

Pre-entry Preparation and Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at Comberton Sixth Form.

We follow the OCR A-level examination and will be studying for papers in Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. This allows for a synoptic approach across these topics, with each aspect of the course reinforcing knowledge and understanding of benefit to every paper studied.

Preparation

To prepare for the course, we strongly recommend that you keep up to date with current ethical issues, debates and events around the world. We suggest that you read a broadsheet newspaper or relevant online publications on a regular basis and look out for philosophical and ethical discussion programmes (try “The Moral Maze” on Radio 4).

Specific useful preparatory reading:

- Peter Vardy, *‘The Puzzle of Ethics’*
- Peter Vardy, *‘The Puzzle of God’*
- Alister McGrath, *‘Theology: the Basics’*

Requirements

- 3 x A4 folder (with dividers) – one for Philosophy, one for Ethics, one for Developments in Christian Thought.
- Lined paper – please ensure you always bring paper to every lesson.
- The core textbook for the first year of the course: Wilkinson, M., Wilcockson, M., Campbell, H., OCR A Level Religious Studies for A Level Year 1. (*Although there are copies available to borrow from the Library, it is helpful for you to have your own copy, which you can highlight and annotate*).
- Complete the task below and bring this with you to your first Religion, Philosophy and Ethics lesson:

Read John Keown’s article, ‘Against Voluntary Euthanasia.’

- What are the strongest aspects of Keown’s argument against decriminalising Voluntary Euthanasia?
- What are the weakest aspects of Keown’s argument?
- On the basis of your reading, would you support the decriminalising of Voluntary Euthanasia? Justify your position.

If you have any queries about your course preparation or about any aspects of the course, please contact Hannah Powell (Head of A-Level RPE) hpowell@combertonvc.org

I look forward to seeing you in September!