

Dear All,

Welcome to RE, Philosophy, Ethics and Theology! You have made a great choice and I look forward to us all getting to know each other over the coming academic year.

You will have two teachers (Mrs Smith and Mr Beamish) and we will both be teaching you modules from the three different exam papers (Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Theology). We are studying OCR Religious Studies A Level H573 A

(H573 denotes the Philosophy and Ethics and A denotes the Christian option in section 03.) All of this will become clear at the start of term. But I thought some of you might be interested to take a further look at the course on the internet.

I am going to start with the Ethics topics 1&2 in September. So we will be covering Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kant and Utilitarianism. So **your holiday work will be to look at the difference between absolute and relative theories of ethics.** These two categories represent a really important distinction between different types of ethics. Please do this work thoroughly, and to the best of your ability, as it will ground you in those important first weeks.

Task:



a) Read and make notes from p96-97 of scanned textbook (not the textbook we will use in class) and complete the Activity, For Debates, Stretch & Challenge in written form. This should be note form and not a huge essay.

b) Complete an essay "Moral absolutism cannot be justified." Discuss.

In this essay you should consider the strengths and weaknesses of absolutism and give examples of how it might work in particular dilemmas. Although the title will ask you to focus on absolutism, your essay will show an understanding of the alternative position of relativism, and its strengths and weaknesses. You may find it helpful to compare how an absolutists and a relativist might deal with the same ethical dilemma. The first 'For Debate' at the top of p97 will help you with this. Try to make use of as many of the key words as possible. Be confident and try not to worry. The jump from GCSE to A-Level is always a bit of a leap, and I am here to help you do well. I will not be expecting the fully formed article before you've had any lessons!

Warm wishes,

Mrs Smith

