



# **PiXL Gateway: Progression – Religious Studies**

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Year 12-13 Religious Studies

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## I. Religious Studies Vocabulary

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES:

Currently, within the Religious Studies section of the app, we have the following units:

- Applied Ethics
- Ethical Theory
- Philosophy of Religion

#### Applied Ethics Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
abortion	Abortion is the term used to refer to the intentional termination of a pregnancy.
absolute morality	Absolute morality means the sense that an action can be completely right or wrong, regardless of context.
agape	Agape means a form of Christian love for others which is based on kindness.
animal experimentation	Animal experimentation means testing substances for effectiveness or safety using non-human subjects.
blood sport	Blood sport is the term used for any activity which involves the killing or harming of animals for leisure.
business ethics	Business ethics means the study of moral decision-making in the context of corporate or professional activity.
capital punishment	Capital punishment is the use of the death penalty to punish certain crimes.
cloning	Cloning is the process of making a genetic copy of a living organism.
corporate social responsibility	Corporate social responsibility refers to the duty of a business to act in an ethical manner.
deontological	Deontological is an approach to ethics which considers the action itself as being right or wrong, rather than the consequences.
designer baby	The term designer baby refers to an embryo which has been genetically modified to create, or avoid, certain characteristics or conditions.
doctrine of double effect	The doctrine of double effect means that a morally good act can have a bad but unintended side effect.
ecosophy	Ecosophy is an ethical approach to living in harmony with the environment.
embryo research	Embryo research is the experimentation on a fertilized egg for the purposes of medical advancement.
euthanasia	Euthanasia means assisted suicide.
Gaia hypothesis	The Gaia hypothesis is the idea that all living things are in a symbiotic, interdependent relationship which should be conserved.
globalisation	Globalisation refers to the way in which businesses and other organisations are becoming more able to operate on an international scale.
homosexual	The term homosexual refers to someone who is in a sexual relationship with, or attracted to, someone of the same sex.
intensive farming	Intensive farming means rearing animals in large numbers, and in confined conditions, to increase yield.
nuclear weapons	Nuclear weapons are bombs or arms that are capable of mass destruction.

organ transplants	Organ transplants are the replacement of damaged or failing organs with healthy ones.
polyamorous	Polyamorous means the practice of taking part in more than one sexual relationship with the consent of all parties.
principle of utility	The principle of utility means that an action is considered to be right or wrong depending on the amount of happiness or pain it brings about.
profit	Profit means the financial gain from operating a business or organisation.
sanctity of life	Sanctity of life means the extent to which life is special and sacred.
whistle-blowing	Whistle-blowing is the act of informing about the immoral or unlawful actions of an organisation.

#### Ethical Theory Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
autonomy	Autonomy is the ability to determine one's own destiny and actions.
Divine Command	Divine Command refers to the theory that whether something is 'good' is determined by whether it is required by God.
duty	Duty is the obligation or compulsion to act in a particular way.
Euthyphro dilemma	Euthyphro dilemma means the question of whether something is good simply because God commands it.
evil	Evil means something which is bad, immoral or causes harm.
falsification	Falsification means the ability to disprove a theory or claim.
Golden Mean	The Golden Mean refers to Aristotle's suggestion that morality can be found at the mid-point between extremities of behaviour.
hedonic calculus	The hedonic calculus is a numerical way of working out the balance of pleasure and pain caused by a given action.
intuition	Intuition means an innate sense of knowing or belief.
Kantian	Kantian means relating to the ethical theory of Immanuel Kant.
Meta-ethics	The study of the meaning and nature of ethical statements or judgements.
morality	Morality means the set of values that determine decisions about right and wrong.
natural law	Natural law means a commonly held innate sense of rules and morality.
naturalistic fallacy	Naturalistic fallacy is the error of treating the term 'good' as if it were a natural property.
normative ethics	Normative ethics is the branch of philosophy concerned with questions of how we should act.
objective	Objective means not influenced by personal bias or experience, based on facts and observation only.
precepts	Precepts means rules or principles by which we might live or behave.

