

Philosophy, Ethics and Theology (OCR RS) A Level Wider Reading List

1. The Course:



The OCR RS A Level (H573) Specification is available to **download** here:

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

And to **browse** through here: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/specification-at-a-glance/>



We study papers 01 (Philosophy), 02 (Ethics) and 03 (Development of Religious Thought - Christianity) over two years. The final exams are comprised of three two hour papers at the end of Year 13.

2. Wider reading:

The aim of wider reading is always to help develop your understanding and your critical reading skills. There is no expectation that you should show evidence of independent wider reading in the exams. The wider reading will benefit you by 'filling in the gaps' in your knowledge, so that you understand the context of the topics and scholars you are studying. The following books are suggested as background reading:

The Puzzle of Ethics Peter Vardy and Paul Grosch

SCM Study Guide to Christian Ethics Neil Messer

The Puzzle of God Peter Vardy

The Puzzle of Christianity Peter Vardy

The Great Philosophers Stephen Law

(Chapters on Socrates, Aristotle, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, William of Ockham, Renee Descartes, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Jeremy Bentham, Soren Kierkegaard, Karl Marx, George Edward Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Gilbert Ryle, Simone de Beauvoir, A J Ayer, Peter Singer)

The Complete Philosophy Files Stephen Law
(Files 4, 6, 7 and 8)

Sophie's World (Fiction) Jostein Gaarder

3. Wider listening:

The **Panpsycast** – A podcast which shadows the OCR Philosophy, Ethics and Theology course specifically. Although the first few podcasts are not as good as the later ones, they should be your first 'port of call' for independent preparation and/or review of topics:

<https://thepanpsycast.com/home>

<https://thepanpsycast.com/episodes-by-category>

To help with your critical reasoning, these BBC podcasts will help you see how people create and criticise arguments, and then draw reasoned conclusions:

Sweet Reason <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bc1fsr/episodes/downloads> this debating programme sets out various arguments then comes to a judgement.

Morality in the 21st Century <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bh7jkg/episodes/player> this programme listens to various informed views, then engages 6th formers in debate and listens to their judgements.

'Philosophy Bites', 'Ethics Bites' and 'A History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps' are all podcasts you can subscribe to, but they are vast and it may be better to wait and search by keywords or for scholars when you are on the course itself. Likewise the BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time' and 'The Moral Maze' radio programmes / podcasts.

'The Philosopher's Arms' (BBC) is a light-hearted look at philosophical issues, the earlier programmes may deal with more well-known philosophical issues. 'The Ferryhill Philosophers' (BBC Drama) is another one to listen out for, but these episodes are not currently available to playback.

Do sample some of the podcasts and decide which ones are for you – they are great to listen to out and about and on the go; you do not have to be stuck to your desk or inside all the time to be adding to your philosophical knowledge. Walking the dog, at the gym or washing up will all add up to more critical thinking time!

4. Wider research:

Philosopher Kings - <http://www.philosopherkings.co.uk/> this website is good for stretch and challenge. It is very detailed and if you wish to research topics or scholars in more detail this is a great place to start. It is NOT specific to our current Specification, it has been in existence since before the specifications were renewed in 2016, and some of the content reflects this.

5. Subscriptions:

The school currently subscribes to 'Dialogue' Magazine for Sixth form RS students: <http://www.dialogue.org.uk/> . We have 3 copies available for student use. If you wish to have a personal subscription, you can do this through this website. You also have access to back copies of **RS Review** magazine. Log in to mysandstorm, then go to the Library tab. Click on the 'Review' magazines icon and select RS Review. This database is, again, vast, so it is better to search by using the 'keyword' function. Your teacher can guide you.

6. Revision guides:

There is a growing number of revision guides to help you get the most out of targeted revision:

My Revision Notes published by Hodder – a set of three revision guides:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=my+revision+notes+rs+ocr+a+level&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss

Workbooks are also available:

<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/religious-education-philosophy/products/16-18/ocr-a-level-religious-studies-religion-and-ethics>

There is also a revision guide by Libby Ahluwalia:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Level-Religious-Studies-Revision/dp/0198423756/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=rs+ocr+a+level+revision+guide&qid=1560100893&s=books&sr=1-1

TEXT BOOKS - You will need to buy a copy of the following text books:

Year 1 - Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: AS and Year 1 Student Book: Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics Paperback – published 1 Jun 2016

by Libby Ahluwalia and Bob Bowie

Year 2 - Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: Year 2 Student Book: Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics Paperback – published 1 Mar 2017

by Libby Ahluwalia and Bob Bowie

These do not have to be brand new, they can be second hand if you know any current RS A-Level students who are happy to sell their books, this will be fine.

In Year 12 you will only need the Year 1 book.

Remember that the wider reading and listening is optional – it should work for you by helping you to understand the topics.