

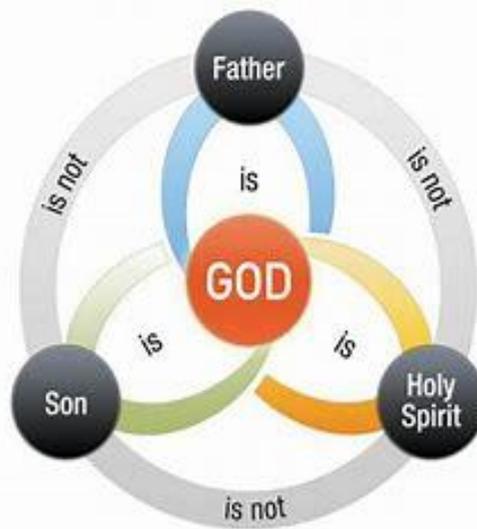
A Level Bridging Work

Religious Studies

Religion – The Christian concept of God

An attribute is a quality or characteristic that a thing or a person possesses. Some of the classical [traditional] attributes of God are listed below. Your task is to find out what each of the following mean and to record these in your notes. You should also spend some time thinking about any difficulties or problems that might arise in relation to these attributes e.g. If God is omnipotent, then why does God not do something about suffering? If God is omnipotent could God technically do anything? The attributes below are the ones that are generally associated with the God of Classical Theism, which can be broadly described as the God that Jews, Christians and Muslims worship.

1. Omnipotent
2. Omniscient
3. Benevolent
4. Omniscient
5. Omnipresent
6. Immortal
7. Immutable
8. Transcendent
9. Immanent
10. Infinite
11. Necessary
12. Aseity
13. Eternal
14. Everlasting
15. Holy
16. Personal
17. Existence
18. Non-temporal
19. Non-spatial
20. Trinity



You may find No 17 tricky. Think about it; people exist because you can see them. I exist because I know I do. In what sense then would God exist, if indeed God does exist?

The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy is a good place to start and provides the words in context

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Task 2

- Answer one of the questions below in the form of a **short essay with a maximum word count of 400 - 600 words.**
- The essays must include a minimum of two philosophers' thoughts on the questions.
- Divide each essay into two parts. The first part, Part A, must be purely about the philosophers' ideas themselves. You must explain the **philosophers' ideas** in your own words.
- In the second part, Part B, you need to analyse and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the arguments/philosophers you have discussed in part a and then reach a justified conclusion.
- All bridging work is due in your **first Philosophy lesson of the year.**



How to structure your work:

Part i)

Explain the idea/theory you are talking about with reference to specific scholars/philosophers. Try to include any new concepts you have learned from task 1.

Part ii)

Write a brief introduction to your evaluation explaining whether the argument is a successful one or not.

Now present a range of arguments for both and against that demonstrate you have considered both sides of the argument to come to a logical conclusion. These should not just be your opinion, they should be your evaluation of the support and criticisms that philosophers have put forward about the arguments.

Write a conclusion that logically follows from the discussion in your essay.

Underline any quotes, key words or concepts that you learn

Write a list of any questions you were unable to answer through your own research

The questions

1. **Religious Language:** If we have no idea what the word “God” really means, is there any point in talking about whether such a being exists? Explain your reasoning

Reading material

Please use the following links to find a broad range of research materials related to the topic areas, please ensure that you use this material as the basis for your essays:

- Religious language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6hoDNZoV5g>
- peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/philosophy/a2/religious-language/

Support notes: In any discussion of Religious Language you should try to include the work of Aquinas, Ayer and Wittgenstein. The following technical language should be defined in relation to the issue: cognitive, non-cognitive, verification, language games, analogical language

2. **Teleological Argument:** Is there evidence of intelligent design in the world and does this prove that God exists? Explain your reasoning.

Reading material

Please use the following links to find a broad range of research materials related to the topic areas, please ensure that you use this material as the basis for your essays:

- Design argument: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foeM6vXZCys>
- peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/philosophy/as/teleological-argument/

Support notes: In any discussion of the Teleological Argument you should include the ideas of Aquinas and Paley and ensure that the following key terms are defined in relation to the argument; a posteriori, inductive, telos, purpose, beneficial order