



Wanstead High School
 Religion and Philosophy Department
 Curriculum Team Leader: Ms F Mannan

A Level Religious Studies: Revision Checklist for Component 1 [Paper 1] – Philosophy of religion

RAG your own understanding on each of the topics for Paper 1. Prioritize your revision around the topics you have RAGGED under RED.

Unit 1 Ancient philosophical influences	😊	😐	😞
1.1 Introduction			
1.2 The philosophical views of Plato: Plato's understanding of reality			
1.3 Plato's Forms			
1.4 Assessing Plato on the Forms			
1.5 Aristotle's understanding of reality			
1.6 Aristotle's Prime Mover			
1.7 Assessing Aristotle			
1.8 Plato Vs Aristotle – reason and experience			
Unit 2 Soul, Mind and body	😊	😐	😞
2.1 Introduction			
2.2 Plato's view of the soul			
2.3 Aristotle's view of the body and soul			
2.4 Descartes and substance dualism			
2.5 Materialism			
2.6 Evaluating dualism – the case for the soul			



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2.7 Evaluating materialism – the case against the soul			
Unit 3 Arguments based on observation	😊	😐	😞
3.1 Introduction			
3.2 Aquinas’ teleological argument: The Fifth Way			
3.3 Paley’s teleological argument			
3.4 The cosmological argument: Aquinas’ first three ways			
3.5 Hume’s challenge to these arguments from observation			
3.6 The challenge of evolution			
3.7 Logical fallacies			
Unit 4 Arguments based on reason	😊	😐	😞
4.1 Introduction			
4.2 Anselm’s ontological argument			
4.3 Gaunilo Vs Anselm			
4.4 Kant’s criticisms			
4.5 Assessing the ontological argument			
4.6 Comparing a priori and a posteriori arguments			
Unit 5 Religious experience	😊	😐	😞
5.1 Introduction			



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5.2 William James			
5.3 Mystical experiences			
5.4 Conversion experiences			
5.5 The case for religious experiences			
5.6 Do religious experiences have a psychological or physiological explanation?			
5.7 Corporate experiences: are they more reliable than individual experiences?			
5.8 Religious experiences as a basis for believing in God or a greater power			
Unit 6 The problem of evil	😊	😐	😞
6.1 Introduction			
6.2 The logical and evidential problems of evil			
6.3 Augustine			
6.4 Hick			
6.5 Discussing the problem of evil			
Unit 7 The nature or attributes of God	😊	😐	😞
7.1 Introduction			
7.2 Omnipotence			
7.3 Eternity			



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7.4 Omniscience			
7.5 Omni-benevolence			
7.6 Discussing the nature of God			
7.7 Comparing Boethius, Anselm and Swinburne			
Unit 8 Religious Language	😊	😐	😞
8.1 Introduction			
8.2 Explaining the apophatic way (via negativa)			
8.3 The apophatic way assessed			
8.4 The cataphatic way (via positiva) – Aquinas and analogy			
8.5 The cataphatic way (via positiva) assessed			
8.6 Tillich and symbolic language			
8.7 Symbolic language assessed			
Unit 9 Twentieth-century perspective	😊	😐	😞
9.1 Introduction			
9.2 The verification principle			
9.3 Verificationism assessed			
9.4 The falsification symposium			
9.5 Assessing the views presented in the falsification symposium			
9.6 Wittgenstein and language games			



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9.6 Wittgenstein assessed			
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A Level Religious Studies: Revision Checklist for Component 2 [Paper 2] – Religion and Ethics

RAG your own understanding on each of the topics for Paper 2. Prioritize your revision around the topics you have RAGGED under RED.

Unit 1 Aquinas and natural law	😊	😐	😞
1.1 Introduction			
1.2 Aquinas' four tiers of law			
1.3 Aquinas' natural law			
1.4 The principle of double effect			
1.5 Objections to theories of natural law			
Unit 2 Situation ethics	😊	😐	😞
2.1 Introduction			
2.2 Joseph Fletchers situation ethics			
2.3 Fletcher on conscience			
2.4 Objections to theories			
Unit 3 Kantian ethics	😊	😐	😞
3.1 Introduction			
3.2 Kant's moral teaching			
3.3 Hypothetical imperatives			
3.4 The categorical imperative			



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3.5 Objections to Kant's ethics			
Unit 4 Utilitarianism	😊	😐	😞
4.1 Introduction			
4.2 Jeremy Bentham and classical utilitarianism			
4.3 Teleology and relativism			
4.4 Peter Singer and preference utilitarianism			
4.5 Objections to utilitarianism			
Unit 5 Euthanasia	😊	😐	😞
5.1 Introduction			
5.2 A problem of definition			
5.3 The law and euthanasia			
5.4 Sanctity of life principle			
5.5 Quality of life principle			
5.6 Voluntary euthanasia			
5.7 Non-voluntary euthanasia			
5.8 Application of natural law and situation ethics to euthanasia			
Unit 6 Business ethics	😊	😐	😞
6.1 Introduction			
6.2 Corporate social responsibility			