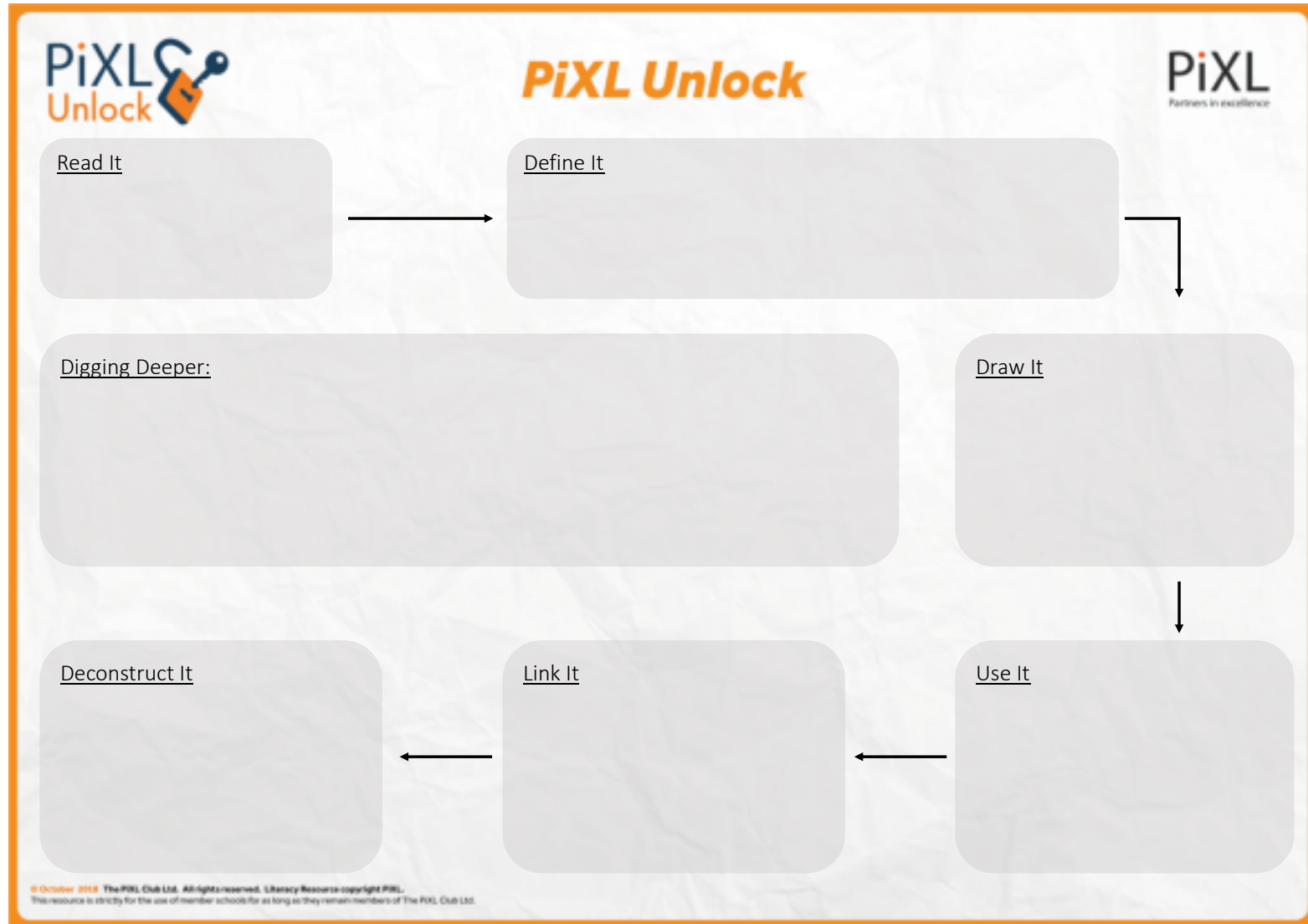
reason	Reason means the use of logic and rational argument to influence thinking and behaviour.
utilitarianism	Utilitarianism means a system of normative ethics based on calculating the outcome of an action.
verification	Verification is the process of establishing the truth or validity of something.
virtue	Virtue means a positive behaviour or characteristic.

