

Induction to Year 12: OCR A Level Religious Studies (H573)

OCR A Level Religious Studies

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

Year 12 Study Areas

Philosophy of Religion: an exploration of how philosophy has developed from the time of the Greeks, arguments for God's existence, challenges, and how God interacts with the world through religious experience and how we can account for God given the problems faced by evil and suffering.	Religious Ethics: an exploration of four different normative approaches to ethical problems including Natural Moral Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism, as well as an application of these approaches to Euthanasia and Business.	Developments in Christian Thought: an exploration of Augustine's theories on human nature, Christian teaching of death and afterlife, how we can know about the existence of God, the person of Jesus Christ, the nature of the Bible as a source of authority and the example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a modern day disciple.
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Assignments for Induction onto the Religious Studies Course

1. Ethics: Research and find a definition for the following to ethical concepts
 - Deontology
 - Teleology

Then read Extract 1 Jim and the Village and answer the following questions:

- What is the ethical dilemma that Jim faces?
 - If you were Jim, what would you do?
 - What are the consequences for this choice?
2. Philosophy: Research using the sources provided to create a mini timeline/profile for these three influential ancient philosophers:
 - Socrates
 - Plato
 - Aristotle
 3. DCT: Watch the Ted Talk Jesus made me a Feminist and then create a list of for and against arguments for the following statement: "You cannot be a Christian and a feminist"

Sources you can use:

☐ Extract 1 Jim and the Village Moral Dilemma

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgOMvFe9N1Y>

☐ Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2004, rev.2013)

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

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

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>

☐ Ted Talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzVZvro2nGg>

Extract 1

Jim and the Indians - A Moral Question

This story takes place in one of the countries of Latin America.

Jim is an innocent tourist who accidentally comes across a village whose members are involved in recent clashes with the government security forces. As he approaches the village, he is being detained by some of the government soldiers for questioning. At this point, the plot thickens.

The local captain sees Jim and decides to take the opportunity to teach the villagers a lesson they will not easily forget. For some time the villagers have been involved in rebellious acts that have cost the lives of many of his soldiers, now is the time to put an abrupt end to this.

He approaches Jim (who is being forcibly held by two soldiers), inspects him from top to bottom, smirks and says viciously

"You see, sometimes luck reveals himself to you in unexpected ways. You are one of Mistress Fortune's ways to make my day. I will make it short for the show is about to begin and you don't want to miss it. Hell, no, you are the main actor!" (His smirk turns into heavy laughter joined by his soldiers who have no clue to the reasons for their captain's sudden joyful mood).

"These villagers have killed some of my soldiers and I can't overlook such unlawful deeds. It might set an unwanted example for the rest of the villages which have become too restive lately and we can't accept it, can't we?" (Jim stares blankly unable to understand what he has got to do with it).

"The natural solution to the problem will, of course, be to execute all these villagers without one moment's delay. But, I, your buddy, Captain Garsyia, is a merciful man (his face assumes an artificially compassionate expression); he might let them live. Their lives are in your hand, master of doom."

The Captain turned to Jim holding a gun and said, "So Jim, you have two choices. You can remain aloof to their situation and watch all of them be put to death by my soldiers or you can pick up a gun and choose one of them for you to execute, while the rest will be spared. You have my word as Captain. Make up your mind and make it fast".