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6.3 Applying ethical theories to business ethics			
6.4 Whistle-blowing			
6.5 Good ethics is good business			
6.6 Globalisation			
Unit 7 Ethical language: meta ethics	😊	😐	😞
7.1 Introduction			
7.2 Defining ethical terms			
7.3 The <i>fact/value, is/ought</i> problem			
7.4 Naturalism			
7.5 Emotivism			
7.6 Alternative viewpoints			
Unit 8 Conscience – Aquinas and Freud	😊	😐	😞
8.1 Introduction			
8.2 Conscience – Thomas Aquinas’ views			
8.3 Conscience – Sigmund Freud’s views			
8.4 Aquinas and Freud’s theories: a comparison			
Unit 9 Sexual ethics	😊	😐	😞
9.1 Introduction			
9.2 Christian teaching on premarital and extramarital sex			



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9.3 Christian teaching on homosexuality	Green	Yellow	Red
9.4 The impact of secularism on sexual ethics	Green	Yellow	Red
9.5 Application of ethical theories	Green	Yellow	Red



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A Level Religious Studies: Revision Checklist for Component 3 [Paper 3] – Developments in religious thought - Islam

RAG your own understanding on each of the topics for Paper 3. Prioritize your revision around the topics you have RAGGED under RED.

Unit 1 Prophecy and Revelation	😊	😐	😞
1.1 The Muslim view of prophecy (nubuwwa) and revelation (wahy): Jibril, revelation and the difference between nabi and rasul			
1.2 Key prophets of the Abrahamic tradition: Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus)			
1.3 The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the significance of the Qur'an as the final revelation to humanity			
1.4 The centrality and importance of belief in revelation and prophecy for Islam			
1.5 The relationship between the Islamic religious tradition and earlier Abrahamic faiths			
Unit 2 Tradition	😊	😐	😞
2.1 Hadith and Sira as sources for the life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)			
2.2 The formation of the Sunni and Shi'a traditions, and their differing views on leadership and religious authority following the death of the prophet Muhammad			
2.3 The significance of Prophet Muhammad's life and death in the formation of the early Muslim community and different traditions within Islam			
2.4 How the different narratives of succession relate to and explain the major differences between Sunnism and Shi'aism			
Unit 3 The existence and oneness of God	😊	😐	😞
3.1 Theological arguments in the Qur'an			



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3.2 A comparison and evaluation of the different interpretations of the anthropomorphic descriptions of God in the Qur'an			
3.3 The significance of the belief in one God for Islam			
3.4 Evaluation of the arguments for the existence and oneness of God and the interpretations of descriptions of God in the Qur'an			
Unit 4 Human Destiny	😊	😐	😞
4.1 Quranic teachings on the meaning of human existence			
4.2 The afterlife: the Barzakh as the intermediary phase, Day of Resurrection (yawm al-qiyama) and Heaven and Hell			
4.3 Divine Will and human action			
4.4 The role of divine justice and mercy in Islamic eschatological teachings			
4.5 The strengths and weaknesses of different theological approaches to the idea of human free will and divine omnipotence in Islam			
Unit 5 The Shari'a	😊	😐	😞
5.1 The Shari'a as an ideal and sources of Islamic law			
5.2 The Shari'a in practice, including Islamic law (fiqh) as an interpretive effort (ijtihad) and Ijtihad in practice			
5.3 How the limits of human interpretation of the Shari'a may lead to tolerance of diversity within Muslim practice			
5.4 Islamic law as an ongoing interpretive effort and its application to new problems in Muslim living			
Unit 6 Sufism	😊	😐	😞
6.1 Islamic spirituality			



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6.2 Ihsan (spiritual perfection) in the Gabriel Hadith, remembrance of God (dhikr), self-purification (tazkiyat al-nafs)			
6.3 Theories behind Sufism			
6.4 Drunken Sufism: the concept of annihilation of the self (fana') ecstatic utterances (shatahat)			
6.5 Sober Sufism: the concept of persistence of the self (baqa') the description of spiritual states and stations			
6.6 The concept of 'friendship of God' (wilaya)			
6.7 Sufi practice: the master-disciple relationship, tariqa and the spiritual journey according to Jalal al-Din al-Rumi's Mathnavi/Masnavi, 'Song of the Reed'			
6.8 The relationship between Sufism and the wider Islamic tradition			
Unit 7 Development	😊	😐	😞
7.1 The Islamic contribution to science			
7.2 A comparison of the views of al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) on the adoption of science and philosophy			
7.3 Spiritual equality of the genders according to the Shari'a and early Muslim tradition			
7.4 Islamic law and cultural norms in relation to gender, including: traditional views and modern feminism			
Unit 8 Society	😊	😐	😞
8.1 Tolerance of non-Muslims according to the Qur'an			
8.2 Religious freedom in Muslim society: non-Muslim minorities and apostasy			
8.3 Justice and liberation in the Qur'an and Sunna			
8.4 Justice in Islamic law and ethics			
8.5 Contemporary approaches to social liberation in Islam: Ali Shari'ati and Abdal Hakim Murad			



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Unit 9 Challenges	😊	😐	😞
9.1 Religion and the state in pre-modern Islam			
9.2 Secularisation and the state in modern Islam			
9.3 Islamic teachings on life as a religious minority			
9.4 Integration			