Philosophy of Religion Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
a posteriori	A posteriori means understanding gained from experience or observation.
a priori	A priori means an argument or conclusion based on reason or logical presupposition.
analogy	Analogy means a way of explaining something, using an example or comparison.
atheist	An atheist is the term used to describe someone who does not believe in the existence of God.
contingent	Contingent means dependent on something else being the case.
conversion	Conversion means when someone chooses to adopt a religious faith and become a believer.
cosmological argument	Cosmological argument means the theory that God must exist because the universe must have been caused by something independent of it.
empirical	Empirical means observable or able to be evidenced by experience.
free will	Free will is the ability to decide one's fate and choose how to behave.
miracle	The word miracle, in religious studies, means an event which is considered to be impossible, or cannot be explained.
mystical	Mystical is the term used to define an experience that is spiritual, supernatural or one which has personal significance.
necessary	The word necessary describes something that has to be the case in order for something else to apply, or by logical definition.
omnipotent	Omnipotent means all powerful and refers to God's ability to do anything.
omnibenevolence	Omnibenevolence means all-loving and perfectly good.
ontological	Ontological refers to arguments about being and existence.
original sin	Original sin means the natural human condition of committing evil.
predestination	Predestination, in religious studies, means the belief that the course of our lives has already been determined by God.
problem of evil	The problem of evil means the question of whether an omnipotent God can exist in a world where bad things happen.
religious experience	Religious experience means an event which confirms someone's faith, such as visions, voices and miracles.

soft determinism	Soft determinism is the belief that actions are caused by external events but that we have some degree of free will.
symbolic	Symbolic means something which represents something else, in another, non-literal form.
teleological	Teleological refers to arguments about phenomena having a purpose or final cause.
theodicy	Theodicy means a defence arguing the existence of God in response to the problem of evil.
vision	The word vision, in religious studies, is when someone has a religious experience by seeing God.

## II. The PiXL Unlock Template



### III. Summer Reading list

#### **Ethics**

- The Moral Maze, A Way of Exploring Christian Ethics by D Cook
- Moral Philosophy, A Guide to Ethical Theory by G Dewar
- Understand Ethics : Teach Yourself by M Thompson
- The Puzzle of Ethics by P Vardy and P Grosch
- The Puzzle of Sex by P Vardy

#### **Philosophy of Religion**

- The Puzzle of God by P Vardy
- The Thinker's Guide to God by P Vardy and J Arliss
- The God Delusion by R Dawkins
- Atheism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) by J Baggini
- Evil and the God of love by J Hick
- The Twilight Of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World by A McGrath
- Freud and Jung on Religion by M Palmer
- God, Freedom and Evil by A Plantinga
- Religious Experience by W Dossett



## IV. Links to TED Talks/Articles/Documentaries/Books/Journals

### **Ethics**

#### **Online Articles**

An introduction to Virtue Ethics, Utilitarianism and Natural Law

<http://ethiconline.co.uk/ethical-theory-ii/>

#### **Virtue Ethics**

[https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch\\_virtue\\_ethics.html](https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_virtue_ethics.html)

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/virtue/>

#### **Meta Ethics**

<http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/metaethics>

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/metaethi/>

#### **Natural Law**

[www.aquinasonline.com](http://www.aquinasonline.com)

#### **Situation Ethics**

<https://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/situational-ethics.htm>

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Situational\\_Ethics](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Situational_Ethics)

#### **Free Will and Determinism**

<http://jakedoesrevision.blogspot.com/2013/01/a2-religious-studies-free-will.html>

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/philosophy/courses/100/100determinism3.htm>

### **Philosophy**

#### **Ted Talks**

Alain De Botton on religion for atheists

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alain\\_de\\_botton\\_atheism\\_2\\_0?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/alain_de_botton_atheism_2_0?language=en)

Rev Tom Honey considers the problem of evil and the concept of a suffering God

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tom\\_honey\\_on\\_god\\_and\\_the\\_tsunami](https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_honey_on_god_and_the_tsunami)

