happens?

How does this story link with Christian ideas about Jesus?

2. The story of Exile

Where, when and why were the Israelites exiled to?

What does the prophet Jeremiah teach about exile in Babylon?

What is the link with Jesus?

3. The Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah

Who was Isaiah?

What is the background to Isaiah's writings?

What does Isaiah write about the suffering servant?

What is the link with Jesus?

4. The Prophets (there is a Bible project video called prophets)

What do prophets do? Who are they?

What do they teach about the covenant?

What is the Day of the Lord? What is the link with Jesus?

5. The Messiah

What does the Old Testament teach about the Messiah?

Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?

What Jewish expectations of the Messiah does Jesus not fulfil?

6. Jesus

What are the main events in Jesus' life?

What does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?

What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the Son of Man?

What is the day of the Lord?

Ethics Task: Ethical Theory and Applied Ethics

Your ethics task requires you to read selected chapters from 'Ethics for A Level' by Mark Dimmock and Andrew Fisher. This book is free to download from Open Book Publishing (although you can choose to pay for hard copy if you prefer to read that way!)

The book is available here:

<https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/639>

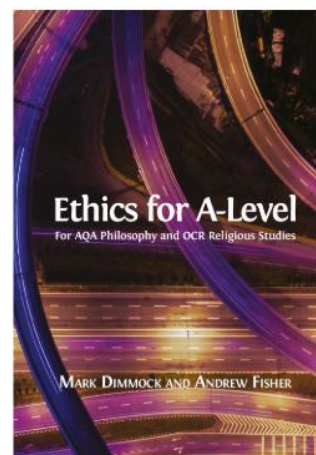
Introduction to Studying Ethics

Chapter 1 - Utilitarianism

Chapter 5 – Fletcher's Situation Ethics

Chapter 7 - Euthanasia

Chapter 8 – Business Ethics



After reading chapters 1, and 5, summarise:

Who the main philosopher/s involved were;

What their ethical theory was based on (happiness? Love? Self interest?)

How they decided on ethical questions.

At the end of each chapter there are some questions to reflect on (Issues to Consider). You can think about them for each of the chapters, but please answer them for chapters 7 and 8.

Further Reading

If you would like to do further reading we can suggest the following books to you (top picks in bold type)

Introductory Reading:

Blackburn, S. *Think*, OUP 2001

Gaarder, J. *Sophie's World*, London: Phoenix House 1995

Nagel, T. *What Does It All Mean?* OUP 1987 (reprinted 2004)

Warburton, N. *Philosophy: The Basics* (5th ed.), Routledge 2012

Philosophy of Religion:

Vardy, P. *The Puzzle of God*, Harper Collins (1999)

Davies, B. *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, OUP 1993

Keller, T. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Scepticism*, Hodder and Stoughton, 2009

Christianity:

Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*, HarpurCollins (also free on Audible Audiobooks and as a pdf downloadable here <https://www.dacc.edu/assets/pdfs/PCM/merechristianitylewis.pdf>)

McGrath, A. *Christianity: An Introduction*, Blackwell Publishing 2015

Ethics:

Dimmock, M. and Fisher, A. *Ethics for A Level*, Open Book Publishing

Palmer, M. *Moral Problems: a Coursebook for Schools and Colleges*, James Clarke and Co., 2005

Wilcockson, M. *Issues of Life and Death*, Hodder Education, 2009

Online resources:

Crash Course Philosophy:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

Philosophy Dungeon:

<https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/philosophy-of-religion.html>

The School of Life (Western Philosophy)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwxNMb28XmpeypJMhfNBJ4RAfKrtmAN3P>