



The BrBridge to Post-16 Summer Work



Philosophy and Ethics OCR

This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to embark on your Post-16 course in Philosophy and Ethics in September.

It should be completed throughout the remainder of the Summer term and over the Summer Holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

You MUST have this pack completed before your first lesson in the subject

The resources include:

1. Links to three websites where you can research the topics you will be exploring in the course and get a flavour of what you will be learning about in Post-16
2. Research task on key pre-knowledge topics that will help you to be successful in your course.
3. Other relevant revision/questions to help bridge between GCSE and Post-16 courses
4. Suggested therapies to help you if you are struggling with the tasks

Overall we suggest you spend around 3 hours of total work working through the tasks for Philosophy and Ethics

Therefore in total, across your 3 subjects you should be completing 9 hours of Summer Work.

Useful Websites

Select OCR:

[Religious Studies Online - Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Education resources for OCR, Eduqas, AQA and Edexcel GCSE and A level RS \(rsrevision.com\)](https://www.rsrevision.com/)

Philosophy of religion and Ethics:

[Religious Studies \(RS\) A-Level Revision | Revision World](https://www.revisionworld.com/philosophy-of-religion-and-ethics/)

https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/?form_value=%7B%22id_662b65fea6032%22%3A%7B%22items%22%3A%7B%22ks5%22%3A%7B%22term_id%22%3A%2289%22

Research Task:

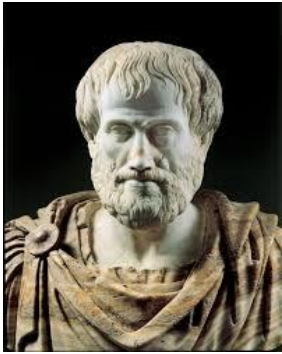
Our approach to answering the big questions in philosophy and ethics has been hugely influenced by a range of philosophers throughout our history.

Research who these individuals are and what they contribute to our understanding of human existence and human morality:

Thomas Aquinas



Aristotle



David Hume



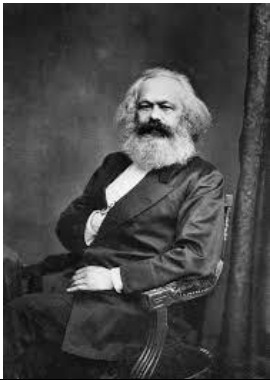
William Paley



Bertrand Russell



Kark Marx



Immanuel Kant



Other Tasks

What does the Bible have to do with philosophy and ethics?

The Bible is the sacred text of the Christian religion. For Christians, the Bible is where they can read the word of God. It helps them consider ethical questions such as 'What is right and wrong', 'What rights and responsibilities should people have?' and 'What is justice?'

Christians turn to the Bible to help them think about these issues because they believe that it has God's authority, and that it provides guidance on particular questions and on how people can live the good life which they believe God intends for them and for others. For Christians, the Bible can serve as a foundation for the sort of philosophical thinking, or thinking critically and comprehensively, which is often used to approach ethical issues.

There are key principles which are held by very nearly all Christians, but there often isn't a single 'Christian answer' to ethical questions. There is broad agreement among Christians about central ethical principles and teachings, but they might disagree about how to apply them in particular cases. They are guided by the Bible, prayer and the teachings of their churches. There are a number of different approaches to using the Bible that Christians might follow.

To do...

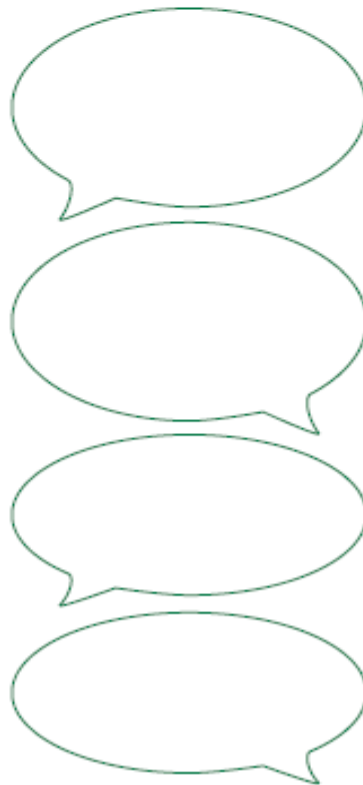
- Read these statements about how Christians might use the Bible to help them to think through ethical issues. Sum each one up by highlighting three keywords and writing a summary in the speech bubble opposite.

Christians might believe it is important to always follow what the Bible directly says, especially when it gives an instruction about how to live. They might also believe that only God's standard of what is right and wrong, as found in the Bible, is important in deciding what is right and wrong, and that God's standard is permanent and not affected by the changing views and opinions of humans.

Christians might see the Bible as a document that was written in a time and place very different from today, meaning that what it says needs to be interpreted for our times. Understanding what it meant for the original readers or hearers can be important in working out what it could mean for people today.

They might believe that Bible sets important principles, but that how they are applied depends on the particular circumstances and situation.

Christians might find that reading the Bible regularly and learning from it provides an opportunity to think about ethical issues and to reflect on right and wrong, and through that to develop good principles such as generosity and honesty.



All Christians share the belief that the Bible was written by many different human authors, who were inspired by God to write what they did. It contains a range of different genres, or types of writing (a list of these and the books in the Bible can be seen on page 42). Three of the types of writing which can be especially relevant to someone thinking about ethical issues are the Old Testament laws and, in the New Testament, the Gospels and the letters.



The Old Testament laws come from the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. At a time when they were nomads wandering in the desert, God sent the Israelites over 600 laws to follow. The best-known laws are the ten commandments. This is the tenth commandment:

"Do not desire another man's house; do not desire his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his donkeys or anything else he owns."

Exodus chapter 20 verse 17

Many Christians believe that some of the Old Testament laws were intended to be followed by the Israelites in their time, but are not supposed to be followed today.

To do...

-  Highlight the aspects of this law that relate to the time when it was written rather than to how we live today.
-  What would you replace them with to re-write the law for the 21st century?

Accounts of the life of Jesus are found in the four Gospels, which are known by the names of their writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Christians look to them to find out what Jesus taught about how to live a good life.

Sometimes, Jesus used events going on around him to illustrate his points, as when he sat watching people give donations to the temple.

Jesus looked round and saw rich people dropping their gifts in the temple treasury, and he also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins. He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."

Luke chapter 21 verses 1–4

To do...

- ✍ What ethical attitudes do you think that Jesus wanted to encourage in his listeners at the time, and in readers today?
- ✍ Do you think that those who heard him say this 2,000 years ago and people today would get the same or a different meaning from what he said?

The New Testament also contains letters written by early Christians to one another which are considered to be inspired by God, especially those written by Paul. The Bible book of 1 Corinthians is the first of two letters Paul is known to have written to the Christians in the Greek city of Corinth.

Like other letters, the ones that Paul wrote probably came about because he had a particular reason for writing. Understanding what that was, and who he was writing to, can be important in understanding what he wrote and why he wrote it.

By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, to agree in what you say, so that there will be no divisions among you. Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose. For some people from Chloe's family have told me that there are quarrels among you.

1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 10–11

To do...

- ✍ Use two colours to highlight an example of something which could be taken as a direct instruction and a place where understanding more about the context of the letter would be useful.
- ✍ Why is it important to understand who Paul was writing the letter to, and why?
- ✍ 'Pauls' letters are easy to understand and apply to modern-day life.' Based on this passage, how far do you agree?

Suggestions if you are struggling

use the stanford encyclopedia of philosophy as a research tool.