

**Wyke**  
6<sup>TH</sup> FORM COLLEGE

# **Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies**

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# A Level Year 1: Course Outline

## Philosophy 1

- Ancient Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle
- Body and Soul
- God in Philosophy
  - Arguments for the existence of God
  - Religious experience
  - The Problem of Evil

## Ethics 1

- Ethical theory
  - Utilitarianism
  - Situation Ethics
  - Natural Law
  - Kantian ethics
- Applied ethics
  - Euthanasia
  - Business ethics

## Christian Theology 1

- Insight
  - Beliefs about Human Nature
  - Beliefs about Death and the Afterlife
- Foundations
  - Knowledge of God's existence
  - The Person of Jesus Christ
- Living
  - Christian moral principles
  - Christian moral action

# A Level Year 2: Course Outline

## Philosophy 2

- Developments in philosophical thought
  - The nature and attributes of God
  - Religious language

## Ethics 2

- Developments in ethical thought
  - Meta-ethics
  - The conscience
- Applied ethics
  - Sexual ethics

## Christian Theology 2

- Developments in Christian thought
  - Religious Pluralism
  - The Challenge of Secularism
  - Feminist Theology
  - Liberation Theology

# A Level Year 1: Course Outline

## Philosophy 1

- Ancient Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle
- Body and Soul
- God in Philosophy
  - Arguments for the existence of God
  - Religious experience
  - The Problem of Evil

## Ethics 1

- Ethical theory
  - Utilitarianism
  - Situation Ethics
  - Natural Law
  - Kantian ethics
- Applied ethics
  - Euthanasia
  - Business ethics

## Christian Theology 1

- Insight
  - Beliefs about Human Nature
  - Beliefs about Death and the Afterlife
- Foundations
  - Knowledge of God's existence
  - The Person of Jesus Christ
- Living
  - Christian moral principles
  - Christian moral action

# A Level Year 2: Course Outline

## Philosophy 2

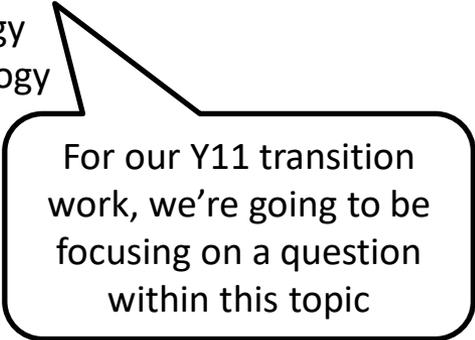
- Developments in philosophical thought
  - The nature and attributes of God
  - Religious language

## Ethics 2

- Developments in ethical thought
  - Sexual Ethics
  - Meta-ethics
  - The conscience

## Christian Theology 2

- Developments in Christian thought
  - Religious Pluralism
  - **The Challenge of Secularism**
  - Feminist Theology
  - Liberation Theology



For our Y11 transition work, we're going to be focusing on a question within this topic

**Is religion dangerous?**

**Yes or No?**

**Have a think...**

**Jot down at least one reason for  
your opinion in your notes**

## **Richard Dawkins:**

# **The God Delusion/The Root of All Evil**

**Jot down a few points about what Dawkins says about:**

- **Religion**
- **Religious believers**
- **Science**
- **The scientific method**

# Is religion a major cause of personal and social problems?

## Learning objective

- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

**A01**

God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment

- The views of Freud and Dawkins that society would be happier without Christianity as it is infantile, repressive and causes conflict

**A02**

- whether or not there is evidence that Christianity is a major cause of personal and social problems

- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

**For your Wyke Y11 Transition Work, you're going to look at the thinking of three 'scholars', complete some mini tasks to help you get to grips with their arguments and use these arguments, along with any other arguments/evidence you can find or think of to answer the following essay question.**

**'Society would be happier without religion because it is infantile, repressive and causes conflict.' Discuss**

**A01**

God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment

- The views of Freud and Dawkins that society would be happier without Christianity as it is infantile, repressive and causes conflict

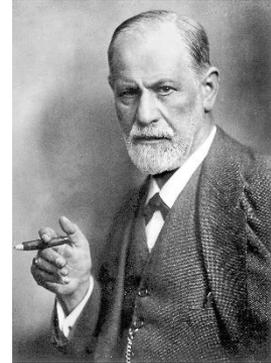
**A02**

- whether or not there is evidence that Christianity is a major cause of personal and social problems

- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
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## **Task 1: Freud and Dawkins**

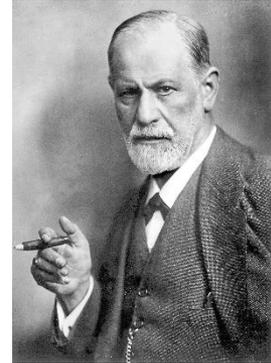
- **Read, highlight and annotate the information in the booklet about Freud and Dawkins**
- **Create a list of key points for Freud under the subheading 'Religion as an illusion: Freud'**
- **Create a list of key points for Dawkins under the subheading 'Religion as something for children to escape from: Dawkins'**



- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

## Task 2:

- **Do you agree with the thinking of Freud and/or Dawkins? Give reasons for your opinion.**



- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

### **Task 3: Marchant**

- **Read, highlight and annotate the information in the booklet about Marchant**
- **Create a list of key points for Marchant under the subheading ‘Religion and belief as a source of well-being: Marchant’**



- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

## Task 4:

- **Do you think this represents a significant challenge to the thinking of Freud and Dawkins? Explain why/why not.**



- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

## Task 5

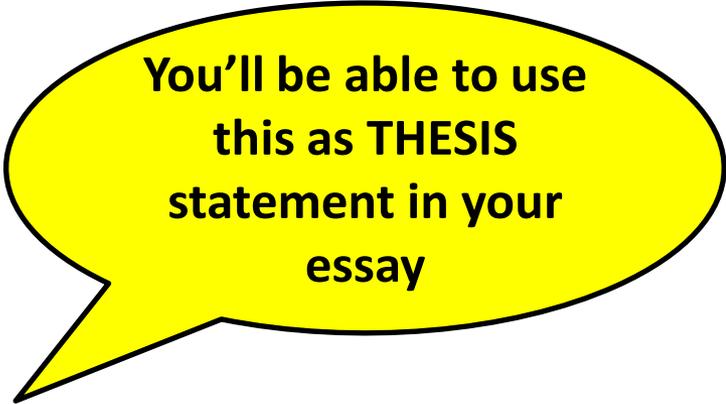
- In your booklet you will see that there are some notes about the key AO2 Question 'Does Christianity have a negative effect of human beings and society?'
  - Read, highlight and annotate the notes you have been given
  - Create a list of key points
  - Record these points in a table like this

Yes Christianity is a cause of personal and social problems	No Christianity is not a cause of personal and social problems

- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

## Task 6:

# Is religion 'bad' for humans and society?



You'll be able to use this as **THESIS** statement in your essay

**Pick out the strongest argument either for or against this idea – the argument/point you agree with most or that you think is the best**

- ✓ To be able to explain the thinking of Freud, Dawkins and Marchant
- ✓ To be able to evaluate whether religious belief has a negative effect on human beings and society

**Task 7: Use all the information/arguments/ideas/evidence you have gathered to answer the following essay question:**

**‘Society would be happier without religion because it is infantile, repressive and causes conflict.’ Discuss**

The most important part of your essay is your **THESIS** statement. Think about the reason/argument you gave for the last task...this can be your thesis.

