

Sixth Form Summer Transition Work

Welcome to Arnewood Sixth! You are about to embark on a busy and important two years of sixth form study.

Sixth form life is very different. You are going to feel much more independent, empowered and responsible for your own learning. The expectation is that this journey is down to you. You need to commit and relish in the challenge of sixth form life; ambition, belief and commitment are essential for your success.

Below is a transition activity designed for you to complete over the late spring into summer in preparation for your chosen course. By completing the task, you will be better prepared for the start of your course. Your A level teachers will check the work in September. Your commitment starts now!

Subject	Religious Studies: Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	
Key Questions	Part 1 - Religion: Christianity – How many stories of Jesus’ birth are there? One or two? Part 2 - Philosophy: What are the strengths and weaknesses of Paley’s watchmaker analogy?	
Resource List	<p>Eduqas Specification (2020) Component 1: (A) Christianity Component 2: Philosophy Component 3: Ethics</p> <p>Philosophy List (Part 2)</p> <p>Eduqas AS Specification, p34</p> <p>Hodder textbook sample</p> <p>Hodder revision notes p1-5 (6-10 of PDF sample)</p> <p>Radio 4 Open University</p> <p>Crash Course Philosophy – Intelligent Design</p>	<p>https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/lmzb2qsb/eduqas-as-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e-pdf.pdf</p> <p>https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/lmzb2qsb/eduqas-as-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e-pdf.pdf</p> <p>https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/media/Documents/RS/1-1 Arguments for the existence of God The design argument.pdf</p> <p>https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/media/Documents/RS/AQA-A-level-RS-Paper-1-MRN-v2.pdf</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNPSiaU62yk</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A</p>

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Your Task

Part 1: Religion: Christianity

There are 3 tasks to complete:

1. Read through the birth narratives (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-2:40)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-2%3A23&version=GNT>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A26-2%3A40&version=GNT>

You may also like to watch an optional clip online as well which can be found at:

a. The Birth Story according to Matthew

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKv5N6SRDqU> (first 15 minutes only)

b. The Birth Story according to Luke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTb4UIbnOHE> (first 33 minutes only)

2. What are the similarities and differences between the accounts?

a. Complete the chart attached to show these by filling in the missing content in each story

b. Write a short paragraph to explain why you think there are two stories of Jesus' birth.
Try to give different reasons.

3. Create an A3 poster online or on paper in words and pictures to illustrate key features of the birth story.

Your poster will include:

- Similarities and differences between the stories
- Key characters in the story like: Mary, Joseph, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna and King Herod
- Key technical terms researched explained like: Magnificat, Annunciation, Magi, Benedictus, Holy Spirit, Redaction Criticism, Gentiles, Hypostatic Union, Kenosis, Substantial Presence, Historicity and Chronology
- Any other interesting features that you identify.

Part 2: Philosophy

There are 3 tasks to complete:

1 – Find out about the analogy and arguments for and against

Read through the sample from the Hodder text book on the link above - 15 pages in black and white. The revision notes (also linked above) are much shorter and it may help to read both. There are also links to YouTube videos that may be helpful, and you may need to look up some of the key words yourself, although most are defined in the Hodder text book.

2 – Make a list of key technical terms

The argument may be familiar if you did GCSE RS, but you will notice some new words that you must learn the meanings of. Please write out your own definition of each of the terms below:

a posteriori, inductive, complexity, regularity, purpose, premise, natural theology, analogy, inference, teleological, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, anthropomorphism, anthropic principle, a priori, God of classical theism, metaphysical, transcendent

3 – Create a presentation on Paley’s analogy and its strengths and weaknesses

- You need to explain what Paley’s analogy is. Try and use key terms like a posteriori, inductive, complexity, regularity, purpose, inference and teleology.
- You need explain Hume’s criticisms of this kind of argument:
 - It doesn’t point to the God of classical theism
 - The existence of evil suggests a bad designer
 - The analogy between the universe and machines is not sound
 - To suggest a designer that’s like a human watchmaker is anthropomorphism
 - The universe could have become ordered by chance
- You need to explain the strengths of Paley’s argument
 - The God of classical theism is the simplest explanation
 - Evil may be unavoidable to bring about good
 - Evolution doesn’t explain itself and is compatible with belief in God
 - There must be a metaphysical, transcendent designer to explain the laws of nature
 - The anthropic principle gives scientific support to Paley’s argument
 - Paley’s argument is simple and based on observable evidence
- You should include a conclusion explaining whether you think the argument works and why.

You can present your work in any format you like, hand-written or typed. It is okay to include pictures or video clips that are not your own, but please don’t copy any text unless including it as a quote. It’s important that you explain things in your own words.

Additional resources	Task 1 Religion – Christianity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See attachment of the chart on the Birth Narratives to complete (Task 1 Question 2)• See attachment of the 'Creative Poster' template for ideas (Task 1 Question 3) Please email a.reece@arnewood.hants.sch.uk if you have any questions or would like some additional support. (Christianity) Please email p.emecz@arnewood.hants.sch.uk if you have any questions or would like some additional support. (Philosophy)
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Summer Transition Work – Additional Resource

This is the first part of a great series to watch to get an overview of the identity of Jesus as the sacred figure in Christianity. You could make your own notes on the content and add it to your poster on the birth narratives.

BBC series: The real story of Jesus in his 'Early Years' (48 mins)

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1vrzjr>

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