

6. Reading, Resources & Research

You will need to read a variety of resource materials across the three components papers. It is important that not only are these read, and you make detailed notes, but also that their content is as familiar to you! Those of you with aspirations of the highest grade (that's you!) should aim to read much more extensively. The more you read, the more your mastery of the language of this subject, and ability to argue coherently and perceptively, will develop.

Books

The specification lists suggested reading for each topic. In addition there are some general books that you will be expected to read and make use of:

Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: L Ahluwalia and R Bowie

OCR Philosophy of Religion for AS and A2: M Taylor

The Philosophy of Religion: P Cole

OCR Philosophy and Ethics AS: Taylor, Eyre, Knight

OCR Religious Ethics for AS and A2: J Mayled

Ethical Theory: M Thompson

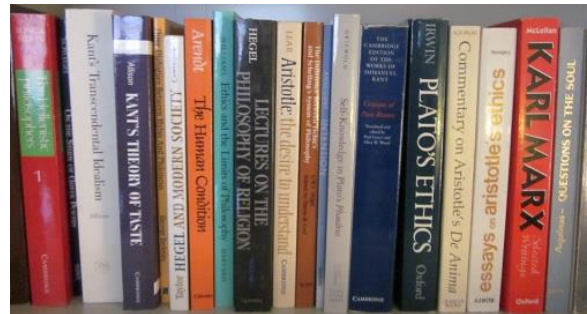
Ethics Matters: P and C Vardy

Understanding Religious Ethics: R Wright

Christianity – A Very Short Introduction: Linda Woodhead

History of Christianity: Nick Page

Teach Yourself Christianity: John Young



Websites

There are a number of excellent websites and online resources that you should make use of. The official OCR A level Philosophy and Ethics page is:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

Our top recommendations...

<https://peped.org/> **Peped** - a site aimed at the OCR specification, managed by a highly respected RE writer. The site provides a full range of materials from simple summaries to challenging extended reading. It also contains excellent revision materials including sample essays and is organised in-line with the three components of the course. (Mr Charlett)

<https://divinityphilosophy.net/> **Logos** – a blog created by the author and scholar Charlotte Vardy specifically for the OCR specification, providing excellent essay advice, model answers and an exhaustive list of possible exam questions from all three components of the course. (Mr Ahmedi)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/> BBC Religion and Ethics website – a good clear start on any religious topic

www.manybooks.net Downloadable philosophy books – includes a number of key thinkers named on the specification

<https://www.audiopi.co.uk/> Audiopi – free access to podcasts on Christian beliefs and practices (ask for the username and password if you have forgotten it)

<https://thepanpsycast.com/> Pan Psycast – philosophy and ethics podcasts

http://www.nigelwarburton.typepad.com/philosophy_bites/ Philosophy and ethics podcasts – one of iTunes most popular picks

<http://www.open2.net/ethicsbites/> Open University resource – podcasts on ethical theories and applied topics

<https://rationalreligion.co.uk/> Rational Religion – various articles and videos responding to atheist criticisms of religion

<https://ethics.academyconferences.com/> Academy Conferences – Q&A videos on various philosophy, ethics and DCT topics at the bottom of the page

<http://www.cmf.org.uk/students/> The Christian Medical Fellowship is a useful place to research medical ethics, from an evangelical perspective (type a keyword e.g. abortion into the search engine)

<http://www.andygustafson.net/net/Businessresources.htm> Thorough on Business Ethics

Trustworthy encyclopaedias

www.newadvent.org The Catholic Encyclopedia

<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/> The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/> The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://www.epistemelinks.com/index.aspx> A comprehensive ethics and philosophy site

<http://www.classicspage.com> Guide to Roman and Greek thinkers

Aimed at A Level Students

www.philosophicalinvestigations.co.uk An exceptional site aimed at AS/A2 students

<http://www.missbadgersphilosophysite.com/blog/tag/evolution> Another exceptional site aimed at AS/A2 students

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtOLJIWPWAcxFa37iQOUtOA> Engaging revision videos on a range of philosophy topics

<http://www.mel-thompson.co.uk/Ethics.htm>

<http://www.rsrevision.com>

<http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/> Good overview of key ideas

www.tutor2u.net Range of A Level revision notes (don't rely on this though!)

University websites

<http://ethics.sandiego.edu/> Ethics Updates

<http://www.icu.edu/philosophy/genkler> Ethics exercises

<http://www.cep.unt.edu/> Environmental Ethics

http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil_topics.html Philosophy sites by topic

http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072878274/student_view0/chapter5/theories.html

For a library of links on all parts of our theory syllabus

http://www.justiceharvard.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=9&Itemid=5#ep2 Michael Sandel's excellent lectures are available online, covering most of our course. Click this link to access a summary of the lectures

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/philosophy/courses/100/100menu.htm> There are some excellent materials on free will and determinism, Aristotle, Kant and issues surrounding relativism from the University of Lancaster Philosophy and Ethics course.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/linguistics-and-philosophy/24-231-ethics-fall-2009/lecture-notes/>

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology have an excellent online course on ethics - more than you need for A level, but brilliant nonetheless

General interest

<http://www.unco.edu/philosophy/clinic.html> The Argument Clinic

<http://www.philosophersnet.com/> The Philosopher's Magazine online (has some excellent articles and engaging interactive philosophy games)

<http://www.aldaily.com/> Arts and Letters Daily tackles up to date philosophical issues

<http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/phil/philo/philpics.html> Pictures of philosophers!

<http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi->

[wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495502357&discipline_number=10](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495502357&discipline_number=10) Download a complete set of summary notes (28 sides) on Louis Pojman's excellent ethics book (*Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong*) by clicking on this link. (click on chapter outlines on the left hand side menu)

<http://www.learningscientists.org/> The Learning Scientists (specialists in strategies for effective study)

To Google or not to Google...

There are also lots of different search engines students like to search for information. The better ones for academic study are:

Google Scholar

This is the academic arm of Google. Google have deals with a number of academic publishers and Google Scholar allows users to search across their content. The results can be a mix of citation details, abstracts and entire journal articles.

Benefits – reliable, good academic standard.

Drawbacks – Can't always get access to full articles. Some of the results are just links to the books.

Google Books - Google have worked with a number of large research libraries to scan their books and make them freely available to the world.

Benefits – No cost, list of relevant books, dated, books will have been through editorial process which websites may not have been.

Drawbacks – sometimes only a preview, not current books.

KEY CHECKS YOU NEED TO MAKE IN ORDER TO EVALUATE A WEBSITE FOR ACADEMIC USE:

- **CURRENCY**
- **RELEVANCE**
- **AUTHORITY**
- **ACCURACY**
- **PURPOSE**