



## North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

### Religious Studies (A Level)

#### Transition Work

#### Specification –OCR

<https://ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

#### Content

Philosophy	Ethics	Buddhism
1. Ancient Philosophical Influences	1. Natural Law	1. The Buddha
2. Soul, mind and body.	2. Situation Ethics	2. Three marks of existence.
3. Arguments based on reason (Ontological)	3. Business Ethics	3. Samsara
4. Arguments based on observation (Cosmological)	4. Kantian Ethics	4. Meditation.
5. Religious Experience	5. Utilitarianism	5. Development of Mahayana Buddhism.
6. The Problem of Evil	6. Euthanasia	6. Buddhism in the Far East.
7. Arguments from observation (Teleological)	7. Meta Ethics	7. Madhyamaka and Prajnāpāramitā.
8. The Nature of God	8. Sexual Ethics	8. Engaged Buddhism and Activism.
9. Religious Language; negative, analogical and symbolic	9. Conscience	9. The Three Refuges
10. Religious language; 20 <sup>th</sup> Century		10. Four noble truths.
		11. Buddhism in the West.
		12. Buddhism and Gender

A Level Religious Studies involves the study of three disciplines: Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. The jump from GCSE to A Level is considerable and the following transition tasks are designed to make it much easier.

#### Philosophy

**TASK:** Create a glossary of the following terms: inductive, synthetic, a priori, a posteriori, deductive, analytic, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omniscient and eternal

**TASK:** Watch the following YouTube videos

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A\\_CAkYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAkYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKkHs&index=2&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmTsS5xFA6k&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=9>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY&index=10&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v\\_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR)

**TASK: Does God exist?** Explain whether or not God exists. Write a 500-word essay to explain your point of view; you must refer to one of arguments for the existence of God. (Religious Experience, Cosmological, Teleological arguments and Ontological)

**TASK:** Read the following article -

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/natural\\_hazards/tsunamis\\_rev2.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/natural_hazards/tsunamis_rev2.shtml)

Do events like this mean that God cannot exist? Or does it just mean that God can exist but cannot be omnibenevolent, omniscient or omnipotent? Explain your opinion in less than 300 words.



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### **Ethics**

**TASK:** Research the issue of euthanasia, looking at the legal issues and real life cases.

The Government have decided to review the idea of legalising voluntary euthanasia in the UK. Write a letter to the Parliament to persuade them to make euthanasia legal in the UK or to keep it illegal. Your letter must include: Your viewpoint on why euthanasia is moral or immoral and why you believe it, real life example cases to support your idea and the benefits you believe keeping euthanasia illegal/legal would have for the future.

Key terms to include:

- sanctity of life
- quality of life
- voluntary euthanasia
- non-voluntary euthanasia

**TASK:** Research one ethical theories, choosing from Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics or Situation ethics. Write an essay explaining what the ethical theory you have chosen would conclude on the issue of the death penalty. You must explain the theory you have researched and then apply this theory to the death penalty, evaluating whether or not the theory would support or refute the use of the death penalty. Give specific examples to support your argument.

### **Buddhism**

**TASK:** If you did not study Buddhism at GCSE you should try and read AQA A Buddhism Textbook. Up to page 72.

<https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198370321/?region=uk>

**TASK:** The following online articles and visual clips will give you an overview of some of the basic content in Buddhism.

<https://www.bbc.com/timelines/zg8c9j6>

<https://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/page/fundamental-teachings>

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x152cdb>

**TASK:** In 300 words explain - Why the Buddha is so significant to Buddhists.