Richard Dawkins on atheism

[https://www.ted.com/talks/richard\\_dawkins\\_on\\_militant\\_atheism](https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_dawkins_on_militant_atheism)

### **Online Articles**

A link to lots of online articles and resources on the philosophy of religion

<http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/philosophy/as/modern-design-arguments/#>

A general guide to philosophers

<http://www.philosophers.co.uk/>

### **Arguments for the existence of God**

William Lane Craig's website

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/>

Inductive and Deductive Arguments

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/ded-ind/>

### **Challenges to the existence of God**

William Lane Craig's responses

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/media/reasonable-faith-podcast/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/n-atheis/>

### **Religious Experiences and miracles**

An article outlining Swinburne's defence of miracles

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO\\_TEXT/Chapter%203%20Religion/CH-3-Documents/ch3-Swinburne-possibility-Miracles.pdf](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/Chapter%203%20Religion/CH-3-Documents/ch3-Swinburne-possibility-Miracles.pdf)

Hume on miracles

<http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/theistic-proofs/the-argument-from-miracles/>

### **Religious Language**

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/rel-lang/>

Wittgenstein on religious language

<http://www.philosophypages.com/hy/6s.htm>

V. Knowledge Organiser Template

PiXL  
**Religious Studies**  
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## VI. Thinking Hard Revisit Template

**Name of Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Take a section of the text and do the following:

1) **Prioritise:** Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1. Cross out the least important sentence

2) **Reduce:** Reduce the key information into 12 words

3) **Transform:** Transform this information into 4 pictures or images (no words allowed)

4) **Categorise:** Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category.

5) **Extend:** Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject.

## VII. A Model of the Thinking Hard Revisit document

Name of Topic: *Hume on Miracles*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Take a section of the text and do the following:

- 6) Prioritise: Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1. Cross out the least important sentence

*The evidence for a miracle will never outweigh the evidence against it, miracles are irrational.*

- 7) Reduce: Reduce the key information into 12 words

*Evidence, irrational, witnesses, reliability, probability, laws of nature, violation, definition, sensory error.*

- 8) Transform: Transform this information into 4 pictures or images (no words allowed)

- 9) Categorise: Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category

1. *By definition impossible.*
2. *Reliability of witnesses*
3. *Probability*

- 10) Extend: Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject

*Are the laws of nature not meant to be descriptive and not prescriptive?*

*Is there any evidence Hume would accept? Are all miracles breaking the laws of nature?*

## VIII. Cornell Notes Template

Name

Date

Topic

Subject

Main Ideas

Notes

Summary

## IX. A Model of the Cornell Notes document

Name

Date

Topic: Topic Rev Tom Honey on why God allows tsunamis

Subject: Problem of Evil

### Main Ideas:

We need to move away from the God of classical theism

We need to stop looking for a philosophical answer to the problem of evil

Abandon God of classical theism for a suffering God – this fits the 20<sup>th</sup> century

A God who responds to prayer or acts in history is biased and unfair

Abandon traditional God, not one who acts but a divine presence

### Notes:

Many people see God as the almighty, a policeman in the sky. In the past we have not wanted to rock the boat by exploring other ideas about God.

Archbishop of Canterbury – people do not want an intellectual explanation of evil. There are no words that can make up for what has happened; instead, a compassionate silence and practical help is needed.

God has to be able to feel and experience our pain. One who weeps when we weep and rejoice when we rejoice. We need to move away from an unchanging God who is cold and indifferent. WW1, WW2 and Holocaust. Where is God – the answer is God is in this with us or he does not deserve our allegiance. An unchanging God may exist but I do not want to know him.

Why would God act in some cases but not others? This makes him unfair and partisan.

We should see God not as one who does things as in the Old Testament, defeating Egyptians etc. but instead he is in things. Is this Pantheism? Pantheism? There are lots of don't knows but that is what makes God a divine mystery.

### Summary:

We most move away from the God of classical theism. God is not a grand fixer but instead a presence within us who feels our pain and joy. This allows us to offer support to those experiencing evil rather than philosophical arguments. A God who acts in history becomes partisan, and it makes more sense to have a God who understands all suffering rather than one that fixes some suffering whilst ignoring others' pain.



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